

Behaviour Policy

Aims

The Service recognises the important part that it plays in developing the whole child and that its responsibilities go beyond just teaching the subject of music. Its wider responsibilities are enshrined in the Aims of Guernsey Music Centre which is sent to all parents and are published on page three of the Music Centre Prospectus. These include that pupils should “make a positive contribution and develop confidence, self-discipline and self-criticism” and that they should “understand the importance of reliability and teamwork through their music-making.” Students’ responsibilities towards one another are therefore clearly set out and shared with staff, students and parents. Everyone has a shared responsibility to ensure that this is reflected in the actual work of the Service, including at Music Centre.

Another important dimension to the work of the Service is clearly its work in schools and colleges. If issues arise in this connection, then the Service would normally expect to adopt the policies and procedures of a particular school which the child attends.

Staff Responsibility

Individual teachers are expected to monitor the behaviour of pupils in their care and to promote good behaviour generally. Any concerns should be reported to the Head of Department whose responsibility is to support the member of staff and report issues to the Head of Service if required. This would normally be in instances where a difficulty is not resolved or is unlikely to be resolved easily.

The Head of Service takes overall responsibility for the behaviour of pupils at Music Centre and to ensure that the Service works seamlessly with schools and colleges in situations where their responsibilities overlap. He/she may liaise with pupils, their parents and schools to try to ensure that all these elements are working in a co-ordinated way.

On trips away, the Head of Service sets out clearly rules which are shared with pupils and parents in pre-course meetings and monitored continuously by the staff on the trip. Administrative staff play a part in ensuring good behaviour through helping to facilitate good communication through the various parties involved.

Ancillary staff also have a role in monitoring pupils before and in between their rehearsals and reporting any concerns to teachers or the Head of Service.

Organisation:

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Before students start Music Centre the Head of Service or his/her representative emphasises to pupils and parents the extra musical benefits and expectation of the Service.



When they start Music Centre teachers, through their approach to rehearsals and concerts, ensure that these are carried through in practice.

Positive behaviour is promoted through encouraging pupils to cooperate and show responsibility toward one another. They are encouraged to help one another and assist the teacher through, for instance, giving out parts, assisting other pupils, and when they volunteer to help this is readily acknowledged and encouraged.

Music Service students are encouraged to become not just good role models musically to younger pupils but also to demonstrate responsible behaviour. The John Stephenson Award is presented annually and publicly to pupils who have made an outstanding contribution and this often in non-musical ways.

Age Appropriate Sanctions

In most instances, good classroom management techniques are sufficient to clarify expectations. A glance in a pupil's direction if they are talking inappropriately, or a quiet word after a rehearsal will often be all that is required. Teachers ordinarily try to avoid criticism of a whole group where fault lies with only a few pupils, as this can make pupils feel that they are all being unfairly targeted for the actions of a small minority, and lead to a poor atmosphere in rehearsals that is both unnecessary and unjustifiable. In a few cases where issues are not easily resolved with the pupil directly, a Head of Section, may be called upon to support. Pupils may be directed to stay away from others if relationships are difficult.

Behaviour Monitoring

Music Service teachers have a responsibility towards pupils not just in their individual rehearsals, but whilst pupils are on site at Music Centre. During these periods they should be aware of what is happening and deal appropriately with issues of poor behaviour.

Further Sanctions

Depending on the individual circumstances the Head of Service may contact the pupil's school. Possible sanctions may include meetings with parents and pupils, temporary and permanent exclusion from Music Centre and letters home to clarify expectations.

Review Date:

September 2024

Tim Wright
Head of Service
October 2022