

Guidance for playing Woodwind and Brass instruments in a Covid-secure WCIT setting

October 2020

Music Service staff should adjust their planning and assessment of risk in a dynamic and bespoke way, as each setting is unique. The air travels through each different instrument in a unique way, and so this needs to be reflected in the way each session is delivered. However, there are a few principles that universally apply which are worth noting:

- Music Service staff must always observe social distancing
- Each pupil has their own labelled instrument/case
- Maintenance of instruments is done in a minimal and safe way, using gloves and wipes
- There are still plenty of learning opportunities and activities related to the music curriculum which do not require the playing of instruments
- Pupils should not play facing each other without significant distance between them (3m+)
- Solutions such as playing back-to-back, side by side or facing a wall are acceptable
- If following music from a screen, pupils should face the screen in a socially distant and safe way – meaning that a rotation of pupils playing is likely to be necessary
- Inside spaces should continue to be well-ventilated
- There are special considerations for WCIT with Flutes

Outside

- The opportunity to use outside spaces for a few minutes to do simple warm-up and technical exercises should be taken where feasible, as this may present the best and safest way for everybody to play together at once
- Between November and February, the likely temperature outside means that this should be limited to just a few minutes

In a large space/Hall

- Some consideration of layout for playing is required, but it should be possible for at least half the class to play at once in a safe way
- Warm-ups and technical exercises could be attempted by pupils facing outwards to more than one wall at a time
- Where a part of the hall is a thoroughfare, some consideration needs to be given as to how this can remain safe
- In order to ventilate the room well after playing, the teacher might consider planning for some non-playing activities towards the end of the lesson, or to do this back in the classroom
- Flutes: additional distancing required, due to increased aerosol effect, which means that it is possible that only 25-50% of the class can play at once, and temporary or permanent changes of layout may be required for playing, both by the teacher and by the pupils

In a Classroom

- Some consideration of the layout/dimensions of the room is required, but it should be possible for at least a row or a selection of pupils to play at once in a safe way
- Warm-ups and technical exercises could also be attempted by rows facing outwards to more than one wall at a time
- Pieces that require following music on a screen might only be played by a selection of pupils or one row at a time at the front of the class, and then rotated. Depending on the instrument and class layout, this could mean that only a proportion of the class get to play in any given week
- Flutes: additional distancing required, due to increased aerosol effect, which means that it is possible that only 10-20% of the class can play at once, and temporary or permanent changes of layout will be required for playing, both by the teacher and by the pupils