

INSTRUMENT HYGIENE

Basic hand hygiene is a great place to start in terms of keeping musical instruments clean, but the following tips will also help!

ALL INSTRUMENTS

Germs love warm and wet conditions, so children should dry instruments out with a dry cloth or pull-through after playing.

Regularly clean/wash any cloths, swabs, brushes or rods that are used to clean instruments.

FLUTES

Alcohol wipes or sprays can be used to clean the lip-plate and inside the embouchure hole (the hole in the lip-plate).

The tops of keys can also be wiped gently, but avoid sprays as this may damage the delicate materials around the pads underneath.

Do not submerge in or run the headjoint under water as this will damage the cork inside that controls the tuning of the flute.

CLARINETS

Mouthpieces can be washed with hot soapy water (hand soap, not dishwashing liquid) but should not be submerged because of the connecting cork.

Use a mouthpiece brush to remove any residue.

Once clean, spray with disinfectant solution and leave to air dry.

Reeds do not need to be disinfected, but should be changed regularly and of course never shared.

SAXOPHONES

See clarinet mouthpiece and reed tips!

For the neck of the saxophone, use a mouthpiece or bottle brush and mild soapy water, then rinse and dry.

BRASS

Mouthpieces can be fully submerged in soapy water, and a mouthpiece brush used to clean the inside.