

The Oldham Council Music Centre – Student Guidelines

For over fifty years, the Music Centre has provided the opportunity for thousands of Oldham children to meet together outside school time to play and sing in various ensembles. For many children this has been the beginning of a lifetime of enjoying music as a satisfying hobby, whilst for some it has been the start of a professional career in music. Whichever path has been chosen the aim has always been the same – to give all children and young people who have been part of the Music Centre in Oldham a joy of music and the opportunity to develop their skills to the highest possible standard.

Joining the Centre

Usually, children are invited to join Music Centre groups by their peripatetic teacher, although teaching staff at the Centre will audition children who do not receive lessons in school. Children will normally join an elementary or training group and then move through the various ensembles according to personal progress or ability.

Students will be adequately supervised whilst they are on Music Centre premises, but no responsibility can be accepted for members travelling to and from the Centre, nor can staff be responsible for a student who leaves the premises for any reason during a rehearsal.

Parents are asked to collect children promptly at the end of rehearsal and we recommend that all students remain in the building until they are collected. If parents ask children to wait in other places outside the building the Music Centre cannot accept responsibility for their safety.

Music Centre membership guarantees a minimum of 33 sessions per year (including concerts). In almost all cases, groups will receive far more than this but there will be no additional charges levied for these additional sessions.

Code of Conduct

Many hundreds of musicians attend the Lyceum each week and the following code of behaviour is expected:

- consideration for others;
- courtesy and respect for staff and fellow students;
- care of the environment;
- care of all equipment;
- regular attendance;
- willingness to work and learn.

Many musicians... one harmony

Violence, bullying or any threatening behaviour toward another student or member of staff will not be tolerated and will affect membership of all Music Centre activities.

Break times

If ensemble leaders choose to have a break mid-way through a rehearsal, specific details will be provided on areas to which Students are allowed to roam. Often this will be limited to the rehearsal room and the nearest toilet facilities but may also include refreshment facilities (a member of staff will steward this area if this is to be allowed). Students must thoroughly obey these instructions.

Students will not be allowed to leave the music centre to get food or drink so please make sure that you have snacks and drinks if you need them. There is also a vending machine in the foyer that Students can use.

Toilets

Students should under no circumstances use the designated adult / staff toilets.

Parents needing to accompany younger children to the toilets should similarly use the adult toilet facilities. It is inappropriate for adults to be present in the same facilities as unsupervised children (i.e. to use the student toilets).

Rehearsals

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals, and the following points should be noted:

- students should wait in a quiet, orderly manner in the foyer for rehearsals to begin;
- students should not enter the rehearsal room until a member of staff is present;
- students should attend rehearsals punctually and remain until the end of rehearsal;
- if illness prevents a student attending a rehearsal, a message should be sent to the centre by letter or phone, NOT by another student;
- unacceptable absence from rehearsals will affect membership of the group and absence from final rehearsals for a performance may affect the students' participation in the performance.

If parents wish to discuss anything with the conductor of a particular group we would respectfully ask that they do so AFTER the rehearsal and not before.

Concerts

During each year, groups from the Music Centre are invited to take part in a variety of concerts and festivals, locally, regionally and nationally. Each performance, whether a small local concert or an appearance at a national venue, should reflect standards of excellence and these can only be achieved if all members are present. Attendance at all concerts is an expectation.

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Music Service and Music Centre



Parents should inform conductors of any dates that students cannot attend.

Appropriate dress for concerts (where the group does not have a specific uniform):

White shirt/blouse; dark trousers/dark skirt; dark low-heeled shoes – not trainers.

Girls should wear white socks or dark tights.

These guidelines are aimed at creating standards of excellence in rehearsal and performance.

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