

Pastoral Assistant (Freelance)

National Youth String Orchestra (NYSO)

The National Youth String Orchestra (NYSO) is delighted to invite applications for **Pastoral Assistants** for the 2026 Residencies held in Stamford, Lincolnshire. We are looking for caring, creative and organised individuals who love working with children and young people and are passionate about supporting youth music.

Please feel free to share this opportunity with anyone you feel may be suitable.

About NYSO

NYSO is a charitable organisation dedicated to inspiring and supporting young musicians aged 7-21. We provide high-quality musical education through biannual string chamber orchestra residencies, complemented by concerts and concert tours. NYSO comprises four orchestras - Seniors, Camerata, Sinfonia & Sinfonietta - offering young players the opportunity to develop their skills, confidence and love of music in a supportive and aspirational environment.

Head to [our website](#) to read more about each orchestra.

About the Role

During our spring and summer residencies, each orchestra is supported by a team of Pastoral Assistants, led by Pastoral Team Leaders and the Pastoral Director. The main responsibility of the Pastoral Team is to ensure the safety, wellbeing and happiness of all attendees.

Available positions (incl. dates)

- **Pastoral Assistant for the Senior Orchestra's Spring & Summer Residencies** (5-9 April 2026 - arrival time: evening of 4 April, 11-20 August 2026 - arrival time: evening of 10 August)
- **Pastoral Assistant for the Camerata & Sinfonia Orchestras' Spring & Summer Residencies** (5-9 April 2026 - arrival time: evening of 4 April, 12-20 August 2026 - arrival time: evening of 11 August)
- **Pastoral Assistant for the Sinfonietta Orchestra's Spring & Summer Residencies** (6-9 April 2026 – arrival time: evening of 5 April, 17-20 August 2026 – arrival time: evening of 16 August)

*Attending both spring and summer residencies (where available) is preferred but not essential.

Location: All of NYSO's 2026 residencies will take place in Stamford School, East Street, Stamford, PE9 1QF.

Essentials

- Applicants must be a British, Irish or EU citizen with settled status, and as such have the right to work in the UK.

- Applicants must provide a copy of a valid enhanced DBS certificate, or if a clearance certificate is not available, they must give permission for a DBS search to be initiated by NYSO.
- Applicants should provide contact details for two professional references.
- If hired, all team members are required to undergo safeguarding training with NYSO before attending any of NYSO's residencies/having contact with any students.
- Applicants should be aged 21 or older

Many of our pastoral team members are musicians themselves – we love creating an environment where all team members share a love of music, and can help encourage the young musicians in our care. It is not essential, however we do prefer applicants to have some prior experience of working with children & young people.

Role Details

Prior to the residency: you will be provided with digital copies of NYSO's Safeguarding Policy & other documents (including an information pack containing residency details, staff & student behaviour codes, and explanations of NYSO's safeguarding procedures) which you are required to read before your arrival and confirm by receipt that you have read and understood. You will also be given access to the Pastoral Team area on the NYSO website prior to the beginning of the residency, which will have all the details you should need before and during the residency.

On arrival at the residencies: the pastoral assistants will familiarise themselves with the layout of the premises, which may include the preparation of music spaces, emergency procedures, emergency services contact details, staff contact details, the list of the students and team members attending the residency, and the student bedroom lists. A Safeguarding & Child Protection briefing will take place during this time where any special health requirements will also be noted.

When students arrive: you will greet the students & parents, register the students, make a note of & collect any medications, and direct students to their rooms. (More details will be confirmed in the initial pastoral meeting).

Duties **during the residency** include (but are not limited to) registering the students at every rehearsal, mealtime and at bedtime, providing social support to students, helping to organise & supervise downtime activities for the students, being contactable by mobile phone at all times when on duty (including being on call overnight), making sure students get to their rehearsals, coordinating with the other pastoral assistants, Team Leaders & Pastoral Director.

At the end of the residency: pastoral assistants will stay on site until all of the students in their care have been signed out by their parents/guardians after the end-of-residency workshop/concert.

Team free time: The Pastoral Director/Team Leader will agree a free period for each team member each day (usually this will be either the morning or the afternoon).

Remuneration: Pastoral Assistants are paid £112.50 per day and will be given either the morning or the afternoon off on each full day. You will be regarded as self-employed for taxation purposes. Absent days will not be remunerated and prior agreement with the Pastoral Director will be required so that a suitable deputy can be appointed. Full board is provided (accommodation & 3 meals a day), and NYSO will contribute the cost of a second-class rail ticket to your travel expenses, or 35p per mile if driving.

Equal Opportunities

NYSO is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion. We welcome applications from all backgrounds and communities and are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment for young people and team members alike.

Safeguarding

NYSO is committed to safeguarding and protecting the children and young people we work with. We have a range of safeguarding policies and procedures in place and aim to be a sector leader in good safeguarding practice. All team members share responsibility for ensuring that the welfare of young people is paramount and that all concerns and allegations of abuse are taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

How to Apply

Please apply via our [**Application Form**](#) by **15 February at 6:00pm**.
For any queries, contact [**admin@nyso.uk**](mailto:admin@nyso.uk).

On submitting an application, you will be asked to attend an interview over zoom with the Pastoral Director & Administrator.

We look forward to hearing from you.