



Music Education Code of Practice

Originally created for and by the profession through MusicLeader and Sound Sense

The Music Education Code of Practice helps to ensure music practitioners provide high quality music making and learning experiences for the people they work with. The code does this by providing a set of quality statements concerning all aspects of music learning.

By adopting the code, practitioners demonstrate their commitment to quality work. By using the code as a benchmark, employers and hirers of practitioners demonstrate their commitment to requiring high-quality practice of those who work for them.

This code underpins good practice across the music education sector. Music practitioners and teachers should:

Be well prepared and organised

- Work effectively and have appropriate knowledge and skills
- Negotiate with contractors and employers the aims, objectives and desired outcomes for the work and maintain communication for the duration of the project
- Understand the context of a programme or project and plan effectively to ensure the success of the activity for the participants
- Adopt the appropriate attitude, behaviour and dress code
- Manage time effectively, starting and finishing as planned and agreed
- Keep up to date with all relevant paperwork, such as course planning documents, hand-outs, evaluation forms, invoices and budgets
- Charge appropriately for the services

Be safe and responsible

- Take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of everyone in sessions, especially children and vulnerable adults
- Ensure that the activity is adequately insured
- Ensure risk assessments are carried out and manage risk accordingly
- Understand contractor's policies, routines and procedures e.g. child protection/equal opportunities/behaviour management/data protection
- Provide references for work and a Disclosure & Barring (DBS) check where necessary

Have appropriate musical skills

- Ensure that their level of skills, knowledge and understanding are sufficient to undertake the work
- Demonstrate musical expertise, creativity and versatility
- Be able to adapt and react to changing circumstances through drawing on appropriate musical resources



Work well with people

- Value all participants and treat them with respect
- Be sensitive and responsive to both group and individual dynamics
- Motivate and inspire participants
- Lead high quality and enjoyable music experiences
- Be friendly, approachable and professional

Evaluate and reflect on work

- Collect monitoring data for contractors and employers as required
- Collect feedback from contractors, employers and participants
- Reflect on work and continually strive to improve practice

Commit to professional development

- Improve and update skills, knowledge and creativity through regular training, personal reflection and membership of professional bodies
- Maintain a professional portfolio and CV