

Interactive Music-Making COVID-19 Guidance (January 2021)

This information should be read by practitioners considering applying for the Interactive Music-Making Course (and their Managers, where participation in the course links to a specific early years setting). It has been put together to reassure you of the plans in place to protect the Interactive Music-Making Course from disruption and to support participants during this extraordinary time.

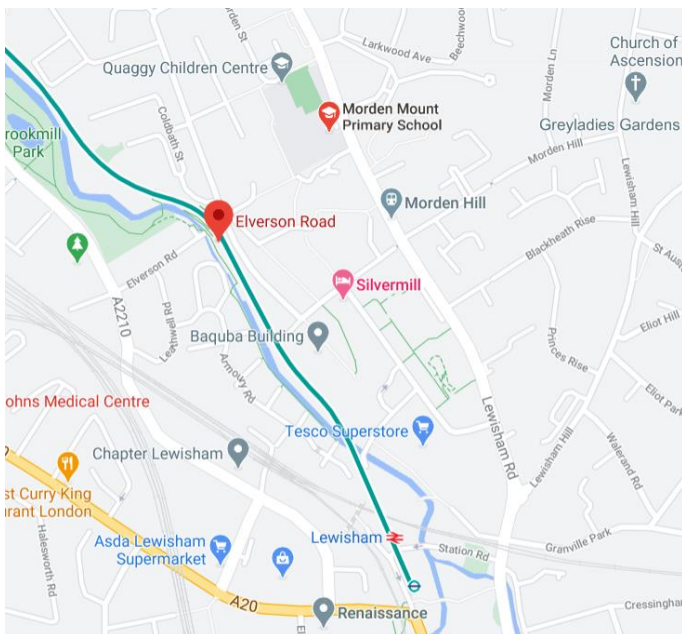
OVERVIEW

The Interactive Music-Making course comprises a series of weekly interactive teaching sessions lasting 3-hours each. The course tutors use a mix of teaching methods, including plenty of music-making workshops and analysis of musical interaction evidenced from videos of sessions with young children, to keep these stimulating, engaging and fun. There is as much to learn from the other participants in the course as from the tutors. Peer discussion and sharing ideas is integral to how we teach.

With this in mind - and despite the challenges of COVID-19 - we are striving to deliver our Interactive Music-Making course via the usual series of face-to-face teaching sessions. So much of what we will cover is rooted in the practical experience of making music which is difficult to convert into online teaching. Additionally we know it can be difficult to find a quiet place with the right technology and sufficient connectivity to access live streamed teaching online. And feedback from previous students as well as current applicants has encouraged us to take this approach.

The starting point for enrolling on this course is a commitment to attend the weekly teaching sessions (see 2) Key Dates below). However, we do have contingency plans for occasions when a participant is unable to attend for reasons relating to COVID and these are detailed in the section 3) Disruption to the course as a result of COVID, below.

1) TEACHING VENUE: All teaching sessions will take place at Morden Mount Primary School, Lewisham Rd, Greenwich, London SE13 7QP



The nearest station is Lewisham, DLR and mainline (11 minute walk) or Elverson Road (1 minute walk!)

The school has all the COVID risk assessment and safety measures in place that you would expect from a school committed to the health and safety of its pupils and staff and our tutors and course participants will be required to adhere to their local guidance. You can read about these in more detail on the school's website:
<https://www.mordenmount.greenwich.sch.uk/parents/coronavirus-keeping-safe>

2) KEY DATES

Teaching sessions will take place on the following Fridays, from 12-3pm:

Week 1: 15 th January
Week 2: 22 nd January
Week 3: 29 th January
Week 4: 5 th February
Week 5: 12 th February
There is NO teaching during Half term: 15-21st February
Week 6: 26 th February
Week 7: 5 th March
Week 8: 12 th March
Week 9: 19 th March
Week 10: 26 th March
There is NO teaching during the Easter Holidays: 1st – 16th April
Week 11: April 23 rd

Following the teaching sessions, course participants are tasked with putting their learning into practice within a Practical Assignment. This is when they will offer a series of 8 weekly Interactive Music-Making sessions to a small group of children (guidance to prepare for this and set this up is included in the teaching session) and should take place during the summer term and be completed by Friday 2nd July 2021.

Following completion of the Practical Assignment, the course participants will come together for one final session at Morden Mount School to present their experiences to the course tutors and each other. This Presentation Day will take place on Friday 9th July 2021, 12-3pm.

3) Disruption to the course as a result of COVID Most important to us is that our course participants experience high quality learning opportunities and become confident Interactive Music-Makers. However, COVID has introduced an additional level of risk to our students' participation in the course. This section considers some of the ways we will work towards this if COVID prevention measures start to cause disruption.

If you are self-isolating or local lockdown restrictions prevent you travelling to a teaching session, we will record the session for you to watch back in your own time. Additionally you will be offered a telephone call with your personal tutor to go over any aspects of the teaching session if you feel it would be helpful.

If a planned teaching session cannot be delivered due to local lockdown restrictions or no tutor is able to teach the week's session in person due to self-isolation across the tutor team, the teaching session will be offered online via Zoom. Under these circumstances the teaching session would take place on the intended date at the intended time, but is likely to be shorter than the scheduled 3 hours, with plenty of breaks to alleviate screen fatigue.

If face-to-face teaching sessions cannot happen for a longer period of time because of new lockdown measures, the course leaders will make a decision whether to proceed with online teaching (on the scheduled dates) or whether to pause the course and prepare to resume face-to-face teaching when restrictions are lifted. This may mean the course takes longer to complete, but could protect the quality of your learning experience.

If students' completion of the Practical Assignments is at risk from new lockdown measures, the course leaders will make a decision about how best to support the course participants to conclude their practice and complete their learning. This may require an extension of the timeframe for students to complete their interactive music-making sessions and the Presentation Day may need to be delayed.

If the majority of students' participation in the Presentation Day is at risk from new lockdown measures, the course tutors will make a decision as to whether the day is re-scheduled or whether we switch to the digital format used in 2019.

If a student experiences other difficulties relating to participating in the course, they should refer to the Student Handbook they will be given at the start of the course. This details our general expectations with respect to their attendance, self-directed study, how to handle extenuating circumstances etc. and should be the starting point for any student whose attendance is disrupted for reasons specific to their own circumstances.

OTHER Frequently Asked Questions

Whilst we appreciate the future is uncertain, the quality of teaching and learning of which we are proud requires a minimum number of students and also demands we limit the number of places on the course. So please bear in mind last minute dropouts could jeopardise the course for others. Additionally, the course is run without profit by a small charity and places left empty incur avoidable costs for *Music as Therapy International*. So please read the following FAQs before submitting your application.

What if we are unable to fill out some of the information requested in the form as we do not currently have access to our setting records?

That's OK. Please complete the essential sections of the Student Application Form and any additional sections for which you have sufficient information (and on the IMM Award Form, if relevant to you). When you email it to us, please tell us why your form is incomplete and when/if you anticipate being able to provide any missing information. We may get in touch with you directly to discuss this. Please note: If you are unable to fill out the essential sections of the form(s) by Monday 14th December, we may not be able to accept your Application.

When do I need to pay for the course?

You can indicate your preferred payment option at the bottom of the Student Application Form. If you request an invoice this will be issued when your place is confirmed. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, payment for the course must be received by Friday 8th January. There is no payment required if you are applying for an Interactive Music-Making Award.

If my practitioner is awarded a place on the January course and then the course is deferred, will I need to re-apply?

No. Your place on the re-scheduled course will be reserved for you. If the re-scheduled course is not viable for your practitioner, you will be able to nominate a different practitioner without reapplication, or withdraw. If you nominate a different practitioner, we will need them to complete the sections of the Student Application Form which relate specifically to their own experience and aspirations from the course. If you choose to withdraw we will reimburse any fees paid.

What happens if the way my centre is operating in the new year means my practitioner can't attend the teaching sessions?

This will depend on the timing of this disruption and the extent to which the practitioner's participation is at risk. We would encourage you to talk to us as soon as you think this could be a risk so we can consider the best way to support your practitioner. It may be advised to transfer their place onto the September Interactive Music-Making course.

What if my nominated practitioner decides he/she isn't able to do the course?

If your practitioner decides they are no longer able to take part in the course before teaching has begun, it may be possible to transfer their place onto the September delivery of the Interactive Music-Making course. However, please bear in mind last minute dropouts could jeopardise the course for others. Alternatively we can reserve the place for you while you find another practitioner to participate (any replacement practitioner will need to be ready to join the course for the first week of teaching). If you are not able to take up the place as a result of a practitioner changing their mind and if we are not able to fill their place on the course from our waiting list, you will not receive any fee reimbursement.

If your practitioner decides they are no longer able to take part in the course after teaching has begun, they may be able to resume the course the following year. There are no refunds available on fees paid for a practitioner who withdraws from the course *after* teaching has begun.

I'm an independent practitioner. Can I apply for the IMM Course without knowing where I will undertake my practical assignment?

Yes, but you should have made some initial enquiries with local early years settings within which you could undertake your practical assignment, bearing in mind people are likely to be more cautious about who visits their setting following the recent lockdown and with concern about future COVID-19 outbreaks. You will need to confirm where you will undertake your placement by Friday 5th February.

If there is a digital teaching session, what will I need?

In the very specific circumstances when a teaching session is taught live online, you will need a quiet space to join the session, access to a device with Zoom installed and a stable Wi-Fi connection. A larger fixed screen may be easier and more relaxing to use than a hand held phone. The teaching session will be interactive and so you should be somewhere where you are able to enable their camera and speak freely when invited to do so.

My question hasn't been answered here. What can I do?

If you have any further questions, please contact Freya Gibbs at freitagibbs@musicastherapy.org or on 07792 783183.