

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

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The Covid-19 pandemic presents huge challenges to all of us. Lockdown has 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.

**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

Nobody is expecting an immediate return to business as usual – **we need to prepare for a different normal**. This guidance sheet sets out some of the key things that your school can do to deliver music differently at the moment and ensure that it doesn't disappear from children and young people's lives.

**#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 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 could continue to teach their students online when they return to school if required.

**Consider ways in which (groups of) tutors can connect with pupils** through the school (Zoom etc) and other ways you can promote opportunities through web site, PTA, bulletins etc.

## Get involved in our campaign

**Use social media** and share / retweet / favourite / like any posts with the campaign hashtag **#DontDropMusic**

**If we all do it then it creates momentum!**

**Share our new film promoting availability of Associates for schools & pupils** to colleagues, families and pupils. **Watch the film 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 start working 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.

## 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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