



SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Colchester Operatic Society fully complies with information legislation. For the full details on how we use your personal information please visit our website <https://www.colchesteroperaticsociety.co.uk/about/privacy-policy/> or speak to our Membership secretary if you are unable to access the internet.

This policy applies to Colchester Operatic Society (COS) and its committees, including Colchester Operatic Society Second Edition (CO2), who are collectively referred to as “The Society” and “Colchester Operatic Society”.

Colchester Operatic Society and many of its members participate in social networking using websites such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The Society uses production specific closed and/or secret groups as a forum for communication between the committees & their members, cast members and members of the production team and stage crew. These are monitored by appointed members of the Executive committee as administrators. Only relevant people are invited to join these groups and all posts made to the group must be approved by an admin. We also have a public COS Facebook group used to share information to a wider audience of members, including previous and potential members, and whilst still monitored by us, this group is not a confidential forum.

Whilst those invited to join these groups are free to use it as a communication and social networking tool, we ask that **everyone ensures that they do not breach the law, defame the Society or any other members of the society**. We respect a member’s right to personal opinions and the freedom to voice these within our Facebook groups and using their personal social networking accounts/pages, but we ask all members and appointed/employed individuals to:

- Ensure that they do not conduct themselves in a way that is detrimental to the Society.
- Take care not to allow their interaction online, both on personal social networking accounts/pages and within any members and/or production Facebook groups, to damage or perceive to damage working relationships between individuals involved in any of our productions and activities.
- Never include material that is abusive, defamatory, sexist, racist or that could be interpreted as discrimination, harassment or bullying.

If posts made to ANY of our Facebook groups are deemed to be in breach of the above conditions they may be deleted or will NOT be approved.

Members of the Executive committee, who manage the Society, make every effort that is reasonably possible to ensure that all of its members and appointed/employed personnel are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying, harassment and discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes cyber-bullying, which could include bullying by text messages, phone calls, Instant messenger services, circulating photos or video clips or by posting comments online, including on Facebook groups and/or other social networking sites. Any evidence or reports of bullying, discrimination and/or harassment will be taken seriously by the Executive Committee, discussed and appropriate action taken. This may include removing individuals from our Facebook group/s, removing an individual’s role, position or

status from the production and/or Society and if necessary reporting an individual to the police for criminal prosecution.

Members with complaints regarding the Society, its productions, members or employees should follow our complaints procedure and refrain from publicly complaining using our Facebook group/s and/or other social networking sites, as this can be detrimental to Individuals, personal relationships and/or the reputation of the Society.

We expect all members and appointed/employed individuals to read and abide by the terms of this policy.

In addition, we expect those appointed as administrators of Society social media pages, groups, accounts and websites to monitor the pages/groups/accounts/websites they have been assigned to, to ensure members adhere to our social media policy, reporting any evidence or incidents of bullying, discrimination and/or harassment to the Executive Committee and other authorities as and when necessary and taking appropriate action, such as removing any inappropriate material posted, to safeguard the Society; its members, volunteers and employees; and the wider community.

Policy Updated May 2021