

Delivery of Music Education Activity: Autumn 2020

This short document summarises how the Tri-borough Music Hub will be approaching the delivery of music education activity in schools for schools' own delivery and via Service Level Agreements in the Autumn term 2020, based on the current 2nd July Department for Education Guidance.

Overview and Summary

Summary

Music education should be taught in schools from September as part of the curriculum and can be delivered by class teachers and visiting music teachers. The caveat is that everything needs to be clearly risk assessed with mitigating and practical measures in place. Each school will take decisions that are best suited to their pupils, the physical buildings, and their community. The Music Hub will be a supportive partner in helping shape any return to in-person delivery and actively encourages discussions with us about music education delivery. Music Education will look and sound different, but, for the sake of this generation of young people, everything is achievable.

School Activity and Connected Timeline

All start dates and delivery of activity in school is dependent on guidance from DfE, and any subsequent changes. The TBMH will respond accordingly and will work with schools to provide the best service we are able to deliver. Each school's arrangement will be nuanced based on circumstances and physical buildings, and connected space. In relation to traded Service Level Agreement (SLA), work will be predicated on detailed planning between each school and TBMH.

Activity	Date from
School's own Curriculum delivery	September
SLA: In-person TBMH Whole Day Curriculum Delivery In-school (Primary)	Earliest, the week commencing 28 th September
SLA: In-person TBMH First Access Whole Class Learning (GnP)	Earliest, the week commencing 28 th September.
SLA: In-person TBMH Instrumental 1:1 or Small Group Peripatetic Teaching	Recommended start will be week commencing 2 nd November
SLA: Digital Zoom Delivery	Earliest, the week commencing 28 th September

SLA Commitment 2020-21 academic year

We are giving schools the option to book musical SLA activity to start either in September, October, November (after half-term), or January 2021.

Please note that TBMH will contract tutors based on the requests made. There may be some flexibility should schools need to adjust hours and/or start date; but we ask schools to understand the impact on the administration aspects and on tutor's work that this will have. For this reason, we urge schools to contact us to discuss options jane.dacosta@rbkc.gov.uk 07803 440534.

If there is a second lock-down across London that results in schools closing, the TBMH will not invoice schools.

In order to give schools maximum flexibility over finances and the unknowns of the coming months, for the coming academic year we are changing the notice period in our SLA when schools have booked instrumental, vocal or curriculum provision. Schools will now be able to book term by term, instead of signing up to a whole academic year. We ask that schools inform us by the end of each half-term if they wish to stop any activity the following term.

For the 2020-21 academic year, we will invoice schools one term in arrears, based on all agreed teaching hours.



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Teaching Music in Schools

On Thursday 2nd July the Secretary of State Education provided further information titled **Guidance for full opening – schools**. This can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

A key paragraph that must be acknowledged:

“Schools should note that there may be an additional risk of infection in environments where you or others are singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments or shouting. This applies even if individuals are at a distance. Schools should consider how to reduce the risk, particularly when pupils are playing instruments or singing in small groups such as in music lessons by, for example, physical distancing and playing outside wherever possible, limiting group sizes to no more than 15, positioning pupils back-to-back or side-to-side, avoiding sharing of instruments, and ensuring good ventilation. Singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as school choirs and ensembles, or school assemblies. Further, more detailed DfE guidance will be published shortly”. There is no timeline given for when more guidance will be published.

TBMH’s analysis of how to respond to this to teach music in schools

Based on the guidance:

1. All pupils should receive an ambitious broad and balanced curriculum covering all subjects. Therefore, music should be taught, and from the start of the Autumn term.
2. “Some schools may keep children in their class groups for the majority of the classroom time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching”. This could give freedom to bring pupils together for music rehearsals, each school should judge this accordingly.
3. Teachers can move between Year groups. This means a music specialist curriculum teacher can teach all year groups, providing sensible precautions are followed (maintain physical distancing where possible and cleaning in-between lessons).
4. Large gatherings for collective worship should not happen. Singing assemblies therefore cannot happen in a physical large space; however, singing assemblies could be prepared and shared virtually direct into classrooms.
5. Peripatetic staff (visiting music teachers) can move between schools. This can allow visiting music teachers to deliver 1:1 lessons (and/or small group lessons) if the school can provide a large teaching space which is well ventilated.
6. Instrumental Music lessons can be taught by visiting music teachers and/or class teachers in groups of up to 15, with all appropriate safety precautions in place and cleaning routines. This would support first-access learning. The choice of instruments learnt would need reviewing.
7. The science behind playing specific instruments and/or singing loudly is still subject to peer review. However, it is prudent to follow sensible precautions. Therefore, in music lessons, and musical activities:
 - a. Keep singing to a soft dynamic. Avoid chanting loudly or using repertoire/activities that contain plosive consonants (<https://thesoundofenglish.org/plosives/>). When doing these activities, try to keep as much physical distance as possible between pupils/teachers. Actively use humming and vowel sounds as ways of pitching/singing.
 - b. When using instruments, try to keep as much physical distance as possible between pupils/teachers. Position pupils back-to-back or side-to-side (to encourage active listening). Do not share instruments between pupils and clean them between classes.
 - c. Actively use body percussion as this can engage the whole body in a musical manner.
 - d. Actively encourage listening tasks using quality recordings or films
 - e. Deliver music sessions outside (in fresh air) where possible and appropriate
8. Before-school and after-school clubs to provide enrichment activities can take place. Music groups/lessons/activities could be delivered providing all relevant safety precautions are met.
9. Pupils should engage in activity that positively meets their personal, social and emotional development. Pupils may need support to help them respond to their emotional experiences. Music activities will meet this requirement. The [music recovery curriculum](#) would apply here.

Based on the DfE guidance at time of writing (7 July 2020)

In-School Activity: how the TBMH's tutors can operate

We fully appreciate that there are many challenges facing schools at the moment, with many unknowns about the autumn term. The TBMH fully supports all schools in delivering music as part of their ambitious broad and balanced curriculum offer, and we can support this through our free supporting resources (see below).

The TBMH will work with all schools to ensure we can find workable solutions for the potential of any traded music education services that a school may buy-in. However, every school situation will be nuanced with individual needs. Given this fact, and the unknowns still connected with the Autumn term for schools, the TBMH will need to take a staggered approach to re-starting delivery in-school.

We are proposing that the earliest the TBMH SLA in-school teaching could start will be end September. Some schools may decide to start in-person teaching from November or January, and use digital lessons during Autumn. This will allow time for all planning to happen – risk assessments; discussions about musical content (re health and safety); and tutor timetabling/contracting. Nothing can be assumed, and we will need to work together to make a workable plan for each school.

Supporting School's own Curriculum delivery:

Schools will deliver music as part of a broad and balanced curriculum from start of Autumn term. The TBMH can provide access to free supporting resources:

- [Virtual Music School](#) (free access provided via confirmed Bronze membership)
- [Music Education Recovery Curriculum framework](#)
- SEND Vocal Resource (coming Sept 2020)
- Quality-assured TBMH Partnership resources

In-person TBMH Whole Day Curriculum Delivery (Primary):

- Where risk assessments and all other measures are in place, schools buying-in the TBMH 1-day curriculum offer can resume in-person teaching by TBMH tutor from the week commencing 28th September. (NB: this only applies to schools that buy-in 1 TBMH tutor to deliver a full day of curriculum delivery). Some schools may choose to delay the start until after half-term.
- Given the concerns raised over the additional risks of certain instruments/singing, the musical content of curriculum teaching needs to be considered and reviewed. Schools need to consider the types of music taught (i.e. current guidance is to avoid loud singing, playing wind/brass instruments in large groups) and how this might affect musical SoW content. Therefore, a conversation with TBMH is required before this delivery can be confirmed.

In-person First Access Whole Class Learning (GnP):

- Where risk assessments and all other measures are in place, the earliest that schools buying-in WCL can resume in-person teaching by TBMH tutor, will be from the week commencing 28th September. Some schools may choose to delay the start until after half-term.
- Given the concerns raised over the additional risks of certain instruments/singing, the musical content of first access teaching needs to be considered and reviewed. Schools need to consider the types of music taught (i.e. current guidance is to avoid loud singing, playing wind/brass instruments in large groups) and how this might affect musical SoW content. Therefore, a conversation with TBMH is required before this delivery can be confirmed.

In-person Instrumental Peripatetic Teaching (1:1 and Small group lessons):

The recommended start for In-Person tuition will be the week commencing 2nd November. When this does resume the TBMH Instrumental peripatetic teaching in schools will be a nuanced approach that will depend on many factors. The main factor will be the physical building/teaching spaces available. 1:1/small group instrumental lessons can only take place in a well-ventilated room, that can accommodate physical distancing between teacher and pupil(s). A small practice room is likely not to be suitable. It might be that in-person teaching is delayed until January; in which case Zoom lessons can be delivered in the autumn. We will all need to respond accordingly to any changes in guidance.



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Digital Zoom Delivery

- Schools may wish to maintain small group instrumental learning over Zoom for the Autumn term. Schools could arrange for Zoom lessons to be delivered into school, with appropriate plans in place to support digital learning in specific music lesson spaces. Some pupils could have their Zoom lessons out of school time as an interim arrangement.
- The TBMH may be able to support this. However, please note that timetabling restrictions and limitations of the TBMH Zoom account will mean that timetabling will need to be carefully agreed between schools and TBMH. This would not begin until the week of 28th September at the earliest.

Autumn term Performances with schools:

- Christmas Festivals (TBC whether this is digital or cancelled)
- Future Sounds (TBC whether this is digital, postponed or cancelled)

Stuart Whatmore, Head TBMH, 7th July 2020



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