

# New Guide to Buying a Wireless Microphone System in the UK for Schools, Churches, Small Events, and Theatres

When buying a wireless microphone system for a school, church, small event, or theatre, it's essential to understand the specific equipment needed and what you might already have. This guide will outline the key components and help you make an informed decision.

## 1. Types of Wireless Microphone Systems

There are three types of wireless microphone systems:

- **UHF (Ultra-High Frequency):** Reliable for professional use with strong signal quality and fewer interference issues. Ideal for larger spaces like theatres and churches.
- **VHF (Very High Frequency):** More affordable but more prone to interference. Suitable for smaller setups like classrooms or small events.
- **ISM (Industrial, Scientific & Medical):** A free digital band that uses 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz frequencies.

## 2. Basic Equipment Needed

To get a wireless microphone system up and running, you'll need the following:

- **Wireless Microphones**  
You can choose from three main types depending on the event or venue's needs:
  - **Handheld Microphone:** Suitable for performers, speakers, or anyone who needs to hold a microphone while speaking or singing.
  - **Lapel/Lavalier Microphone:** Ideal for hands-free use, perfect for teachers, presenters, or actors who need to move around.
  - **Headset Microphone:** Provides more flexibility and mobility, commonly used in performances or by fitness instructors.

- **Wireless Transmitter**  
This device is attached to the microphone (or integrated into it) and transmits the audio signal to a receiver. For lapel or headset microphones, the transmitter is typically a small belt-pack unit.
- **Wireless Receiver**  
The receiver connects to your sound system (e.g., amplifiers or mixers) and captures the signal sent by the microphone's transmitter. It's crucial to match your transmitter and receiver in terms of frequency and type.
- **Audio Mixer**  
A mixer is needed to combine different audio inputs (microphones, instruments, etc.) and adjust sound levels. Some small venues might already have this, but it's essential if you plan to use multiple microphones or other audio sources.
- **PA System (Speakers and Amplifiers)**  
A PA system is essential for broadcasting sound to your audience. Many schools, churches, or theatres already have a PA system, so check what is available before buying a new one.
- **Cables and Accessories**  
Depending on the receiver and PA system, you might need extra XLR or 1/4" (6.3 mm) jack cables to connect the equipment. Additionally, batteries (often AA or rechargeable) will be needed for the wireless microphones and transmitters.

### 3. Licensing and Frequencies

In the UK, you need to be aware of frequencies regulated by Ofcom:

- **Licence-Free Frequencies (863-865 MHz, 2.4 GHz & 5.8 GHz):** Suitable for small events, schools, and churches where no additional licences are required.
- **Licensed 'Coordinated' Frequencies (470-790 MHz):** For more professional use or larger venues, requiring a licence for more secure and interference-free operation. A school or theatre might opt for this if using several systems at once. Please contact Ofcom directly about licensing these frequencies.

- **Shared Licence (606-614 MHz and 823-832 MHz):** Also known as CH38 and CH65, these frequencies are available on a 'shared licence' from Ofcom, offering a cheaper alternative to coordinated frequencies. Licences are available on 1- or 2-year contracts.

#### 4. What Schools or Theatres Might Already Have

- **PA System:** Many schools, churches, or theatres already have amplifiers and speakers, so check what you have available.
- **Audio Mixer:** Some institutions have basic mixers. If you're planning to use multiple microphones, ensure the mixer has enough channels.
- **Microphones:** You may already have wired microphones that can be integrated into a wireless system.

#### 5. Additional Considerations

- **Range:** Ensure the wireless system has a range that covers your entire venue.
- **Interference Protection:** Look for systems with built-in interference protection if you're in a busy area with multiple wireless systems.
- **Budget:** For schools or churches, VHF systems might be more affordable, while theatres and events may benefit from UHF systems for higher reliability.

## 6. Recommended Brands

- **IMG Stageline:** Known for cost-effective durability and clear sound quality, ideal for churches and schools.
- **MiPro:** High-end, professional-grade systems for theatres and larger events.
- **W Audio:** Affordable, reliable options for smaller venues and events.

## Conclusion

When purchasing a wireless microphone system in the UK, consider the size of your venue, the equipment you already have, and the frequency regulations. With the right setup, you'll ensure clear sound for performances, presentations, or events.

For expert advice and support, Cybermarket offers friendly and professional guidance at no charge to help you find the best solution tailored to your specific needs.