

## Endcliffe Orchestra: Code of Practice

1. We are a performance symphony orchestra. This requires a solid commitment to prioritising weekly rehearsals and committing to the concert performances. It is understood and accepted that circumstances arise which prevent players from attending/performing but the principle of a regular commitment will be assumed for everyone
2. Players are expected to attend a minimum of 70% of rehearsals in a given season to retain their membership of the orchestra. With this in mind players are asked to familiarise themselves with the yearly rehearsal schedule which will be posted the week before the new session begins in September and notify their section leader of any anticipated/known absences during the coming season. It will then be assumed (barring crises/illness etc) that each player will attend for every rehearsal and concert. This will enable each section to anticipate gaps and put dropping arrangements in place as required.
3. However, it is accepted that circumstances may require extended absence from the orchestra as a player, e.g. maternity leave, long term illness etc. This can be managed by discussion with the section leader and a satisfactory dep arrangement in place\*. Leave of absence will be regularly reviewed and if extending beyond six months it may be appropriate to ask the player to resign.
4. Please note the baton goes down at 7.30 pm. This requires us to be seated and tuning up at 7.25 pm. Silence during tuning up is a non negotiable requirement
5. Discussion between desk partners/section should be kept to a minimum. It is accepted that we all need to check out a musical query with each other from time to time; however conversation beyond this can become intrusive, distracting, and discourteous to others.
6. Similarly, phones should be switched to silent and not used during play. It is accepted that sometimes players have to keep track of children, for example, but this should be an exception to normal practice. Texting during a piece being played/at the end of a section is regarded as bad practice and discourteous.
7. Please note that music folders must be present for each rehearsal. Every player must ensure that they bring the music folder to each rehearsal containing the handed-out music we have on loan, or in their absence the folder is returned to the folders box prior to the next rehearsal. In the last instance the folder must be delivered to the rehearsal by proxy. .  
Please note that the music folder belongs to the desk and not the individual player. It is also crucially important not to contravene copyright laws by using photocopied music in the actual concert.  
Please note it is a requirement that all photocopies of the music must be destroyed by the end of the concert.
8. Members are expected to positively promote the orchestra at all times, in conversations and on social media.

The committee would like to reassure members that the rigorous approach sought by this code of practice is balanced by a wholehearted commitment to keep the Endcliffe Orchestra as the friendly, relaxed and sociable orchestra we all know and love. However as we are recognisably raising our game and attracting bigger audiences we must try to meet the challenges this gives us. We strive to be an orchestra committed to developing our musical ability in an enjoyable, inclusive and engaging way, whilst endeavouring to create an ethos of mutual respect, rigour and full commitment.