

Risk Assessment in the Junior Cycle Music Classroom

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is risk assessment a new concept?

A: There have always been risk assessments undertaken by schools as part of the whole-school Health and Safety plan, for example specialist rooms such as Science and Home Economics may be singled out, so it is not an entirely new concept. The COVID-19 aspect is a new concept, thus highlighting the need for a risk assessment in other subjects, in our case Music.

Q: Why do I need to complete a risk assessment for my music classroom?

A: The [Return to school guidance for Practical subjects in Post-Primary Schools and Centres for Education](#) tells us that “for the moment, singing and the playing of wind and brass instruments should be minimised due to the additional risk of infection. Where such activities need to occur, a risk assessment on the size of the space, the ventilation levels within the space, and the positioning of singers/players with extended social distancing should be conducted”.

Q: What is a risk assessment?

A: A risk assessment is the process of identifying the measures that will need to be implemented to control the risks associated with Covid-19. ... (Sing Ireland, 2020)

Q: Are there any samples of risk assessment forms online?

A: There are many samples of risk assessment forms online. Here is a selection of some you may find useful:

Sing Ireland	<i>Singing Groups Risk Assessment Questions</i>	https://bit.ly/2Rev24M
Musicians Union	<i>Risk Assessment for Teaching</i>	https://bit.ly/3irKpXf
Freiburg Institute	<i>Risk Assessment of a Coronavirus Infection in the Field of Music</i>	https://bit.ly/3kdXkfV
ABCD	<i>ABCD Risk Assessment template</i>	https://bit.ly/2GQomvk

Q: Where can I find out more about risk assessment?

A: Other sources of information could be the Health and Safety Officer and/or the Lead Worker Representative and/or the Board of Management for your school. Possible links and references, which might provide further support are listed below.

Sing Ireland (2020)	<i>Helpful Resources</i>	https://bit.ly/2F6Po15
SMEI (2020)	<i>Useful Resources</i>	https://bit.ly/3ilQuUW
Gov.uk (2020)	<i>Performing Arts-Working safely during Coronavirus (Covid-19)</i>	https://bit.ly/2GNClCS
Music Mark (2020)	<i>“Music Unlocked”: Guidance for Schools and Music Providers</i>	https://bit.ly/3k4G6RX
ABCD (2020)	<i>Useful links and guidance for musicians and their choirs</i>	https://bit.ly/2Reoqaj

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