

City of Oxford Silver Band

Guidelines on the Safe Use of Social Media, Social Messaging Groups and Video Streaming Platforms

2024

It is recognised that the internet provides unique opportunities to promote the band including vacancies and performances using a wide variety of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

It is recognised that group messaging apps, like Whatsapp provide an efficient and effective method of communication between band groups. To safeguard children, under 18's are not permitted to join band group messaging apps.

These guidelines aim to protect individuals within the band and to encourage them to take responsibility for what they write, exercise good judgement and common sense. Inappropriate use of social media and group messaging can pose risks to the band's reputation, can jeopardise compliance with legal obligations, cause harm and create conflict between band members.

COSB members are reminded that our Code of Conduct applies online and in text and email communications, just as it does in the "real world".

Band Websites and Social Media pages

It is important that you have permission prior to posting images of band members on official websites and social media pages. This permission is obtained through the membership form.

Personal details such as phone numbers and email addresses should not be posted on the internet without the permission of the individual.

It is important to consider the age range of band members when posting images, and comments on pages and ensure that these are appropriate and in keeping with the band ethos.

Social media sites for the band will have restricted access which will be decided and approved by the COSB committee.

Video Streaming Platforms

Video streaming platforms will be monitored by the Safeguarding Team. Anyone who has not been invited to the meet, or who is not following the code of conduct will be asked to leave.

Under 18's should not take part in video streaming for COSB purposes without making their Parent or carer aware. We would encourage the young person to be in a communal room within their home rather than a bedroom with personal items removed from camera view.

Anyone new to the organisation, wishing to join a COSB live streaming activity will be met by a member of the safeguarding team and identity verified before they are allowed to access the activity.

Lessons given by COSB on a video streaming platform to under 18's: The tutor will have to gain consent from the child's parent/carer. The Parent / Carer would have to be present for the entire lesson.

Use of Instant Messaging Platforms

COSB uses instant messaging platforms such as WhatsApp for the purposes of sharing news relating to the organisation and information about events (including rehearsals). COSB makes use of group chat functionality to enable it to communicate with multiple band members at the same time and COSB communications made via instant messaging platforms will only be sent in this format.

In order to comply with guidance on child safeguarding, membership of COSB group chats will only be granted to current (including honorary) COSB members aged 18 years old or over.

Membership of group chats will be reviewed regularly to ensure all participants are eligible to be part of each group.

Individuals within the Band

When using group chats on instant messaging platforms members should keep to the purpose of the group and not share irrelevant messages about other topics.

It would be best practice for adult members of the band not to be social media friends with children and young people who are members of the band. This is particularly important with social media forms that allow individual private communication.

Any content which raises a safeguarding concern should be reported to a Band Safeguarding Officer using the procedure outlined in the band's safeguarding procedures.