

Copyright ©

What does copyright mean?

When a person or company creates material – be it a work of literature, art, music, film or broadcast – copyright gives that person the right to control the use of their material.

Copyright is designed to protect the creator of the content, and is designed to inform who can copy, adapt or distribute that work and when this is allowed.

Before you use any music in your film or existing footage, such as images from an online game, it is important that you check whether it is copyrighted material and if you have permission to use it. If you don't have permission, you shouldn't be using it.

For more information on copyright visit:

gov.uk/government/collections/intellectual-property-copyright



What are Creative Commons licenses?

Creative Commons licenses are copyright licenses often applied to digital content. They allow creators and other rights holders to offer certain usage rights to the public while reserving other rights. More information about Creative Commons licenses can be found here: creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/

What about downloading and using music?

People who create music and songs are entitled to be paid when people buy or use their music and songs. If a song is played on the radio for example, the people who created it will get a small payment, these payments are called royalties.

There are lots of websites which provide copyright or royalty free music. However, make sure that you read the small print as many sites have different terms and conditions or ask for a license fee to use that track or image.

Film editing software may also offer music to use for free within a project, but this does not always mean that you have a license to use the track. For example, some may provide tracks free of charge but ask for you to credit them with a link to their website.

It is safest to record something from scratch but if you do choose to use something pre-recorded, then make sure you do have permission or the right to use it.

Remember that using illegal sites and file-sharing programmes can have risks and if you download digital content illegally, you could be breaking the law and face consequences.

It's important that any films entered in the competition do not infringe copyright law. This means films must use original music and images, or royalty free music and images. Alternatively, entrants must have obtained the rights to use sourced music and images.

We will not be able to accept any films that do not adhere to this.