



Buskers code of conduct

Sunderland is a vibrant place to live, work and visit and a city that welcomes responsible buskers.

Busking and street entertainment can enhance the atmosphere and vibrancy of the city, but it is important that you take the needs of others such as shoppers, businesses and residents into account.

This code of conduct aims to ensure that anyone can enjoy your performances, whilst not being inconvenienced.

Please do:

- Enjoy the city and all that offers, but restrict performances to between the hours of 09.00 and 18.00 hours
- Check your volume, busk at a considerate volume so passers-by can hear you but adjacent businesses and residents are not disturbed by your activity. As a guide, your level should be just above the level of ambient street noise, but not intrusively so. Noise

levels in smaller and quieter places should therefore be lower than on busy thoroughfares with more ambient noise

- Move frequently throughout the day, performing at a pitch for up to one hour only (see pitches overleaf) and not returning to the same pitch for two hours
- Introduce yourself to the businesses immediately next to where you intend to play. This may reduce the likelihood of complaints from them
- Stop busking and entertainment if requested by a BID representative, a Police Officer or City Council Officer at any time

Please don't:

- Stand, sit, or spread out your equipment so as to cause an obstruction of the highway (footpath), entrances or exits to shops and other premises
- Actively collect money, you may have a receptacle (box, hat or musical instrument case) into which you can accept donations. You are not allowed

to purport to collect for charitable or other purposes without an appropriate permit from Sunderland City Council

- Please don't use an amplifier, it often spoils the quality of performances and can cause unnecessary disturbance to local businesses and residents. If you need to use an amplifier, seek prior approval from BID. If approved, you will be requested to set it at a very low level. If you use an amplifier irresponsibly we might look to confiscate it
- Sell any merchandise such as tapes, CD's and T-shirts. This is strictly prohibited and doing so is an offence for which you could be prosecuted
- Cause alarm, distress or offence or perform in a manner which may be considered dangerous to you or the general public

We will:

Investigate complaints that are received about the activities of buskers and street performers and carry out spot checks on performers in order to ensure that they are complying with the code.

Busking locations in Sunderland

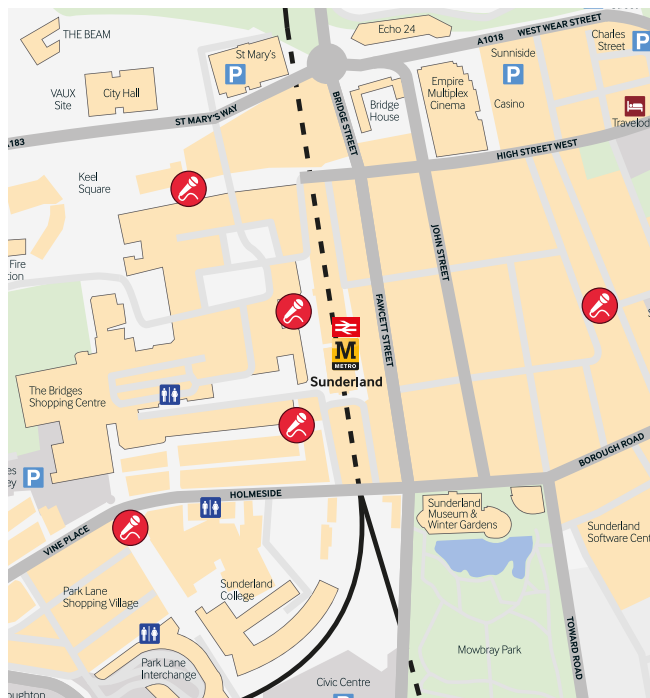
You don't need a license or permit to busk in Sunderland however, there are a number of noise-sensitive locations within the city centre where street performers or buskers are advised not to perform, these include:

- Tunnel between Market Square and Fawcett Street
- Crowtree Road between the former Debenhams building and Vine Place
- Market Square near Nationwide and Halifax Bank

The locations below have been identified as being the most appropriate places in the city centre, for busking and entertaining. You should therefore confine your performances only to these places:

- High Street West near old Mothercare/ Argos
- Blandford Street near raised planter bed

- Park Lane - near statue outside The Point
- Market Square - but has to be in the middle to ensure even distribution of noise
- Sunnyside Gardens



Your co-operation is appreciated. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct could result in more restrictive controls being introduced which may limit your ability to perform.

Resolving issues:

- If someone approaches you to say they have been disturbed by the noise of your performance, do not be confrontational
- Be reasonable with the person complaining. Ensure that you have been sticking to the code of conduct
- Try to reach a compromise - can you reduce your volume or move to another site?
- If you feel that you have adhered to the code, but can't come to a compromise with the person complaining, politely inform them that you are following the code
- If you cannot reach a compromise, please phone **Sunderland BID on 0191 722 1002** for assistance. An officer will attempt to help mediate