

The importance of music during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond – guidance for schools

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The Covid-19 pandemic presents huge challenges to all of us. Lockdowns have had a dramatic impact on the lives of children and young people, and we understand that schools and school leaders are under a huge amount of pressure, as are families and all businesses.

But music is an important part of children and young peoples lives.

This guidance sheet sets out some of the key things that your school can do to deliver music differently at the moment.

We estimate that between 900 – 1,200 fewer school pupils (approx. 25%) have received instrumental / vocal tuition from our Associates during the pandemic. By working together we can ensure that pupils don't miss out even more in the future.

We urge you to include music in your recovery plans because music can:

- increase confidence and self-esteem
- improve health and wellbeing
- provide important life and social skills
- develop creativity and self-expression
- improve cognition, literacy and numeracy
- be the key to unlocking potential

If you haven't done so already, why not take the Wiltshire Music Connect **Schools' Pledge?** Publicly state your school's intention to keep music opportunities going safely for your pupils.

#DontDropMusic



What you can do:

Communicate with your music providers and parents/carers

- **Make sure your music lead is communicating with the tutors working in / through your school.**
- **Communicate with ALL parents;** including those of pupils who already have lessons AND those who might like to start them.
- **Consider ways in which (groups of) tutors can connect with pupils** (Zoom etc) and other ways you can promote opportunities through web site, PTA, bulletins etc.
- **Talk to your music tutors** (Associate or not) about showcasing musical opportunities for pupils. See our guidance on this [here](#).

Plan for continuity of provision

- **The pandemic may cause disruption for some time but you can ensure continuity of provision by making sure your school:**
 - understands what is permissible and possible under the [latest guidance](#).
 - has given permission for online tuition to take place when necessary.
- **Consider making space and technology available in your school for Associates to use so they can continue to teach** – either in person or online. Many of our Associate tutors are now experienced in safe online tuition and can easily switch between in person and online teaching if required.
- **Lack of equipment needed be a barrier**
 - we have tablets available to loan to pupils in need if they are taught by one of our Associates. [Details are here](#).

Protect a highly skilled workforce

- **Associates are quality assured, safeguarded and highly skilled professionals.** Their offers are listed [here](#) and more info on Associate status is [here](#).
- You can advise other tutors to apply to **become Associates**.
- **Please don't expect tutors to work for less money.**
- Your investment in relationships with good quality assured tutors will have helped build your music departments.

Pupil safety

Safeguarding – consider and clarify your position regarding online tuition (tutor to family and tutor to school) and familiarise yourself with our [safeguarding guidance for Associates](#) which has been approved by Wiltshire Council.

Stay involved in our campaign

- **Use social media** and share / retweet / favourite / like any posts with the campaign hashtag [#DontDropMusic](#) – If we all continue to do it then it creates momentum!
- **Share our [film promoting availability of Associates for schools & pupils](#)** to colleagues, families and pupils.

Request support with costs

- **Consider how your school may also be able to work with us to support pupils needing financial assistance for tuition.**
- Our [financial subsidy scheme](#), although extended, may not be able to cope with all additional demand.

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www.wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/schools
info@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk

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