Busking and other street entertainment creates vibrancy and adds colour to the streetscene for visitors and local people. Busking is not against the law but on occasions, however, busking/entertaining can become intrusive, annoying or disturbing.

As a result, both the Local Authority and the Police receive complaints about the volume and sometimes nature of busking and street entertainment. There are laws that local authorities and the police can use against you if your performance becomes a problem.

We request that all performers comply with our code of practice which is in place to ensure that performer can 'Be a good neighbour' and take into consideration others using the City centre, including businesses, shoppers and other artists.
Busking and Street Entertainment in Gloucester

Code of Practice Do’s and Don’ts

DO
1. Wherever possible call 01452 528796 or email markets@gloucester.gov.uk in advance and book your pitch to avoid clashes with other activities and the risk of being moved on.

2. Entertain between the hours of 10am and 8pm.

3. Dress in a manner/style not likely to cause offence. Begging is not allowed.

4. Stop busking if when requested to do so by a Council Officer or Police Officer.

5. Non-musical entertainers, e.g. jugglers, fire-eaters, unicyclists, stilt walkers, are responsible for public liability insurance (minimum cover of £1,000,000), a current copy of which must be provided on request at all times when performing.

6. If absolutely necessary use amplification equipment that is battery operated or less than 30w.

7. Ensure your performance cannot be heard beyond 50m in all directions of your pitch.

8. Move to another location when asked by Police or a City Council Officer if your entertainment conflicts with another event or activity.

9. Limit any CDs, DVDs or Tapes for sale to a small display (a briefcase/small suitcase is a guide size).

DON’T
1. Busk for longer than 1 hour in any location and do not perform again in that location (or 50m of it) for 2 hours. Note: particularly noisy entertainers (e.g. bagpipes and drums) should not perform for longer than 30 minutes.

2. Bring any animals whilst performing.

3. Cause any obstruction to the highway (road, pavement or open pedestrian area). You are responsible for ensuring that any people gathering to watch or listen to you also do not obstruct the highway.

4. Perform adjacent to shop/office entrances.

5. Make use of street furniture, e.g. public seats, lampposts, railings.

6. Busk within 50 metres of another busker/entertainer who is already performing.

7. Place money collection containers, equipment and/or instruments in a place that will cause an obstruction to passers by.

8. Act in a way, or say anything that is likely to cause an offence to a member of the public.

9. Act in any way that amounts to anti-social behaviour and is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to members of the public or local traders.

10. Busk whilst under the influence of alcohol, solvents or drugs.

11. Give out flyers.

12. Leave any litter behind.

13. Sell items unrelated to your performance or exceed a small display for CDs, DVDs, Tapes (a briefcase/small suitcase is a guide size).

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, noise in the street may be a statutory nuisance. The Local Authority is able to take legal action to abate a noise nuisance and prohibit their recurrence, which may include the seizure of the musical instruments and amplification equipment.