



# Online Music Lessons with our Specialist Music Teachers

At YMES we are working hard to continue providing you with music lessons during the pandemic.

During the 'full lockdown' which commenced in March, we implemented, at pace, a highly successful online teaching programme via Zoom which was offered to all pupils taking small group or 1-to-1 lessons with us.

We conducted a survey of parents half way through the summer term. 86.3% of parents rated our online delivery as good or excellent and 89.3% rated the communication around the online transition good or excellent.

Whilst schools are now re-opening, and much of 'normal' school life will be resuming, we have liaised with each headteacher as to what the best way forward is for your child's school.

Following this conversation with your child's headteacher, we have mutually agreed that small group/1-to-1 music lessons at your child's school will remain online for a while longer.

We are committed to delivering as effectively as possible in all cases where an online solution is required. This pack is designed to help give you the information you need as part of that effort.

## Step By Step

<b>1</b>	Your YMES music teacher will contact you (the parent) in advance of first lessons to agree the lesson day/time and let you know any other key details.
<b>2</b>	You (the parent) will receive email confirmation from YMES central office. This will be sent the day before your lesson is due to take place. It will contain a link to a Zoom Meeting.
<b>3</b>	On the day/time of your lesson, click the Zoom Meeting link from your email. It will take you straight to the lesson with your child's teacher.

## Safeguarding

Safety and wellbeing are our highest priority. That's why we are putting the following measures in place. You must agree to them in order to take part in lessons.

- A parent/carer over 18 must remain at home for the duration of the pupil's lesson.
- A parent/carer over 18 must say hello briefly at the start of each video call.
- The location of the pupil within the house must not be their bedroom. It should be a reception area – eg living room/dining room.
- Except if technical glitches occur, YMES will record all lessons to ensure pupil and teacher safety.

# Before Your First Lesson

Before your first lesson ensure that:

- Your device is charged.
- You have downloaded (for free) the Zoom Client for Meetings or relevant app at <https://zoom.us/download>.
- You have the link from your lesson confirmation email ready to click.

## Tips & Tricks

Other things to have a think about for best chance of success:

- Think about the best camera positioning.
- Think about having sufficient lighting.
- Think about maximising your internet speed. Some of the following may help:
  - Using an ethernet cable rather than WiFi.
  - If using WiFi being near to your router.
  - Prioritising your WiFi by closing background apps on your device and disabling Bluetooth/Location settings.
  - Asking other family members to reduce internet usage during the lesson.
- Think about tuning your instrument before the lesson where possible to maximise lesson time. Your teacher will teach you how to do this in your first lesson if needed.
- Please be patient with yourselves, and with our teachers, if this doesn't all go entirely to plan. Remember this is still fairly new and isn't the preferred delivery option – but we'll all do our best to succeed.

# FAQs

- For how long will lessons be online?

At this stage it's difficult to say. The initial period will last until October half term and a review will take place at the beginning of October so that we can start planning and communicating the next half term's approach.

We would hope that in most schools, October half term might be a suitable time to transition back - but we urge caution as this is by no means guaranteed yet. If circumstances around the pandemic (transmission rates, Government guidance, or school policies) require it, we will need to stay online.

- When will the lessons take place?

All lessons will take place in out-of-school slots. Your teacher offer after-school lessons or in some cases weekends.

Wherever possible please accept the lesson slot allocated to you. Timetabling this term is going to be even more challenging for our teachers, as in some cases they will moving a whole week's worth of lessons into these unusual slots.

We will however work with you to avoid any clashes with other clubs and family activities.

- Can I communicate directly with my child's teacher?

Absolutely - and this is encouraged. Please contact your child's teacher in relation to all matters of learning, progress, practice etc. Please also contact them regarding all timetable matters.

Parents of continuing pupils will already have the teacher's contact details if the teacher is the same as last year. Any parents of new pupils - or in any schools where the teacher is new this year - should wait for the teacher to make the first contact.

For any finance or billing matters, or if you have any concerns about any aspect of our service, please email the YMES central office.

- My friend, relative, other child etc would like to learn an instrument. Can you offer this to pupils not at the school?

Yes, we have a publicly available online lesson programme covering all standard orchestral and band instruments.

There are no group packages available for our public programme - all lessons are on a 1-to-1 basis.

Further details of this separate online lesson programme are available at [www.ymes.org.uk/online](http://www.ymes.org.uk/online) or you can email [lvl@ymes.org.uk](mailto:lvl@ymes.org.uk)