



Expectations and Commitment for Membership

Hampshire County Youth Choirs 2024 – 2025

Our aim is to offer the highest quality choral and vocal experience to all our members, by providing expert tutors, care and guidance as well as performance opportunities to put these skills into practice. In return, we hope that members with the support of staff, adhere to certain expectations. It is assumed that by being a member you will agree to and adhere to the following;

Regular attendance at rehearsals and concerts

Members are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and performances. We will aim to provide you with as much notice as possible, and a calendar for the year will be issued each September, subject to change. Specific details for each event will be communicated nearer the time. Regular absence may result in that member being asked to leave the choir.

Each member is valued and plays an integral role in their choir. They each have a responsibility to the other members and staff to attend. If more than three rehearsals are missed or the last rehearsal before a performance, the member may be asked not to take part, as this is generally when the finishing touches including choreography/standing positions are added and information given out. Any conflicts with other commitments must be notified at the earliest opportunity and discussed with your choir leader. Any absence must be notified prior to the rehearsal or performance.

In case of short-notice absence or illness, you can report them in several ways.

- Contact your choir leader/admin directly
- Call Hampshire Music Service office – 02380 652037
- Send a message via email or the website

Please note that the HMS office closes at 5pm Monday to Thursday and 4.30pm on a Friday.

Each member is expected to arrive in good time for rehearsals to start promptly.

Attitude and behaviour

All members, staff and parents/guardians are expected to behave in a courteous, respectful and responsible manner at all times. Anyone found to be acting inappropriately will be asked to leave and to reapply for membership at a later stage.

It is important, especially when in the public eye, that we uphold HCYC's reputation and act as good ambassadors for the choir and Hampshire Music Service. Senior members of each choir/voice part are expected to take some responsibility for the younger or less experienced members of their group on a pastoral and musical level.

Social Media, Images and Phones

Whilst we actively encourage the use of social media and using this platform to help us raise awareness of the choirs, our events and the opportunities available, we ask that it remains respectful and in line with our behaviour policy. Bullying will not be tolerated in any form.

Our membership form requests permission to use images and share/store them in line with HCC guidelines. We will use these to share our experiences with you and external sources, but we ask that when taking images of your own as a member or audience member at events, you take photos/videos only of your own child and do not share them on social media.

Phones should not be used in rehearsals at any time and must be turned to silent. Anyone using their phone inappropriately may be asked to leave.

Progression and New Members

New members will be expected to prepare a piece to be heard by a member of the HCYC staff to help place them in the appropriate choir and voice part, the exception to this being Junior Choir. Current members will also be asked to do the same if they wish to progress to the next choir. Staff will continually monitor members and ensure they are making the appropriate progression and are in the appropriate choir for their skill set.

The Director's decision is final.

Music

All copies are property of HCYC and should be cared for accordingly. If damaged or lost the member will be responsible for any charge incurred by HCYC via invoice for a new copy. ALL music must be returned when requested and in a timely manner.

Work between rehearsals

Members will be asked to give an appropriate amount of time to practise what has been taught in rehearsals with regards to repertoire and technique. Where required, they may be asked to commit pieces to memory which will help in their confidence and overall experience and performance. If a rehearsal is unavoidably missed, members are expected to find out what work was completed in the session and catch up.

Dress code

Members are expected to wear appropriate dress for all rehearsals and conform to the concert dress/uniform required for each performance. A clean, tidy and smart image is necessary at all times. Any members who are inappropriately dressed may be asked to leave or not be allowed to participate in the performance.

Uniform for concerts is as follows;

Junior Choir

- Pale blue choir polo
- Black trousers/skirt – NOT Leggings/Jeggings/Jeans
- Smart black shoes
- Plain black socks
- Hair neat and tidy and off the face, with plain hair tie or accessory if required
- No jewellery

Training, Youth, Show and Chamber Choir

- Ironed black uniform blouse
- Ironed black uniform skirt or trousers
- Natural tights (If worn)
- Smart black shoes – NOT sandals/boots/trainers
- Natural makeup
- Hair neat and tidy and off the face, with plain hair tie or accessory
- No jewellery except a small watch and stud type earrings

AVAILABLE FOR ALL CHOIRS

- Optional zip through hoodies with HCYC's embroidered logo

You can order your uniform using the following link [HCYC Uniform Order Form](#) If you need additional support please email uniform.fhcyc@gmail.com

There are times when other items of clothing may be required, but plenty of notice will be given.

There is also a small amount of second hand uniform that is available for purchase via the uniform coordinator at the above email address.

Residentials

ALL members are expected to attend residential trips. These are opportunities to spend a significant amount of time progressing the learning of repertoire as well as focussing on technique. It is one of the only social events in our year for members to get to know each other, which is incredibly important for a choir to work together and as a team. Financial assistance is available, and can be applied for should you require it.

Parental support

Finally, whilst it is acknowledged that being part of Hampshire County Youth Choirs is entirely voluntary, it is a wonderful opportunity, and one that should be valued. Everybody's full cooperation is required, including from parents in order to provide all singers with enjoyable, memorable and musical experiences. Parental support is incredibly important and vital to our success at rehearsals, concerts and residentials. The Friends of HCYC is run as a charity and helps us in running the choirs and purchasing music as well as subsidising the residential. All of our events and concerts are unfunded and money recouped through ticket sales.

The roles include but are not limited to;

- Chairman
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Uniform Coordinator
- Parent helper
- Refreshments

If you feel that you could provide a few hours a week to help, please get in touch with the Chair via email chair.fhcyc@gmail.com Thank you for your support in advance.

The Hampshire County Youth Choirs Team