

FAQ's for Music Centre West Parents/Carers

1. What time is my child's ensemble?

Group	Room	Time	Entrance/Exit
BJSO	Hall	09:30 - 11:30	Top/Back (white door)
Starter Strings	Room 11	09:30 - 10:15	Bottom/Front (yellow door)
Wind Band	Room 1 (Room 2 for 12 & 19 Sept)	10:00 - 11:15	Top/Back (white door)
String Group	Room 9	10:45 - 11:45	Bottom/Front (yellow door)

Please pay close attention to the times listed above as these have changed from previous years.

2. What time can I drop my child off?

Please drop your child off no earlier than 15 minutes before the time listed above to avoid clashing with other groups that may be leaving at the same time.

3. Where is the Top/Back entrance?

This entrance is the back fire exit of the building. To find it face the front door and walk around the left of the building towards the black border fence. You will see yellow paint on the floor showing social distancing markers. Please see the photos at the end of this document to know how they look.

4. Can I come into the building?

Unfortunately not. To keep the building safe, we have made the decision to not allow parents/carers into the building for the time being. Instead we will be following the steps below to let your children in to the building:

- Arrive at Bristol Plays Music and park your car
- Go to the relevant entrance with your child and stand on the yellow dots
- When you get to the front of the queue, your child will be signed in by the admin assistant
- Your child will be asked to sanitise their hands
- They will then be met by one of the music tutors who will take them to their rehearsal room

5. How do I collect my child?

In a similar way to how you dropped your child off, please follow these steps to collect your child:

- Arrive at Bristol Plays Music and park your car
- Go to the relevant entrance and stand on the yellow dots
- When you get to the front of the queue, you will be asked your child's name by the admin assistant
- Your child will then be released to you

6. Does my child need to wear a mask?

In a similar way to school settings, children aged 11 and under are not required to wear a mask at music centre. Children aged 12 and over will need to wear a facemask in communal areas of the building and may choose to keep the mask on during rehearsals should they wish.

7. What does my child need to bring with them?

As little as possible and only things that are necessary for rehearsals. Ideally your child will bring:

- Their instrument
- A pencil
- Spare strings/rosin/reeds etc as we cannot supply these if they break
- A facemask (if required)
- A jumper or hoodie – the windows will be open in all the rooms for ventilation and cannot be closed, so it may get cold
- Their own water bottle labelled with their name
- A snack (for longer rehearsals) – the vending machine will be out of action
- If your child plays an instrument with a 'spit valve', please provide them with a labelled pot or small towel to empty this into/onto.

8. How will rehearsals be different for my child?

Very good question, and this is something to discuss with your child before they attend.

First of all, rehearsals will still be fun! These are the changes below that your child might notice:

- Firstly, you won't be able to come into the building with them. This may be scary for a few children, but our fabulous music team will greet them and show them where to go.
- When your child enters their rehearsal room, they will be told which seat to sit in by the conductor. This will then be their seat.
- If your child plays a smaller instrument (such as violin, viola, flute, clarinet, saxophone, cornet or trumpet) they will be asked to unpack their instrument at their seat and place the case under their seat.
- If your child plays the cello or double bass, there will be a specific area marked out for them to store their cases.
- The music tutors will be wearing masks/visors. This is nothing to be scared of and is just to keep your child and other adults safe.
- If there is normally a break in your child's rehearsal, everyone will have to remain in the room they are rehearsing in. Children will not be able to access the vending machine or move through the corridors.
- Children will need to ask permission to go to the toilet as there is only one person allowed in a toilet block at any one time.

9. Will you have a waiting room available?

Again, unfortunately not. This also means we cannot allow children to wait in the building until their rehearsal starts. All waiting will need to take place outside.

10. What if my child is in more than one ensemble?

In order to maintain bubbles (each ensemble is their own bubble), we cannot allow children to take part in more than one ensemble for the time being. If your child would normally take place in more than one ensemble, please email Rhian (rhian.cocker@bristolplaysmusic.org) as soon as possible to let us know which ensemble your child will be taking part in. This ensemble will be the same for the time being and we will review bubbles at every half term if necessary.

11. Will my child be allowed to go to the toilet?

We will not stop any child from using the toilet, however for all rehearsals that are shorter than 1 hour in length, we will be asking parents to ensure their child uses the toilet before you leave home.

Due to social distancing guidelines, it now means that only 1 person is allowed in a toilet block at a time – so a maximum of 3 children will be allowed to use the toilet at any one time (1 in the female, 1 in the male and 1 in the disabled).

As we're sure you can understand if every child needed to go to the toilet, there would be no time for any rehearsals, so we would really appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

12. What social distancing measures have you put in place?

Working alongside the General Manager of Bristol Music Trust we are able to declare our building in Southmead as COVID-safe. Measures in place include:

- Separate entrances for different parts of the building
- Staggered start/finish times to reduce numbers entering/exiting the building at the same time
- Introducing contactless sign in
- Hand sanitising stations on the way in
- Clear corridor dividers with arrows so everyone is aware that they must stay left
- Limiting numbers in rooms
- Rehearsal rooms to be spaced accordingly
 - 1m apart for string rehearsals
 - 2m apart for wind & brass rehearsals
- Grouping ensembles in bubbles
- Each bubble will have their own allocated room
- All staff working in the building will be wearing a mask and/or visor
- Isolation room available should anyone become ill with COVID-19 symptoms during rehearsal
- All teaching spaces will be well ventilated

13. Will I need to complete your Track & Trace for my child?

No. So long as you have enrolled your child via [Paritor](#), we will have an up to date list of everyone in each ensemble, so you will not need to provide details every week.

14. What if my child is ill, or becomes ill during a rehearsal?

If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19, DO NOT bring them to rehearsals – you may be putting other children and staff at risk.

If your child is unable to attend rehearsal for any reason, including illness, please email admin@bristolplaysmusic.org with your child's name, instrument, ensemble and reason for absence so this can be marked on the register.

If your child becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms during a rehearsal, they will be placed in an isolation room and a parent/carer will be called immediately to pick them up. You will be asked to arrange a test for your child and you must inform Bristol Plays Music if that test is positive.

15. Social Distancing outside the building

Please see the photos below to understand how we expect parents/carers and children to social distance while queuing outside the building.

Front of the Building – Entrance for Starter Strings & String Group



As you can see, there are clearly marked dots to stand on down the side of the building. When parking your car DO NOT park on the hatched markings to keep others safe. If there are no spaces in the car park, please park outside on the main road and walk in with your child.

Back of the Building – Entrance for BJSO and Wind Band



When you walk around the side of the building, you will walk towards 2 open gates. Please keep to the left to avoid anyone that could be walking towards you around the corner.



As with the front of the building, there are clearly marked dots to stand on down the fence. When parking your car DO NOT park on the hatched markings at the front of the building to keep other safe. If there are no spaces in the car park, please park outside on the main road and walk in with your child.

If you have any questions about anything in the document, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Rhian Cocker – Rhian.cocker@bristolplaysmusic.org