

Music licensing in schools

An overview of the key information and contacts

Music is a vital part of the culture of schools, with teachers regularly using music in a variety of ways and formats. In many cases, schools are covered by 'blanket' copyright licenses that have been negotiated on your behalf. However you should always check that the way you are using music in your school is covered by a licence to help support the fair remuneration of artists.

This overview has been created by the Every Copy Counts team to help you find where to go to find further information on music licensing.

There are a variety of organisations working with and for publishers, artists, composers, songwriters and arrangers who can help with understanding licenses. These are:

[Centre for Education and Finance Management \(CEFM\)](#)

[Copyright & Schools](#)

[Mechanical Copyright Protection Society \(MCPS\)](#)

[Music Publishers Association](#)

[Phonographic Performance Ltd \(PPL\)](#)

[Printed Music Licensing Limited](#)

[PRS for Music \(PRS\)](#)

**EVERY
COPY
COUNTS**

So what licenses should my school have?

PRINTED MUSIC

Photocopying, arranging, scanning or sharing printed music digitally e.g. via Virtual Learning Environments

This is allowed and covered under the Schools Printed Music Licence. This licence is funded by the education departments for all state-funded schools and academies in England, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. Schools in Wales and independent schools currently pay individually. To find out more, please visit the Printed Music Licensing Limited website [here](#).

LIVE MUSIC

Playing and performing live music

The Department for Education pays a blanket fee for the PRS for Music licence to cover all state-funded schools and academies in England to be able to do this. In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland there are a range of agreements and licenses in place that are bespoke to regions and schools. There are some limitations of use of music under this licence such as gyms open to the general public, musicals, hiring facilities to third parties using music.

Please contact **CEFM**: prs@cefm.co.uk or phone 01494 473 014.

Recording live music onto a physical format e.g. CD, USB, DVD, (NOT online)

The Limited Manufacture (LM) Licence grants you permission to make recordings of live performances of music such as Orchestral recitals, Carol concerts etc. on to USB, laptops, and other electronic devices as well as making copies on more traditional CDs and DVDs. The Department for Education pays a blanket fee for the Limited Manufacture licence to cover all state-funded schools and academies in England to be able to do this. Please note that this agreement with the DFE allows the production of up to 1,000 copies per year with top-up licence available for additional usage. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland there are a range of agreements and licence in place that are bespoke to regions and schools.

Please visit [here](#) or contact **CEFM**: mcps@cefm.co.uk or phone 01494 836227 to find out more about the Limited Manufacture Licence.

Recording live music to share online

The Limited Online Music Licence is an annual licence that covers the use of music through digital services. Please visit [here](#) to find out more about the Limited Online Music Licence (LOML).

Live streaming an event online

The Online Live Concert Licence covers the use of music in live streaming events. Please visit [here](#) to find out more about the Online Live Concert Licence.

Perform a grand right works, dramatico-musical works and ballets

Operas, musical theatre, ballet, pantomime and other dramatico-musical works often require specific permission to be sought directly from the publisher/s of the work. If you are unable to identify the publisher, the Music Publishers Association (MPA) should be able to help you determine a production's copyright owner to enable you seek permission directly from the appropriate rights owner. Please visit [here](#).

PRE-RECORDED OR COMMERCIAL MUSIC

Play commercial copyrighted music - PRS for Music and PPL licenses in conjunction

The Department for Education pays 2 blanket licence fees to PRS for Music and PPL for all state-funded schools and academies in England to be able to play commercial copyrighted music. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland there are a range of agreements and licenses in place that are bespoke to regions and schools. There are some limitations of use of music under this licence such as gyms open to the general public, musicals, hiring facilities to 3rd parties using music.

Please contact **CEFM**: prs@cefm.co.uk or ppl@cefm.co.uk or phone 01494 473 014 or 01494 836233

Use commercial copyrighted music in tangible formats e.g. CD, USB, DVD (NOT online)

As well as allowing the recording of live performances, the Limited Manufacture Licence also allows the recording or copying of pre-recorded music for such use as Dance performances to music, School X Factor style talent shows, student films containing music etc. on to USB, laptops, and other electronic devices as well as making copies on more traditional CDs and DVDs. The Limited Manufacture (LM) Licence grants you permission to legally use any music in your own CDs, DVDs or videos and other formats. The Department for Education pays a blanket fee for the Limited Manufacture licence to cover all state-funded schools and academies in England to be able to do this.

Please note that this agreement with the DFE allows the production of up to 1,000 copies per year with top-up licence available for additional usage. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland there are a range of agreements and licenses in place that are bespoke to regions and schools.

Please visit [here](#) or contact CEFM: mcps@cefm.co.uk or phone 01494 836227 to find out more about the Limited Manufacture Licence.