



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

discovering voices

Safeguarding Statement:

The ESU's full Safeguarding Policy remains in place and is the guiding document for our work. This and other related policies can be read at <https://www.esu.org/safeguarding-policy/>

Anyone with any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding issues should get in touch with the ESU's Safeguarding Team. Contact details are in every competition handbook and at the end of this note.

In addition to these standard safeguarding rules, the move to holding competitions online adds some novel questions and concerns. The below explains what steps we are taking to make participation in ESU competitions online as secure as in person.

All heats will be password-protected Zoom meetings. The details, including the password, will be shared with participating teachers and ESU representatives. These may be shared with participating students as needed, and we would ask that these details not be shared with others without prior approval to avoid possible disruption.

All heats will be run from centrally-owned ESU Zoom accounts. Judges and heat organisers will be given access for the duration of the heat. Participants may be accessing the meeting using different accounts - we would encourage these to be school/official accounts where available but understand that personal accounts may need to be used in some circumstances.

Participants may be accessing heats from a variety of devices. We would encourage the use of school devices where practical but understand that circumstances may dictate otherwise. We encourage all participants to consider all digital security precautions that are relevant to them.

For a variety of reasons participants may be unable or unwilling to appear on camera. This is absolutely fine, and the choice does not need to be explained or justified. As is made clear in the competitions handbooks, no participant should be disadvantaged by this.

Recording of performances is strictly forbidden during heats. All in-built recording features in Zoom will be turned off by the ESU, and any use of external software or devices to record will be considered a serious breach of safeguarding rules.

International Headquarters: Dartmouth House 37 Charles Street London W1J 5ED +44 (0)20 7529 1550 www.esu.org

Patron: HM The Queen **President:** HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO

Chair: Professor James Raven LittD FBA FSA **Deputy Chairmen:** Derek Morgan, Dr Tony Wood **Director-General:** Jane Easton

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Recording is of course permitted for the recorded submissions round of the Performing Shakespeare competition. These recordings will be securely stored by the ESU and accessed only by competition administrators and the judge(s) assessing them.

If you have any questions or concerns you can direct them towards the ESU Safeguarding Lead, Gavin Illsley (gavin.illsley@esu.org) or to one of their deputies: Matthew Christmas (matthew.christmas@esu.org); Robert Saull (robert.saull@esu.org); Ameena Khan Sullivan (ameena.khan@esu.org).

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