



Irish Youth Training Choir - Code of Conduct (Updated June 2024)

Code of Behaviour

The purpose of this document is to set out our values and a code of behaviour we expect each singer to adhere to. This will allow everyone to have a good time and have the best possible experience while attending The Irish Youth Training Choir. In the event that unacceptable behaviour is taking place during our residential courses, we have put in place a system that will allow for these situations to be dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.

Our Values

In Sing Ireland, we are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all participants, which is reflected in our policies on [equality and inclusivity](#) and our commitment to creating [belonging](#) across Irish society, through group singing. Our activities aim to foster a welcoming space for everyone and we include diverse musical styles and genres, and know that the attendees at the course will be from a range of backgrounds, and represent many communities within Ireland today. We strive to create an inclusive space, where everyone is connected in their love of music. Our mission is to provide the very best possible experience to every singer regardless of their background, circumstances or any other factor. We believe that our choir should take place in a spirit of mutual respect, kindness, openness and fun. It is vital that both the singers, artistic team and Sing Ireland team feel safe and are safe within this environment. We do not accept any form of bullying or harassment inside our residential course, outside the grounds or on Social Media.

Rules for Irish Youth Choirs Courses:

- If you see another student hurt or upset, help them and report this to a member of the Sing Ireland team, or a member of the Youth Support Team.
- Respect your tutors, conductor, the Youth Support Team and the Sing Ireland Team - they are all here to make sure you have a wonderful week of singing.

- Respect your fellow singers - realise that everyone has different interests and is here to have an enjoyable experience.
- Do not use any instruments or equipment in any of the course buildings without permission.
- Do not deliberately damage equipment, furniture or property
- Keep your spaces throughout the week tidy - put rubbish in bins, and don't leave the choir rooms in a mess. Work with those in your apartment to keep your living space tidy and comfortable for everyone.
- Do not leave the designated rehearsal spaces and the UL campus without permission.
- No singer is permitted to smoke or vape, or consume alcohol or recreational drugs within the grounds of our course/ the UL campus.
- Do not take photos or videos of the artistic team or your fellow singers without consent. While we will discourage any filming/ recording during any rehearsals in IYTC, we recognise that this is now a part of student life and how they express themselves. It is sometimes appropriate to take a selfie, record a vocal part or take a photo of some music. Filming pranks, other students rehearsing, or any voyeuristic filming is not allowed. Your phone/ recording device will be confiscated and both sets of parents will be informed if this rule is broken. Consent is considered a verbal acknowledgement of the question : "Is it ok if I take a photo/Video?" Consent must be asked for each time.

Sing Ireland will take disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for breaches of these provisions.

Sanctions

The disciplinary process for breaches of any of the above or any behaviour that breaches our values is as follows;

The relevant people for investigating and dealing with unacceptable behaviour are in ascending order:

The Youth Support Team/ Artistic Team
 The IYCs Course Coordinator
 The Sing Ireland Team

If a student is in breach of one of the rules set out in this Code of Behaviour, appropriate sanctions may be imposed by Sing Ireland. Our team may exercise discretion and professional judgement to decide on the appropriate sanction, if any, in the circumstances. Any disciplinary action is a private matter, as between Sing Ireland, the singer and the singer's parents.

If it is determined that a singer has breached this Code of Behaviour they will be asked to explain to the relevant person, orally or in writing, the rule they have breached, to describe what effect this breach has had on themselves and on other members of the IYTC community, and how they could act differently in the future to avoid being in breach of the rule. This is done to develop the student's sense of agency, responsibility, sensitivity and consideration for others and to assist them in upholding acceptable norms of behaviour in

the future.

The following is the process for dealing with a breach of the code;

1. **Verbal warning.** The Youth Support Team/ Course Coordinator will issue a verbal warning, letting the singer know that they have broken a rule. For minor rule breaking, this will suffice as long as the singer responds appropriately.
2. **Second Verbal warning.** The Sing Ireland General Manager, or an alternative Sing Ireland Team member, will take the singer aside and explain how their behaviour is affecting others in the group. The singer will be removed from rehearsals for a short time to allow for a cool down period. If the singer responds appropriately they will return to rehearsals. If not, a parent will be called.
3. **Written warning.** The Sing Ireland General Manager, or an alternative Sing Ireland Team member email/ text to the parent letting them know about the behaviour and asking if they would intervene. This will be for persistent rule breaking, a failure to respond positively to a verbal warning or for more serious breaches of rules.
4. **Expulsion.** The parent will be called and asked to collect. The singer will not be allowed back to the Irish Youth Training Choir this session. This will be used in cases where there has been a serious breach of our code or persistent, disruptive or disrespecting behaviour.

Failure to obey conditions laid down by the Irish Youth Choirs will result in the singer being asked to leave the course without refund.