

Singing

Summary

Guidance indicates that in the main we should not participate in singing corporately. The exceptions are for individual or small group tuition and where an individual or small group perform. In these cases social distancing between performer and audience are important.

DfE guidance

Singing, wind and brass playing

Singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as choirs and ensembles, or assemblies unless significant space, natural airflow (at least 10l/s/person for all present, including audiences) and strict social distancing and mitigation as described below can be maintained.

Social distancing

In the smaller groups where these activities can take place, schools should observe strict social distancing between each singer and player, and between singers and players, and any other people such as conductors, other musicians, or accompanists. Current guidance is that if the activity is face-to-face and without mitigating actions, 2 metres is appropriate.

Seating positions

Pupils should be positioned back-to-back or side-to-side when playing or singing (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible. Position wind and brass players so that the air from their instrument does not blow into another player.

Microphones

Use microphones where possible or encourage singing quietly.

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

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Singing, chanting and the use of musical instruments in public worship

What the leader(s) can do

- *Small groups of professional or non-professional singers will be able to sing in front of worshippers both outdoors and indoors from 15 August. Singing in groups should be limited to a small, set group of people and should not include audience participation.*
- *Places of worship should take account of the Performing Arts guidance.*
- *Where music plays a big part in worship, and recordings are available, we suggest you consider using these as an alternative to live singing to mitigate risks.*
- *Any instrument played during worship should be cleaned thoroughly before and after use.*

- *Avoid playing music at a volume that makes normal conversation difficult or that may encourage shouting when people will be trying to converse before or after worship.*

What the congregation can do

- *People should avoid singing, shouting and raising voices. This is because of the potential for increased risk of transmission from aerosol and droplets.*
- *Activities such as singing, chanting, shouting and/or playing of instruments that are blown into should be specifically avoided by congregations/worshippers. This is because there is a possible additional risk of transmission in environments where individuals are singing or chanting as a group, and this applies even if social distancing is being observed or face coverings are used.*
- *Therefore, spoken responses during worship should also not be in a raised voice.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship-during-the-pandemic-from-4-july>

Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM)

Singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as choirs and ensembles or assemblies unless significant space, natural airflow (at least 10l/s/person for all present, including audiences) and strict social distancing and mitigation (see below) can be maintained. <https://www.ism.org/advice/easing-of-lockdown-schools-reopening>