

A Guide to Music in the Abingdon Foundation, September 2020

First class music provision in the Abingdon Foundation continues to be of vital importance due to the many music specific and cross-curricular core skills that the subject instils in our pupils. Whilst the developing situation with Covid-19 may change some aspects of how the music curriculum and Visiting Music Teacher (VMT) lessons are delivered, the Foundation will continue to provide a broad, engaging and safe musical education for our pupils. It aims to achieve this by recommencing as many musical activities as it reasonably can in line with current government guidance; adapting activities where necessary, and innovating new approaches to music making that will ensure the highest musical standards can still be attained by our pupils. This document serves to clarify how music making will continue in school and it will be subject to review as the circumstances surrounding the pandemic evolve.

The Curriculum

The school will continue to provide a broad and engaging curriculum that encompasses the core skills that music lessons provide. Practical music making in the classroom will be adapted to be safe for pupils. Regular cleaning of instruments and classrooms will limit the chances of spreading the disease. Singing activities within the classroom will be conducted in line with current guidance.

Ensembles, Choirs and Other-Half

Ensembles and choirs will be adapted in line with current advice. Such adaptations may include (but are not limited to) sectional rehearsals instead of full rehearsals, alternating groups attending in alternating weeks, social distancing, etc. It may be necessary to completely cancel a few ensembles and OH activities until further notice where regulations and governmental advice render them unviable (whole school singing assemblies and House Singing for example), but such cases will be reviewed as the advice is updated.

VMT Lessons

VMTs will continue to teach remotely using video platforms. Pupils will take a device to an allocated practice room in school, have their lesson (in much the same way as the summer term) and return to class afterwards. Practice rooms and school instruments will be regularly cleaned and sanitised and mixing of bubbles will be avoided whenever possible.

The school is committed to doing all it can to ensure that VMTs can return to school as soon as possible.

The following table outlines measures that will be taken to ensure the safe provision of music in the school, and what can be expected during instrumental lessons when VMTs eventually return.

<p>All Practice Rooms Pupils and Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Windows will be open at all times where practicable. o Pupils will stand on the other side of the room, by the entrance, thus enabling the required social distancing. o School instruments and touched surfaces will be cleaned between lessons where pupils in a different bubble will be using the room. o Pupils should wash their hands before and after their instrumental lesson. o Hand Sanitiser will also be available in each Practice Room. o Pupils may wear face coverings o VMTs may wear face coverings o It is essential pupils see personal safety equipment as part of their 'kit' along with their instrument and music.
<p>Violin, Cello, Guitar, Harp, Ukulele</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Teachers and pupils may wear face coverings and/or visors throughout the Instrumental lesson. o Harps - Disposable gloves/Washable cotton medical gloves may need to be worn by the pupil. o A secure bag to place gloves in will be required – gloves to be washed between lessons.
<p>Flutes, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon Saxophone, Bagpipes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Teachers may wear visors or masks o Social distance to be maintained o Teacher and pupil should avoid directly facing one another when playing instruments
<p>Trumpet, Trombone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o All brass lessons will take place in a larger space with at least minimum recommended social distancing in place. o Pupils should place a mat beneath their instruments, to catch condensation. This will be the pupil's own personal mat that they should bring to each lesson.
<p>Percussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pupils would be expected to provide their own sticks/batons – clearly labelled with their name. o The instrumental teacher will be responsible for cleaning equipment when necessary.
<p>Piano, Organ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Keyboard keys will be cleaned with bespoke wipes at the end of each lesson o Teachers should find a teaching position that creates the maximum social distance possible

Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Teachers and pupils may wear face coverings and/or visors throughout the lesson o Teacher and pupil will avoid singing directly facing one another. o Teacher and pupil should observe the maximum social distancing possible
Extracurricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Singing will only take place in suitably ventilated spaces and in groups with numbers that are in line with guidance. o Ensembles may be taken in smaller sectionals where social distancing is not possible. o Stands will be wiped down and disinfected after rehearsals o Visors/Face coverings may be worn o Woodwind and Brass will also require personal mats to catch condensation o Pupil initiated music making, such as bandwork or breaktime practice etc should only be carried out in small groups with pupils that are all in the same bubble. Such sessions should be first cleared with a member of staff.
Concerts and Examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Concerts involving larger gatherings are avoided in the Michaelmas Term - and perhaps beyond, in line with government guidance o Music events are ones that will involve a smaller number of participants and a single visitor to school - such as solo recitals, masterclasses and solo competitions for instrumentalists o Audiences in school will not be permitted o Concerts will be video recorded and streamed or transmitted online o Practical music examinations will be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the individual exam board