

# Being an Effective Teacher



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Keeping up-to-date with new developments and ideas in music teaching, or finding imaginative ways to help students to practice and make progress can be challenging, particularly in today's time-pressured world. We recognise the importance of helping teachers, at all stages of their career, to develop and refresh their skills, securing a confident and enthusiastic approach that will inspire their students.

Being an Effective Teacher is an entirely online course – designed to fit around your working life – to help you develop your professional skills. It will provide you with fresh ideas for lessons and help you to become a more effective and confident music teacher.

## What does the course involve?

You will be guided through this online course by an experienced ABRSM mentor who will provide personal feedback and advice at every stage. You will also participate in a series of group discussions via online forums, enabling you to interact with other teachers.

The course runs over 15 weeks from your chosen start date. During the course you are asked to complete four assignments, which will be marked by your mentor and returned with supporting comments. You will have access to a number of specially designed resources, including film clips, tutorials, and links to additional teaching resources.

## Who is this course for?

Being an Effective Teacher has been specifically designed for busy instrumental and vocal teachers who are keen to improve their teaching skills and gain new ideas. If you're new to teaching, the course will provide a good grounding in effective teaching practice. For experienced teachers, this course represents an opportunity to refresh your thinking, gain new skills and consider current trends in music education. Whatever your experience, the course gives the opportunity to reflect on your teaching and communicate with like-minded teachers.

You do not require any specific qualifications in order to enrol; we simply ask that you are 16 years or older, already an instrumental or vocal teacher, and are teaching at least one pupil regularly.

The course is available worldwide; however all assignments and correspondence must be completed in English.



## How is the course structured?

The course is in three sections:

- a) Introductory tasks – designed to assess your current teaching styles and learning needs
- b) Current issues in music education – exploring teaching and learning in action
- c) Improving your teaching – here you will choose two modules from the following:
  - Planning for a term's work
  - Working with groups
  - Improvising
  - Observing your teaching

## How is the course assessed?

You will be asked to submit four assignments to your mentor during the course.

Students completing each assignment successfully will be awarded a certificate of successful completion at the end of the course to add to their professional development portfolio.

## What resources do I need?

We will provide you with online course materials, learning activities, online forums and the course website.

You will need a computer (either a PC or a Mac) with a soundcard or inbuilt sound and broadband Internet access.

You will also need the following software:

- Adobe Acrobat PDF viewer – documents will open in a new window and pop-ups need to be enabled for these documents to open
- Adobe Flash Player (version 9 or above)
- Software to create .doc or .rtf documents
- Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher (although the site will work with most browsers)

If you select the module 'Observing your teaching' you will need access to audio-visual recording equipment.

## What are the benefits for me?

- **Discover new concepts**  
Music education is constantly evolving. During the course you will explore many current theories and initiatives in music education. Your mentor will help you to understand how these affect your work and help you to apply them to your teaching.
- **Develop your teaching skills**  
During the course you'll be encouraged to exchange and discuss teaching ideas with your mentor and course colleagues. You will then have an opportunity to try out new approaches in your own teaching and assess their effectiveness, helping you to develop your personal teaching style.
- **Build confidence**  
As you discover more about your own teaching style you will gain the confidence to try out new ideas with your students, and assess their effectiveness.
- **Gain insight from an experienced ABRSM mentor**  
Your mentor will discuss your teaching with you during the course, helping you to identify your strengths, as well as areas for improvement. You will receive feedback and advice on your current teaching style, along with suggestions that will help to improve your lessons.
- **Study in your own time**  
The online format of this course enables you to be flexible about where and when you study so that you can fit it around your other commitments.
- **Join an online community**  
You will work through this course both with your mentor and with your fellow teachers. There will be the opportunity to hold open discussions via the class forum and to develop close working relationships with like-minded teachers from around the world.

## Next steps

For more information about this course, please contact Louisa Thomas:

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E lthomas@abrsm.ac.uk  
www.abrsm.org/ecourse





## A note from Richard Crozier, Course Director

Being an Effective Teacher offers you the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, an ABRSM professional development course. Effective teaching leads to an improved quality of learning. This means that your students will enjoy their lessons more, and make better progress, opening the door to: improved exam results; better festival scores; higher achievement all round and, most importantly, enhanced musical understanding and appreciation.

Being an Effective Teacher is built on the success of other ABRSM courses such as the Certificate of Teaching, Let's Teach Jazz and the Introduction to Instrumental and Vocal Teaching. Our experience of running these successful courses, coupled with the range of expertise found in our 120-strong mentor panel, means we can bring you the best of online learning in music education currently available.

▀ The digitalisation of music is transforming the way we listen. Digitalisation is also revolutionising learning, making it easier, quicker, more relevant and accessible to all. In 1,000 years of formal education, educators have never had the resources and the opportunities to offer learning in quite this kind of way. Online learning is now and the future. ▾

Gilly Salmon, Professor of E-learning and Learning Technologies, University of Leicester

## Teaching Resources



### All Together!

*All Together!* is an excellent resource for instrumental and vocal teachers teaching in groups. It deals with a variety of issues central to group teaching including teaching mixed-ability classes, group dynamics, lesson planning, monitoring progress and maintaining motivation.

Includes:

- Discussions on varying approaches to group work
- Practical, creative strategies to help students fulfil potential
- Foreword by Evelyn Glennie



### The Music Teacher's Companion

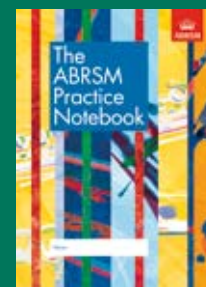
Paul Harris, Richard Crozier

Whether you're working at home, in schools, with individuals or in groups

*The Music Teacher's Companion* provides a wealth of useful information relating to all aspects of music teaching.

Includes:

- Advice on a variety of teaching problems
- Forms for lesson plans, student profiles, termly overviews and attendance registers



### The ABRSM Practice Notebook

*The ABRSM Practice Notebook* is filled with useful hints and advice on how to practice effectively. It allows you to record your students' progress and set goals.

Includes:

- A whole year's lesson notes
- End of year report
- Essential theory
- Lesson timetable
- Top tips on practising and preparing for exams

Available from all good music shops or [www.abrsm.org](http://www.abrsm.org)

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