

Student Guidelines

For over sixty years, the Oldham 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 inspire creativity, enjoyment and excellence through inclusive musical opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

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 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.

Students are not allowed to leave the premises during rehearsals.

Parents are asked to collect children promptly at the end of rehearsal and all primary students remain in the building until they are collected.

Secondary-age students should remain in the building until they know that their parents have arrived for them.

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. As ambassadors for both the Music Centre and the Borough, we expect students to:

- Behave with courtesy, consideration and respect for others
- To act responsibly at all times
- To take care of the environment
- To take care of all equipment
- Have regular attendance
- Have a willingness to work and positive attitude to learning.
- Have a high regard for the health and safety of themselves and others.
- Perform and rehearse to the best of their ability and aim to achieve the highest standards

Many musicians... one harmony

Oldham Music Service and Music Centre, Lyceum Buildings, Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1QG

- they are capable of.
- Take pride in their appearance, dress appropriately and adhere to the Concert Dress Code.
- Take care and assist, when requested and within Health & Safety guidelines, with the movement and setting up of the equipment to be used for the concerts (e.g. putting up music stands, handing out music etc.)

Smoking, vaping and consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited in the Music Centre and on all trips, excursions and events.

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 pupils are allowed to roam. This will usually be the rehearsal room, the toilets and the foyer.

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

Toilets

Under no circumstances should students 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.

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

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

Junior and Intermediate Ensembles	School shirt, school trousers/skirt, school shoes (no trainers). Black socks if wearing trousers. White socks or school tights if wearing a skirt.
Junior Choir	Red polo shirt, school trousers or school skirt. Black shoes.

Intermediate Choir	Either: Black trousers and long-sleeve black shirt with a red tie. Black socks & shoes. Or: Black dress/black skirt & top with a “splash of red”. Black tights must be worn if you are wearing a skirt/dress. Black shoes. Shoulders must be covered.
Youth Brass Band	White Shirt. Band waistcoat. Black trousers (no skirts). Black shoes (no trainers)
Youth Orchestra and Youth Wind Band	Either: Black trousers and long-sleeve black shirt. Black socks & shoes. Or: Black dress/black skirt & top. Black tights must be worn if you are wearing a skirt/dress. Black shoes. Shoulders must be covered.
Youth Choir	Either: Black trousers and long-sleeve black shirt with a red tie. Black socks & shoes. Or: Black dress/black skirt & top with red YC scarf. Black tights must be worn if you are wearing a skirt/dress. Black shoes. Shoulders must be covered.
Musical Theatre	Black jazz shoes. Black jazz pants, black leotard/vest top. Hair tied off the face with a neutral bobble, in a ponytail or braid.
Vocal Recall	Black shirt and a red tie. Black trousers, black socks, black shoes.
Adult Choir & Adult Wind Band	Smart, black attire with a coloured tie or scarf
Electric & Acoustic Guitar Groups	As directed by your Group Conductor

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

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