

Starting your private practice

Here are the main points to consider when setting up your own private teaching practice.

Think about space

- Teaching spaces need to be suitable: Is there access to a bathroom? Is there space for parents to wait? Will additional noise disturb neighbours?
- Think about any health and safety issues there might be in your teaching space. Consider undertaking a Risk Assessment to see if anything needs to be addressed.
- Check any leases, tenancy agreements and Local Authority guidelines to ensure you're allowed to operate a business from your home.

Marketing yourself

- Market yourself successfully by focussing on what is distinctive about your teaching.
- Remember, most parents find music teachers by word of mouth. (Could you reward your students if they bring a new pupil to you?)

Keep up-to-date

- Keep yourself refreshed: attend MU teaching events and look out for Continuing Professional Development opportunities.
- Take time out to reflect on your work. Find peers to discuss your work with. Look at examples of good teaching practice at www.MusicTeachers.co.uk/youtube

Summary

- The more professional you are, the more seriously your students will take you.
- Be safe – don't ever break professional boundaries.
- Make sure your teaching room is suitable; give your students lots of space.

Case Study

Tom contacted the MU for help and advice on teaching from his own home. As a member he already had £10 million of public liability insurance in place and had organised his DBS check through the MU. Tom signed up to MusicTeachers.co.uk where he was able to kite-mark his MU membership and register that he had taken the NSPCC Child Protection Course.

Useful resources

- Join www.MusicTeachers.co.uk. The website receives 70,000 hits per month from those looking for an instrumental or vocal tutor..
- For information about contracts and paperwork, see Toolkit factsheet 'Get it in writing'.
- The Child Protection Awareness in Music online course is available at Platinum.educare.co.uk/music