

Keyquest Music - policy for the use of touch

As a professional member of the ISM I am obliged by our *Code of Conduct* to confirm in writing the physical contact that is a common feature of good piano teaching, and which I use in lessons.

When completing the Keyquest Music *Registration Form* you will be required to sign that you have read and accept this Policy as part of my *Terms and Conditions* for providing tuition.

The Use of Touch

Piano playing is a highly complex physical activity, and even the smallest habitual problem with tension, posture or misalignment can over time lead to debilitating performance-related injuries such as tendonitis, carpal tunnel syndrome and focal dystonia, as well as contributing to shoulder and spinal problems.

Touch is used to identify tension, correct alignment, and help students develop their own kinaesthetic awareness. This work is crucial for beginners, and essential where players have developed physical habits which require somatic (movement) retraining.

- Touch is limited to: hands, wrists, the arms, shoulders and back.
- The purpose of touch is always explained when physical contact is necessary, so that the student is able to engage positively and effectively in learning.
- Where possible, I prefer a parent to participate in any use of touch, so that they can support their child while practising during the week, ensuring that harmful habits don't develop.
- I always check before using touch in my teaching, obtaining on-the-spot permission in addition to the general permission granted by acceptance of this Policy.
- Physical contact is never used unnecessarily, inappropriately, or without consent.

Safeguarding

As a member of the ISM, I am guided by all of their policies on safeguarding.

Regarding my Studio please also note the following points:

- My current DBS Enhanced Disclosure Certificate is on permanent display in my Studio.
- Parents are invited to use the Waiting Room, which is separated from the Studio by double glass-panelled doors, allowing parents a full view of the lesson.
- Adult students are very welcome to bring a friend or partner to lessons if they wish to.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to discuss them with me.