Macclesfield Youth Brass Band

WhatsApp Usage Policy

WhatsApp is an instant messaging app that MYBB uses to communicate with helpers to organise band rehearsals and events. In order to operate effectively an 'MYBB Helper' group has been set up that includes adult volunteers and MYBB player volunteers. The majority of the MYBB player volunteers are under the age of 18.

Whilst WhatsApp is an efficient way to communicate, it is accompanied by risks if abused by users including; cyber bullying, grooming young people and exposure to inappropriate content. The main concern is that every WhatsApp group member has access to each individual's telephone contact details. Although this is a particular concern in relation to Under-18 players, it can also be relevant to adult volunteers.

The following guidance is to ensure the appropriate use of the 'MYBB Helper' group:

1. The WhatsApp group is set up and administered only by the MYBB Trustees. These all have an extended DBS check including Children's Barred List.
2. The app is to be used solely to communicate as a group in relation to band rehearsals and events. The app should not be used for private messaging.
3. Consent must be obtained prior to including individuals in the group. If the volunteer is under 18, consent must be obtained from both the player and their parents / carers. When giving consent everyone should be aware that their telephone contact details will be displayed.
4. All group members must be Year 11 or above. For GDPR compliance, WhatsApp's terms and conditions now allow children aged 13+ to open an account.
5. Parents / Guardians who agree to their child being included in the group, need to ensure that their child knows what to do if they are contacted privately / inappropriately by an adult / other member, i.e., they immediately notify their parent / guardian and report the incident to one of the Welfare Officers. Take a snapshot of the screen message.
6. Not everyone has access to WhatsApp, volunteers who do not use the app will be kept informed.
7. Members will be removed from the group chat when they are no longer volunteers or can choose to leave at any time.
8. Once a year at Safeguarding training, members will be asked to confirm whether they have had any individual contact outside the group chat.

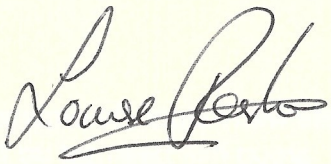
Whilst the MYBB trustees will strictly enforce this policy, they cannot be aware of every action of its members. Once a child's contact details have been shared, with permission, the trustees cannot track subsequent use of those details.

A separate WhatsApp 'broadcast' group will also be used to relay messages to parents of MYBB and youth band members. Members will only be added with both player and parental permission and will be removed once the player is no longer a member. The phone used for this purpose will be a separate 'band phone'. Messages will be audited once a month at trustee meetings. Using Whatsapp broadcast means that no numbers are disclosed apart from the band phone number and any responses will go direct to the individual.

All volunteers have undergone the MYBB recruitment process. This includes an interview and also DBS check for everyone over the age of 16.

A copy of the policy will be available on the MYBB website. This must be read prior to giving consent to join the MYBB group.

Welfare Officers email: admin@mybb.org.uk

Signed:  Date: 04/11/2025

Name: Louise Renshaw (Chair)

Next review date: November 2026