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# How to Behave and Listen at Live Music

KS2 MUSIC

PSHE

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

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## Why Does Audience Behaviour Matter?

When you watch a **live music performance**, the musicians can see and hear you just as much as you can see and hear them. A **live audience** has an amazing power: your energy, silence, and respect can actually change how well a performer plays. Musicians feed off the atmosphere in the room, and when people are truly listening, they perform better.

Unlike watching a **recorded song** on your phone, a live performance is a shared moment between the performer and every single person in the audience. This is why behaviour matters so much.

Think of it like playing football with your team. If everyone is concentrating and working together, you play brilliantly. But if people aren't paying attention or are distracting you, it's much harder to do your best.

## Listen With Your Full Attention

The most important thing is to **listen actively**. This means putting your phone away, staying quiet, and really focusing on the music. Try to notice different instruments, the singer's voice, and how the music makes you feel. This isn't just polite—it helps you enjoy the performance much more deeply.

If the performance is in a quiet setting like a **classical concert** or **intimate gig**, even small sounds matter. Whispering, rustling sweet wrappers, or checking your phone can distract both the musicians and other listeners.

## Show Respect and Courtesy

Here are the golden rules: sit still and avoid fidgeting, keep your phone silent (or better yet, completely away), don't talk or whisper during the performance, and avoid taking photos or videos unless the performer says it's okay. Arrive on time so you're not disruptive, and stay for the whole show if you can.

Think of it like when your teacher is explaining something important in class. Everyone listens quietly so nobody misses anything valuable.

When the performance ends, **applause** is wonderful. Clapping shows appreciation and lets musicians know their hard work was enjoyed. Some audiences also cheer or stand up—this is a special moment called a **standing ovation**.

## **Different Venues, Different Rules**

Remember that different **venues** have different expectations. A rock concert might encourage singing along and dancing, while a **classical music concert** usually requires silence. Always check what's appropriate for the type of performance you're attending, and follow the **venue's** guidelines.