



Thames Vale Youth Orchestra Trust (Registered Charity Number 144327)

TVYO Code of Conduct for Orchestra Members (Version 31 Aug 2026)

Commitment, Concentration, Consideration, Co-operation and Courtesy

Ethos:

TVYO provides young musicians with opportunities to develop their musical skills at the highest level, form new friendships, and take part in challenging and rewarding artistic experiences. We also aim to support the personal growth and confidence of every member.

As a youth orchestra, we recognise the importance of working together in a positive, supportive and inclusive environment. Mutual respect, **co-operation and consideration** for others are essential to creating a community in which everyone can learn and thrive.

All students, parents and members are expected to contribute to the well-being of the orchestra by treating others with **courtesy and mutual respect**. Any inappropriate, disruptive or disrespectful behaviour will be addressed to help ensure the safety, security and enjoyment of everyone involved with TVYO.

Attendance:

Members of the orchestra should make a **commitment** to attend all rehearsals, to arrive in good time to be ready to start playing at 6.15 pm or the stated rehearsal time (ideally allowing 10 -15 mins for warm up, and setting up of their stand, music and instrument), and to stay to the end of the whole rehearsal. Additional help with the setting up and packing down of the orchestra, while not compulsory, is always appreciated. Members should not leave the rehearsal building during the rehearsal time, except with the permission of the volunteer helpers on duty and should only enter areas of the building that are designated for TVYO rehearsal, break-out and registration.

Members are expected to attend all rehearsals, as regular attendance is essential to the success of the orchestra and preparation for performances. If they are unable to attend a rehearsal, they should let the orchestra management know as soon as possible in advance by email (tvyoumail@gmail.com). Absences beyond a member's control will be reviewed individually. In some cases, particularly if this involves missing more than two rehearsals, absence may affect a player's position and participation in the concert.

Conduct during rehearsals:

During rehearsals, members are expected to give their full **concentration** to the music and listen actively to the orchestra around them. Musical excellence depends not only on individual ability, but on advanced listening skills and an awareness of the sound, balance, timing and contribution of other players. Guidance from the conductor and tutors, where it might apply,

should be carefully taken on board. A rehearsal, except for the interval, is not the time for chatting, making jokes, checking phones, or practicing individual passages while the conductor is speaking. Members should not behave in a way that distracts the concentration of others.

Members should take pride in their performance and be prepared to practice their parts between rehearsals to ensure that the highest possible standard is achieved at the concerts.

Mutual Respect and Care

Members should be **considerate and respectful** of other members of the orchestra, and of their property, especially musical instruments and accessories. They should take great care to look after their own instruments. Members should not attempt to play other members' instruments without their permission to do so. This includes instruments loaned to players by TVYO, which may only be played by the designated player. This applies to percussion, piano, viola, cor anglais, piccolo, bass clarinet, contrabassoon and bass. Members should also take care not to damage furniture and fittings or the building itself in which the rehearsal or concert is taking place.

Members should be **courteous** to all music staff, to the volunteers and committee members who manage the rehearsals, and to any staff who are present on behalf of the rehearsal venue. They should **co-operate** immediately in response to any instruction or request from a staff member or volunteer helper (who generally wear yellow lanyards and with name badges), and offer to help with e.g. moving furniture and setting up or packing away as needed. They should also be courteous to other members of TVYO, respecting our diversity of membership, and recognising that every member wants to have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience with the orchestra.

All members should take careful note of the TVYO anti-bullying policy (see website link: https://www.tvyo.org.uk/files/ugd/a815e2_138b1b972147413793dfbc4ae4d7f19a.pdf). TVYO will not tolerate bullying of any kind.