

Piano Teaching in a changing environment: Statement from EPTA UK

Revised: 6 November 2020

Following the recent increase in COVID-19 cases which has prompted new guidance from the UK government, many EPTA members are understandably anxious about the future of face to face teaching. Thank you for your patience whilst we waited for further clarity from the government in order to avoid speculation or misinformation.

England

With effect from Thursday 5 November 2020, the government will introduce new lockdown measures in England. The key message is to control the spread of the virus by staying at home and reducing our day-to-day contact with other people. Formal education provision will continue for children, however the government has specified that “extracurricular classes such as music or drama tuition” should not take place. Adult education should move online where possible. Based on this new legislation, we advise EPTA members to suspend all face to face instrumental lessons in private homes and studios with effect from 5 November until 2 December when further government guidance is expected. We recommend online teaching where possible.

Within schools, ISM advise classroom music lessons can continue. Peripatetic teachers can move between schools and continue teaching. Furthermore, Music Mark have confirmed that ‘peripatetic lessons which extend beyond the end of the school’s timetabled lessons may continue on the basis that they are provided only to pupils of the school, they necessitate no additional travel and they do not expose participants to additional contacts’.

Hencilla Canworth have confirmed that your public liability insurance remains valid as long as you are operating within the law and if you follow government guidance in relation to social distancing, ventilation, cleaning and interaction.

N. Ireland

In Northern Ireland, schools and other education settings reopened on Monday 2 November 2020. Music lessons and private tutoring are permitted, as long as social distancing is maintained and there is no close contact. Your Public Liability Insurance is valid for this work if you follow government guidance in relation to social distancing, ventilation, cleaning and interaction and have completed a risk assessment.

Scotland

Face to face teaching for private tutors is permitted in Scotland, although singing is not permitted in face to face settings. Your Public Liability Insurance is valid for this work if you follow government guidance in relation to social distancing, ventilation, cleaning and interaction and have completed a risk assessment.

Wales

Face to face teaching for private tutors is not permitted in Wales during the 'firebreak lockdown'. From 9 November 2020, it is expected that face to face teaching will be permitted in Wales. Your Public Liability Insurance will be valid for this work if you follow government guidance in relation to social distancing, ventilation, cleaning and interaction and have completed a risk assessment.

***Disclaimer:** EPTA UK is a charity and association, supporting and inspiring piano teachers and their pupils. EPTA UK can offer interpretive guidance but can never enforce legal rules, regulations or policies on our members, whether they be institutions, corporations, companies or self-employees who work as individuals and our guidance does not constitute legal advice. Members should consult the relevant legislation and are responsible for making informed decisions about their own teaching.*

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