



Acceptable Usage Policy on Use of Mobile Phones/Smartphones during Rehearsals, Day Trips, Shows and Overnight Trips

At FYO we acknowledge that mobile phones are often given to children for security, enabling parents to keep in touch and make sure they are safe. Young people value their phones highly as it offers them a sense of independence. In addition mobile phones allow quick and easy contact, which can make it a safe and efficient way to carry out FYO business between committee, conductors, tutors, helpers and parents.

However, such technology has also allowed an increase in direct personal contact with young people, leading to their possible use to cross personal boundaries and cause harm to young people. Within the orchestra there is a need to encourage responsible and secure use of mobile phones by adults and young people. Here at FYO we are committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people. Children's welfare and safety is our priority, therefore we have developed these guidelines for acceptable use of mobile phones/devices.

As a young person remember:

- Put your phone on silent or turn it off during rehearsal and never use when performing on stage. Use of phones is permitted during breaks and downtime on away trips.
- If you receive an offensive photo, email or message, don't reply - save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent or children's officer designated person within the orchestra.
- Be careful who you give your phone number to and don't respond to unfamiliar numbers.
- Don't use the phone in certain locations - inappropriate use of your camera may cause upset or offense to another person e.g. changing rooms, shared bedrooms on away trips.
- Always get permission before you take or share images of people within your group. Respect the wishes of others.
- Guard personal information online –never give your home address, phone number, email address, name of school or schedule of activities on public websites or chatrooms.
- Change your phone number in cases of bullying. Always tell a trusted adult if you find yourself in this situation. Report any aggressive or inappropriate behaviour if directed at you.
- Respect yourself through your actions by only using appropriate language and images on the internet. Do not post inappropriate personal information about your life, experiences or relationships.
- Treat your phone as you would any other valuable item.
- Live streaming should be avoided unless you have ensured that anyone included is comfortable with doing so. Streaming should never be used in changing rooms or shared bedrooms on away trips.

Acceptance

Parental Consent of these rules is included in the FYO Registration Consent Form.

Sanctions

- If phone used in rehearsal then phone should be removed until break (or end of rehearsal if after break).
- If camera/phone is used in changing room/bathroom, phone will be removed for the rest of trip and parent notified.
- Persistent contraventions will lead to loss of membership.

(The above sanctions may be expanded following consultation with members)

As a committee/staff member remember

- Use group texts for communication among orchestra players/members if necessary and inform parents of this.
- It is not appropriate to have constant communication with individual orchestra members.
- Do not use the phone in certain locations e. g. changing rooms, shared bedrooms on away trips; inappropriate use of your camera may cause upset or offense to another person.
- Use group email when communicating professionally.