**FAQs Music – Schools**

**Performing musical works live or playing recorded music**

**1. Can teachers and students play or perform music in the classroom for** [**educational purposes**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/educational-purpose/)**?**

Yes. Teachers and students can perform [musical works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) live or play recorded music in class under s28 of the Copyright Act.

See [Performance and Communication of copyright material in the classroom](https://smartcopying.edu.au/performance-and-communication-of-copyright-material-in-class/).

**2. Can we play recorded music over the school’s PA system?**

Yes. Schools are able to play recorded music at school under both the [APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/) and either s 106 of the Copyright Act (for independent and Catholic Schools) or an interim licence with [PPCA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/ppca-phonographic-performance-company-of-australia-limited/) (for government schools).

See [Music Guidelines](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/music/).

**3. Are our students allowed to perform at events such as school music festivals, eisteddfods and the Schools Spectacular?**

Yes. Under the [APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/) students are allowed to perform publicly at off-campus events such as music festivals, music eisteddfods and the ‘Schools Spectacular’, where the school is a participant. However, this right does not extend to the individual event known as the ‘Rock Eisteddfod Challenge’.

See [Schools APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/).

**4. Can we use recorded music in school performances and concerts?**

Yes. Schools are able to play recorded music at school and at [school events](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) (eg assemblies, graduations, school concerts and performances) under both the [APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/) and either s 106 of the Copyright Act (for independent and Catholic schools) or an interim licence from [PPCA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/ppca-phonographic-performance-company-of-australia-limited/) (for government schools).

See [Music Guidelines](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/music/).

**5. Can we perform live music for a school performance or concert?**

Yes. Schools can perform live music at school or another venue under the [APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/).

See [Schools APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/).

**6. Can our school perform a couple of songs from a musical (eg ‘Matilda The Musical’) at our end of year event?**

Yes. This is okay under the [APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/), but if you want to perform an entire musical you will need to obtain permission from the copyright owner of the musical.

See [Schools APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-apra-licence/).

**7. Can a teacher play music from Spotify in the classroom?**

Yes, teachers can play music from Spotify in class under s 28 of the Copyright Act. Spotify does not offer school accounts, however it is fine for a teacher to play music from a personal Spotify subscription.

See [Performance and Communication of copyright material in the classroom](https://smartcopying.edu.au/performance-and-communication-of-copyright-material-in-class/).

**8. Can a teacher play music from iTunes in the classroom?**

Yes, teachers can play music from iTunes in class under s 28 of the Copyright Act.

See [Performance and Communication of copyright material in the classroom](https://smartcopying.edu.au/performance-and-communication-of-copyright-material-in-class/).

**Making, using and sharing audio or video recordings**

**9. Can we record students performing at** [**school events**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/)**?**

Yes. Under the [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/) schools are permitted to make video and audio recordings of [school events](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) at which [musical works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) are performed or live recorded music is played.

See [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](https://smartcopying.edu.au/music-copyright-guide-for-schools/).

**10. Are parents/guardians/carers allowed to film school events?**

Yes. Under the [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/) schools can authorise members of the school community (eg parents, guardians and friends) to make recordings of music performed at a [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) for their own private and domestic listening or viewing.

See [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](https://smartcopying.edu.au/music-copyright-guide-for-schools/).

**11. Can we provide students with copies of sound recordings to use as part of a class?**

Yes. Schools can provide students with copies of sound recordings to use as part of a course of instruction (ie a class) under the [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/).

See [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/).

**12. Can we incorporate recorded music into another work, for example, a commemorative school DVD?**

Yes. Schools can incorporate a [sound recording](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/sound-recordings/) or a recording of a performance of a [musical work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) (ie a recording of a school orchestra performing a piece of classical music) into another, unrelated work, such as a video recording of a [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/).

See [Music Copyright Guide for Schools](https://smartcopying.edu.au/music-copyright-guide-for-schools/).

**13. Can we sell copies of a video made of a** [**school event**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) **that incorporates music to the school community (ie parents/guardians/friends)?**

Yes. Schools can sell recordings of [school events](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) to members of the school community (eg parents, guardians and friends) for their private and domestic use, for free or for a fee charged solely to recover costs of staging the school event.

Note, however, that members of the school community are only able to use these recordings for their private and domestic use (ie they are not permitted to upload the recordings onto Facebook and YouTube).

See [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/).

**15. Can we provide copies of a recording of our** [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) **to third parties, eg other schools or administering bodies?**

Yes. Schools can provide a digital or physical copy of a recording of a [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) to with other schools covered by the School Event Licence, for their own educational purposes, at no charge or for no more than the direct cost of making the copy.

See [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/).

**16. Can we make copies of recorded music to play at** [**school events**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/)**?**

Yes. Under the [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/), schools are permitted to make sound recordings to play at a [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) (eg copying music to CD or MP3 format to play at a school graduation or school assembly).

**17. Can we make copies of recorded music to play in class?**

Yes. Under the [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/) schools are permitted to make sound recordings to play in class, whether face-to-face or virtual (eg in order to play music recordings relevant to material being studied). The actual playing of music in class is covered under [s 28 of the Copyright Act](https://smartcopying.edu.au/performance-and-communication-of-copyright-material-in-class/).

**18. Can I copy a song from iTunes, Spotify or Apple Music on to the school’s** [**DTE**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/) **for students to download and/or listen to?**

Yes. Under the [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/), schools are permitted make recordings (eg copy music from ITunes, Spotify or Apple Music on to the school’s DTE) to play in class to students for educational purposes (eg to play music recordings relevant to material being studied), and to use as part of a course of instruction (eg when teaching how to make or use sound recordings in music or multimedia classes).

See [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/).

**19. Can I copy and play sound recordings as part of a music exam?**

Yes. The exam copying exception permits schools to use any kind of copyright material in exams (including sound recordings). This includes exams and assessments conducted online.

See [Copying for Exams](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/library-exam-and-disability-copying/copying-for-exams/).

**20. We hire our school hall out to a private dance school. Do they need a licence from** [**PPCA**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/ppca-phonographic-performance-company-of-australia-limited/) **to play sound recordings during class?**

Yes. If the dance school is run as a separate commercial activity then it will need to obtain a licence from [PPCA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/ppca-phonographic-performance-company-of-australia-limited/) to play sound recordings during its classes. They will also need a licence from [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) to cover the public performance of music in the class of a sound recording (or played live on a piano during the class).

**21. Can we make a recording of a** [**school event**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) **or live stream a** [**school event**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) **at which a sound recording (eg a popular song) is being played, and upload it to social media and/or a school website?**

Yes. Schools can rely on the school’s music licences to upload recordings of their [school events](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/), or live stream their [school events](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/), to the school’s official social medial page on platforms such as Facebook and YouTube, and/or the school website.

In order to communicate (ie make available) those recordings from the social media pages, schools can rely on the licences that APRA AMCOS and record labels have with social media platforms.

Note, that where a musical work or sound recording is being performed or played at a [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/), and uploaded/livestreamed to a social media page, the post may still be blocked or muted.

**22. Our** [school event](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/school-events/) **has been blocked/muted on social media, what can we do?**

Music recording companies (ie record labels) and some music publishers use software to identify potentially infringing content on social media platforms, such as Facebook. When a school live streams a performance where a musical work or sound recording is being played, or uploads a musical work or sound recording, this software may alert Facebook or other social media platforms to mute the recording or send a takedown notice to the school.

If you are concerned about a live stream or recording being muted or your school being issued with a take-down notice, [contact the National Copyright Unit](https://smartcopying.edu.au/contact-us/).

**Copying Sheet Music**

**22. How many copies can be made from an original copy of sheet music under the** [**AMCOS Licence**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/)**?**

Yes. Schools can make multiple copies of print (ie hardcopy) or digital sheet music for educational purposes, but see restrictions on choral works and [Grand Right Works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/grand-right-works/) below.

See [School AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/).

**23. How many copies can be made from a choral work or** [**Grand Right Work**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/grand-right-works/)**?**

Schools can only copy up to three songs from a [choral work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/choral-work/) that is longer than 20 minutes or a [Grand Right Work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/grand-right-works/) (eg a musical or a work in which the music and lyrics were written expressly for use in a particular context), but the school can make as many copies as needed for educational purposes for each of those three songs.

See [Schools AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/).

**24. Can we scan copies of sheet music to digital form and upload to our School’s** [**DTE**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/)**?**

Yes. Schools can make digital copies of print sheet music (ie scan to digital format).

Schools can then email PDF versions of digital sheet music to students, and/or upload the digital copies of sheet music to a [DTE](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/).

See [Schools AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/).

**25. Are we required to mark the original and any copies of sheet music?**

Yes. Schools should make a reasonable effort to **mark** any hardcopy and digital copies of sheet music, on the copy or near where the copy is made available. For example, schools could include a notice that licensed copies have been made under the [AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/), and keep this in the same folder as the licensed copies on a school’s [DTE](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/).

For example:

**Licensed Copy:**

* AMCOS Licensed copy
* Name of school
* date copied
* if original is not owned by the school, the name of the owner.

**26. Are private music teachers able to use copies of sheet music made under the**

[**AMCOS licence**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/) **where the tuition is on the school premises?**

No. The [AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/) does not cover copying of sheet music for private music teaching, even if this takes place on school premises. Private music teachers will have to purchase original copies of sheet music for use with their students.

**27. Can we loan copies of sheet music made under the AMCOS Licence to another school?**

No. The [AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/) does not allow a school to loan copies of sheet music to any other organisation, including other schools, even if the original is owned by the staff member.

However, a school **can** lend an original piece of sheet music to another school (they should make it clear that the school they loan to is not permitted to make copies from this original).

**28. Can we make copies of sheet music that we have hired or borrowed?**

No. The [AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/) only permits schools to copy sheet music belonging to the school or a teacher at the school.

**29. Can I incorporate a piece of sheet music into an exam paper?**

Yes. Teachers can copy and communicate sheet music for use in online and hardcopy exams, under the [exam copying exception](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/library-exam-and-disability-copying/copying-for-exams/). However, note that this must be for an actual exam and does not cover practice papers.

For more information see [Copying for Exams](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/library-exam-and-disability-copying/copying-for-exams/).

**30. Can I provide student access to digital sheet music on our school’s** [**DTE**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/)**?**

Yes. Under the [AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/) schools can upload copies of sheet music to a password protected digital teaching environment ([DTE](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/)).

**Copying Lyrics**

**31. Can I make copies of song lyrics on their own to hand out to my class?**

Yes. Making copies of song lyrics on their own (or of sheet music with lyrics), is covered by the [AMCOS Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/schools-amcos-licence/).

**Rearranging Music**

**32. Can I re-arrange a piece of music for a classroom exercise?**

It depends. You may be able to do this under the [flexible dealing exception](https://smartcopying.edu.au/flexible-dealing/) in the Copyright Act, provided you cannot purchase the particular arrangement you need. You will also need to meet a number of other criteria for the [Flexible Dealing exception](https://smartcopying.edu.au/flexible-dealing/) to apply. See our information sheet [Flexible Dealing](https://smartcopying.edu.au/flexible-dealing/) for more information.

**Cover Versions**

**33. Our school band is planning to play its own “cover” versions of famous songs at a school concert. Can we make and distribute a CD of their performance to raise funds for the school?**

Yes. Under the [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/) schools are permitted to sell or supply recordings of a school event to:

* members of the school community, for their private and domestic use, for free or for a fee charged solely to recover costs of staging the school event
* students, for their own private and domestic uses, at no charge or for no more than the direct cost of making the copy
* other schools covered by the School Event Licence, for their own educational purposes, at no charge or no more than the direct cost of making the copy.

Any recordings the school sells or supplies must not include advertising or promotional material and be labelled as follows:

‘This recording has been made under a licence from AMCOS and ARIA for educational purposes only’, and display the following details of each musical work captured in the recording:

* the title
* the composer/arranger
* if dubbed from a commercial recording, the artist and record company.

See [School Event Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/school-event-licence/).

**Copying Music from the Radio**

**34. Can I record music from the radio and play it for my students in the classroom.**

Yes. The copying of radio broadcasts by schools for [educational purposes](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/educational-purpose/) is permitted under the [Statutory Broadcast Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/statutory-broadcast-licence/). The playing of radio broadcasts in class is covered under s 28 of the Copyright Act. See [Performance and Communication of Copyright Material in Class](https://smartcopying.edu.au/performance-and-communication-of-copyright-material-in-class/).

See also [Statutory Broadcast Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/guidelines/education-licences/statutory-broadcast-licence/).