

# Mobile Phone & Electronic Devices Policy

This policy is designed to support a safe, focused, and enjoyable residential experience for everyone involved.

## Purpose

This policy sets out clear expectations for the safe, respectful, and appropriate use of mobile phones by participants during NYOS residential youth orchestra activities. It aims to balance young people's ability to stay in contact with home with the need to maintain a focused, safe, and inclusive learning environment.

## Scope

This policy applies to all young people attending residential orchestra activities, as well as staff, pastoral teams, tutors, and visiting artists involved in their supervision.

## General Principles

- Young people are allowed to have mobile phones with them during residential activities so they can contact parents/carers if needed.
- Mobile phone use must never interfere with rehearsals, learning, wellbeing, or safeguarding.
- All members of the community are expected to use mobile phones responsibly and respectfully.

## Permitted Use

Young people may use their mobile phones:

- During **free time**, outside of rehearsals, performances, and other scheduled activities.
- To **contact parents/carers or guardians**.
- For reasonable personal use that does not impact others or the running of the activity.

## Prohibited Use

Mobile phones must **not** be used:

- During rehearsals, workshops, performances, or meetings, unless explicit permission is given by staff for a specific purpose.
- To access inappropriate, harmful, or age-inappropriate content on the internet.
- To record audio, take photographs, or film video of other participants, staff, or tutors without their explicit consent.
- To engage in bullying, harassment, or discriminatory behaviour, including via social media, messaging apps, or online platforms.
- In any way that compromises the privacy, dignity, or safety of others.

## Wellbeing

Throughout NYOS courses, young people will be encouraged to have phone-free time during their breaks and social evenings.

Stepping away from mobile screens allows young people to be fully present, helping them enjoy richer social connection, deeper focus and a greater sense of calm. In orchestra courses, this presence supports better collaboration, creativity and overall wellbeing as they engage fully with the music and each other.

## Consequences of Misuse

- If a mobile phone is used inappropriately, staff may require the device to be switched off or handed in temporarily.
- Recorded audio, photographs, or video is taken of other participants, staff, or tutors without their explicit consent, will be deleted from all electronic devices.
- Repeated or serious breaches of this policy may result in restricted phone access, further disciplinary action, or contact with parents/carers.
- Any safeguarding-related incidents will be managed according to NYOS safeguarding policies.

## Staff Responsibilities

- Staff will ensure young people understand this policy at the start of the residential activity.
- Staff will handle any issues calmly, fairly, and in line with safeguarding best practice.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains appropriate, effective, and aligned with safeguarding standards.