



Information on Youth Membership

Welcome to the Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra!

We are delighted to welcome your young musician to APO! We are committed to fostering a safe, enjoyable, and inspiring environment for all our members, including those under the age of 18. We strongly believe in the importance of supporting youth music and creating opportunities for young musicians to grow and thrive.

To help us ensure the safety and well-being of your young musician, we ask for your cooperation in following some key guidelines. These are designed to help us provide the best possible experience for everyone.

Safeguarding and Your Young Musician

Our orchestra has a robust **Safeguarding Policy**, which prioritizes the safety and welfare of all members, including young people. A copy of this policy is available [on our website](#) and we request that you read through this prior to attending.

To help us safeguard under-18s effectively, we kindly ask you and your young musician to note the following expectations:

1. Attendance and Supervision

- a. In line with our Safeguarding Policy, under-16s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, or by an approved chaperone, at all times.
- b. Under-18s must remain in the designated rehearsal or performance areas during orchestra sessions, unless they leave with a parent / guardian / approved chaperone.
- c. Wandering around the premises unattended is not permitted for safety reasons.
- d. For players aged 16-17, if a parent/guardian is not present during a session, the young musician should ensure they follow any instructions from our safeguarding lead or a designated adult.

2. Arrival and Collection

- a. Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that under-18s are dropped off and collected on time.
- b. If someone other than a parent/guardian is collecting your child, please let us know in advance.

3. Contact Information



- a. Please ensure we have up-to-date emergency contact details in case we need to reach you during a session.
- b. Any medical or special requirements should be shared with us to ensure we can provide appropriate support.

4. Respectful Behaviour

- a. We expect all members to show respect to others, including fellow musicians, staff, and volunteers.
- b. Disruptive or unsafe behaviour will be addressed promptly and, if necessary, discussed with parents/guardians.

Communication

We want to maintain an open and friendly dialogue with you. If you have any questions, concerns, or need to share important information, please don't hesitate to contact the orchestra Secretary Melanie Le Breuilly at secretary@apo.org.uk.

For under-18s, if anything ever makes you feel uncomfortable or unsure, please speak to the designated safeguarding lead or to any member of the committee. We are here to help and support you.

Why We're Excited to have Your Young Musician Join

At APO, we celebrate the energy and talent that young musicians bring to our group. Young musicians are an important part of our musical family, and we look forward to helping them develop their skills, connect with others, and experience the joy of making music together.

Thank you for choosing APO for your young musician. We can't wait to see them at the next rehearsal!

Kind regards,

Aoife Dudley and Mel Le Breuilly
Designated Safeguarding Leads
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Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra