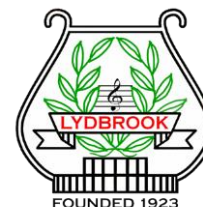


Guidelines on the use of Social Media



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, Instagram, X and YouTube. Nonetheless, the use of social media and online technologies can also present safeguarding risks that need to be mitigated as far as possible. 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 can pose risks to the band's reputation and could jeopardise compliance with legal obligations. The guidelines also aim to enable bands to take advantage of the many opportunities offered by online technologies whilst at the same time remaining committed to the safeguarding of members and others.

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 can be 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 groups

There is a difference between, on the one hand, informal social media groups set up and used by groups of friends who happen to be part of a band, and, on the other hand, official band social media groups, coordinated by someone in an official role, and used as part of the band's methods of promotion, networking and support. Informal social media friendship groups are not required to abide by this guidance, although their members should bear in mind the need to use the same personal standards of behaviour in their online communications as in their face to face contact. Informal groups should also avoid calling themselves by a name which could give the impression that they are official band groups.

Lydbrook Band has a limited number of official social media groups and no members of the band aged under 18 should be part of these groups. The social media groups are agreed in advance by the committee, confirming the purpose of the group and nominating an individual who will be responsible for monitoring and moderating its content.

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

Electronic communication with children, young people and adults at risk

Communication by electronic means or by texting will not be used with individual children under the age of 18. All communication in these forms will be via their parents/carers. The rest of the principles relate to group communication or to individual communication with adults at risk and young adults

aged 18 and over. The key point is that communication should be in a context of transparency and accountability.

- Band members should not share their personal phone numbers with anyone under 18
- Communication that needs to be made electronically should be via email and parents should be copied in
- Electronic communication should only be used for reasons relating to band business and not for general socialising purposes
- Band members should not actively invite young people and adults at risk to their personal social networking pages and should politely decline requests from any young person under the age of 18, explaining that this is band policy, unless prior agreement has been received from the individual's parents
- Where possible, email and messaging should take place to and within groups rather than individuals
- The principles for the use of social media will be communicated to children, young people and adults

Version History

1.0	Initial issue	22 July 2020
2.0	Review	03 January 2025