

COVID-19

Managing organised music, dance and drama group activities:

Policy statement

This policy relates to organised group activities, not to spontaneous singing, dance and role-play that young children may naturally do, and should be encouraged to do, by early years practitioners.

Music, dance and drama build confidence, help children live happier, more enriched lives, and discover ways to express themselves. There may, however, be a cumulative risk of infection in environments where organised singing, chanting, playing wind instruments, dance and drama takes place.

Procedures for managing organised music, dance and drama group activities:

Organised singing and wind instrument playing can be undertaken in line with this policy and DofE COVID related guidance, Singers and players should be 2 metres apart to limit both droplet and aerosol risks. For aerosol risks, ventilation should also be encouraged.

Minimising mixing groups and volume control

We will take particular care that children remain in their usual groups for music, dance and drama sessions.

Additionally, we will keep any background or accompanying music to levels which do not encourage participants to raise their voices unduly. If possible, we will use microphones to reduce the need for shouting or prolonged periods of loud speaking or singing. We do not share microphones. If they are shared, we will follow the guidance on handling equipment (stated below).

Organised Music sessions in the early years, including singing, and playing wind instruments in groups:

When planning music provision, we will consider the following additional specific safety measures:

- Playing instruments and singing in groups should take place outdoors wherever possible.
- If indoors, use a room with as much space as possible, for example, larger rooms - rooms with high ceilings are expected to enable dilution of aerosol transmission.
- If playing indoors, social distance each child 2 metres apart.
- Limit the numbers to account for ventilation of the space, it is important to ensure good ventilation.
- Singing and wind playing should not take place in larger groups such as choirs and ensembles.
- Position wind players so that the air from their instrument does not blow into another player.
- Use microphones where possible or encourage singing quietly.

By considering and adopting these cumulative risk mitigation measures, the overall risk will be reduced.

Handling equipment and instruments for organised sessions

Measures to take when handling equipment, including instruments, include:

- increased handwashing before and after handling equipment, especially if being used by more than one person
- avoiding sharing instruments and equipment wherever possible
- if instruments and equipment have to be shared, disinfect regularly (including any props, microphones and music stands) and always between users, following DofE COVID guidance on cleaning and handling equipment
- create picking-up and dropping-off collection points where possible, rather than passing equipment such as props, and microphones hand-to-hand.

All our Policies & Procedures are crafted to ensure the highest possible standards at our setting and will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner, if necessary, in light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.