

BMT Teacher Protocol in Schools

SEPT 2020

Overview

As all children return to schools in September, we know that schools want to try to offer as normal an experience as possible, whilst ensuring safety in line with the guidelines provided.

This protocol is based upon the recent re-issue of Government Guidance for both Schools and Out of School Settings, the key elements of which for teaching in schools can be summarised thus:

- Visiting teachers can be welcomed back into schools, providing the necessary safety measures are in place
- Musical activities of all types present no greater risk than other classroom-based activities, including singing and wind/brass playing, providing that the necessary protocols are in place around cleaning, distancing, ventilation and session duration
- Whilst recovery and re-socialisation are essential, as is the catch-up of core skills, music should form an essential part of this whilst contributing to a broad and balanced curriculum offer

BMT teachers will work with each school's Risk Assessment and protocols for their site, whilst following this working protocol from BMT to guarantee their safety and the safety of their pupils.

Schools are asked to provide teachers with cleaning wipes/sprays, gloves and paper towels but where they cannot, teachers should bring their own, provided by BMT.

Instrumental teaching options

Teachers will discuss with parents and schools to find the best solution in each school setting, taking into account that school's preferences and ability to host lessons.

- Face-to-face teaching in school with appropriate procedures for handwashing, cleaning, masks, distancing, length of lessons/time in rooms and ventilation. This our preferred option for the best musical learning, provided the situation in the school can be made as safe as possible using the measures below.
- Teaching online with a 'Zoom Room' set up in the practice room at school so that teachers can follow a normal timetable:
 - For this option, teachers must agree with schools who will be responsible for logging the child into the lesson.
 - This could either be the parent who forwards the link to the child if the school agrees or a member of the school staff acting 'in loco parentis'.
 - In this instance the BMT teacher should send the relevant teacher/TA in school the 'Parent Guide' and ask that they confirm they've read it.
 - The link must not be sent directly to the pupil in any circumstance.
- Teaching online with children at home, with the challenge for teachers of re-scheduling lessons to out-of-school hours
- Transfer of face-to-face teaching to the local Music Centre with agreement of parents, with the challenge for teachers of re-scheduling lessons to out-of-school hours

Managing risk for Instrumental/Vocal teaching

We expect that all schools will give visiting teachers clear guidance on their local risk management requirements. Teachers must take these into account when planning and delivering lessons.

In addition, the following steps should be taken to ensure both teacher and pupil safety

- If a school requires it, teachers will wear a mask in communal areas of the school, in particular when they arrive and until they reach their teaching room.
- Teachers must wash/sanitise hands on arrival, before and after each student and immediately on leaving the school.
- If collecting students from another part of the school, a mask should be worn and the school's protocols on movement must be noted.
- The room must have adequate space to ensure distancing of 2m between teacher and student(s) and they must not be facing each other in order to achieve this.
- The room should have two points of ventilation, preferably at opposite sides of the room. One of these can be the door which may be closed during the lesson but then held open between lessons to clear the space.
- Teachers should schedule short gaps between students in order to clean contact points (chair/stand/door handle) and ventilate the room and so that students do not 'cross over' in the room or the access points to it.
- Students must wash/sanitise hands before and after their lesson.
- For paired/small group lessons (assuming the room is of sufficient size to facilitate this), students should only touch their own chair, stand and music and must not share anything.
- Teachers should use online methods to give feedback rather than physical practice books to reduce contact points. This will be sent to parents as has been general practice last term.
- Teachers should wear gloves to give any new music to students and if they are required to touch the students instrument (tuning, repair etc)
- If a child inadvertently touches anything they shouldn't, it must be wiped/sprayed immediately before the lesson continues.
- If a teacher does not feel that a situation is sufficiently safe in a particular school, they must raise their concerns straight away, firstly with the school and if concerns cannot be resolved there, then with their Line Manager.

Additional instrument specific measures

The most recent research has clearly established that whilst the activities of singing and blowing instruments do not essentially create a greater risk of transmission. It is important for singers and wind/brass players to ensure that they are not facing either the teacher or another student in all situations.

For wind/brass teaching, whilst the transmission of virus via the water collected from an instrument is very low, students will be asked to empty this onto a paper towel and put into the bin in the room with no other contact.

Keyboards/pianos will be cleaned between each student to prevent fomite transmission.

Whole Class Practical Musicianship (WCPM)

For teachers delivering WCPM they will have discussed in detail with each school and their Area Leader what arrangement is acceptable to the school in terms of grouping, scheduling, provision of instruments and instrument cleaning routines. This should take into account the relevant factors above. Teachers should still take into account the other elements in this protocol around managing risk and reporting.

Groups and choirs

Many schools will currently be deciding to avoid groups and choirs that they normally run additionally to classroom music. However, these activities are now deemed to present no greater risk with the right controls and so if a school requests this and you are satisfied that the necessary controls are in place, then you can proceed with the following in mind.

- All participants must wash/sanitise hands before and after the session
- Players must be seated/stood with 2m separation and facing in the same direction
- Each player must have their own chair, stand and music and must not share them
- Chairs and stands should be sprayed at the end of sessions before use by anyone else
- Rooms must have two points of ventilation (one can be the door), preferably at opposite ends of the space

BMT will continue to provide online resources and singing assemblies if required by particular schools, as we did last term.

Symptoms and reporting

If a teacher develops symptoms, they must report this to their Area Leader at BMT. The Area Leader will inform any school that the teacher has attended in the previous 2 days and provide a register of students taught at each site. BMT will also inform NHS Test & Trace in line with government guidelines.

Teachers should take their temperature each morning before going to a school setting to ensure that it is normal. Teachers must not go to a school if their temperature is significantly above normal (100.4°F / 38°C) and until either symptoms develop or resolve.

If a student in a school develops symptoms within 2 days of having contact with a BMT teacher, they will inform NHS Test and Trace and all known contacts that will include that teacher. If a teacher is required to isolate, BMT will provide testing for them to keep that period to a minimum and they will continue to teach remotely during that period assuming they remain well.

Finally,

- BMT aims to unlock music for all schools and children across all our activities and manage the risks positively and collaboratively.
- Teachers are at the core of these aims and these protocols are designed to support you in returning to as much face-to-face activity as possible as safely as possible.
- If you have any concerns at any point you must raise them with your Line Manager so that we can support you and help find a good solution.
- Please encourage schools and parents to engage with all activities and where you know that they may be facing financial challenges due to Covid-19, we have an Emergency Bursary Fund that can continue to support them this term – contact me directly for details
- If you teach children and parents who want to get involved in musical groups and ensembles, please direct them to the Music Centres via the website www.bucksmusic.org