

OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER SOMETIMES CALLED 'CONTEXTUAL STUDIES'

LEGAL ISSUES

CHARGING FOR MUSIC LESSONS IN SCHOOLS

The Education Reform Act of 1988 and subsequent legislation passed in 1993, permits Local Education Authorities and schools to pass on charges to parents for the provision of instrumental lessons, subject to a maximum of 4 pupils being taught in a group and a declared fee remissions policy being in place. This does not include vocal lessons, which cannot be charged for in school lesson time.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DISABILITY RIGHTS

Equal opportunities are of major importance in education. It goes without saying that you need to promote fairness and equality as a teacher, but you should learn about certain things which you must take into account, whether you work for an organisation or freelance. The 1975 Sex Discrimination Act makes it illegal for people to be discriminated against on the grounds of their sex. The 1976 Race Relations Act outlaws discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, nationality and ethnic origin. The 1995 Disability Discrimination Act addresses discrimination against disabled people in employment and in the provision of goods and services. (A small number of jobs are allowed to specify gender, race or disability as a requirement of the post, where this is necessary for the role.) Additionally, most organisations involved in education will have their own code of conduct, policies and systems to promote equal opportunities, to ensure that they are complying with the law and to prevent discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whether you work as a freelance community musician or as a teacher in a school, you need to know what your responsibilities are for looking after yourself, your students, participants (or the public) and perhaps other people who work with you.

➤ WORKBOOK 4 – PERFORMING



HEALTH AND SAFETY :

RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment is a check on safety procedures you need to put in place to protect yourself and other people. You or your organisation needs to carry out a risk assessment of all activities involving students, participants or members of the public. Examples are: an educational visit to a museum; holding a concert for parents and friends; running a samba parade through a city centre.

USE AND TRANSPORTATION OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment needs to be safe to use (see also electrical regulations) and safely carried and lifted. Strobe lighting warning signs, safe procedures for rigging lights, working at heights or using dry ice, are all examples of health & safety considerations.

MUSIC RELATED SAFETY

Sound levels need to be safe for musicians, students and the public; young children need to be shown how to hold and play instruments correctly so as not to damage their mouths or develop poor technique leading to later health problems; you need to choose appropriate instruments for the age / stage of physical development of a child; vocal coaches must not 'force' young children's voices by introducing vocal training they are not ready for.

PERSONAL SAFETY ISSUES

Limits on numbers of people in rooms (fire regulations), steward or security training and numbers, hygiene issues relating to sharing of instruments, safe transport for pupils, first aid.

FIRE AND ELECTRICITY REGULATIONS

Emergency exits, procedures, signs and who is responsible; Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) for equipment by a competent person; use of circuit breakers; fire fighting equipment.

