

**Leicestershire Youth Music Ambassadors - Information for parents**

Following a successful year working with our Youth Ambassadors we are looking to recruit 6 more young people across Leicester and Leicestershire (aged between 14 and 18) to help us continue to create and deliver a range of exciting music making opportunities.

Our team of Young Music Ambassadors have been central to the decision-making process of the music service, making a difference for young people across the county. They have received expert training and guidance through the Leicestershire Music Education Hub and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and have organised 2 large-scale online music events, run a family Zoom quiz and even interviewed Julian Lloyd Webber!

We are now looking to expand this group to strengthen the voice for young people in our area and we are particularly looking to recruit pupils from underrepresented groups (eg people of colour).

Meetings will take place online via Zoom and we will send you an invitation before the meetings via a parental email address. We will also send you the dates of our future meetings in advance at the start of the Autumn term.

**Equipment needed.**

You’ll need a PC, Mac, a tablet or a smartphone. Whichever it is, it will need to have a built-in camera, or a webcam attached. It will also need to have a built-in microphone and speaker, or for better quality you can use a headset with mic, or a pair of headphones that have a built-in mic (as often used for phones)

**Internet connection**

For most people the internet connection should be fine for good quality video and audio. It is worth testing this with friends or family before starting the first lesson. If it seems slow there are several things you can try:

* Move your PC/device closer to the router (if you’re far away the wi-fi signal isn’t as strong). Or use a network cable to connect your computer to the router.
* Checking that other people in the house aren’t using the internet at the same time (e.g., streaming video or TV).
* Test the speed of the internet connection.
* If there is a temporary problem with your line, you can contact your service provider to ask them to check for faults on the line.

Not everyone has a fast broadband internet connection, or good mobile data signal. This can result in lower video quality, but generally the sound will be prioritised so you should be able to hear the meeting facilitators and any other students in the group.

**Responsible behaviour and dress.**

To help make the sessions safe and enjoyable, a parent or carer should be within earshot of the student taking part in the online meeting. Just as in a school or other face-to-face lesson, young people are asked to:

* Dress appropriately (e.g. not wearing pyjamas). Young people are courteously asked to wear clothing that would normally be worn in public.
* Follow the facilitator’s instructions.
* Ask the facilitator before leaving the session (e.g. to go to the toilet).
* Not take phone calls, message others, or use devices that aren’t requested by the facilitator.
* Not having other browsers or apps open during the online session to reduce the risk of inappropriate content being visible to other learners.
* Not take screenshots or record video of sessions, as written permissions are needed to take photos or video of children and young people.

In a group meeting the background behind the participant will be visible to the facilitator and other students so it is good to make sure:

* That you try and have a neutral background that doesn’t show any personal information (e.g., screens with social media profiles), or personal items (e.g., laundry drying)
* Doesn’t have anything that might offend others (e.g., posters with inappropriate language).
* That there isn’t a TV/screen showing in the background where there’s a risk of age-inappropriate content showing.

**If the learner (or you) have any concerns….**

A parent/carer or responsible adult should be within earshot of the child during the online lesson. Students will be told that if they have any concerns before, during, or after a lesson they should ask the parent/carer for help. This could include for example:

* Technical issues with the computer or internet connection.
* Practical issues, such as arranging the appropriate space to play their instrument.
* Other issues, such as not being comfortable with what is happening in a lesson.
* Tuning of, or problems with the instrument.

The parent/carer should be aware that the reporting of any safeguarding concerns is the same as under LSMS’s Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult policy (just as it would be in face-to-face lessons in schools). Any concerns can be addressed to LSMS’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (name and contact information are as per LSMS’s Safeguarding policy available here: <https://leicestershiremusichub.org/safeguarding>)

**And if the facilitator has any concerns….**

If the facilitator feels the young person hasn’t followed the kinds of behaviour expected in a school environment, in spite of prompting, or is concerned about something (inappropriate dress or language, for example), the facilitator will stop the session for that learner, and then contact the parent or carer later to explain, and to help resolve any issues.

Once you agree to your son / daughter participating as part of the Leicestershire Youth Music Ambassadors group, we will send you the dates of our future meetings at the start of the Autumn term.

**Leicestershire Young Music Ambassadors Parental permission form**

**I give permission for my son / daughter to participate as a Leicestershire Youth Music Ambassadors. I understand that all video calls will be via parental emails and log in.**

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| --- | --- |
| Name of son / daughter: | Date of birth: |
| Name of parent/carer:  | Signature of parent/carer: |
| Parent contact details (Address): | Parent telephone Number: |
| Parent email Address: |

**\*Please also return the Leicestershire Youth Music Ambassadors application form along with this form and send to** **sharon.jagdevpowell@leics.gov.uk** **(Deputy Head of Service)**

Thank you,

Sharon Jagdev Powell (Deputy Head of Service)