

# PINHOE PANTOMIME SOCIETY



## JUNIOR AUDITIONS Information Sheet

If your child is auditioning to take part in Pinhoe Pantomime, they will be expected to do a number of things, and will be assessed by a panel of around five people. This panel is made up of the Producer and Choreographer of the pantomime, and around three others who between them have knowledge of and experience in music, dance, acting and general performance skills.

If any of the panel is related to any of the children auditioning they do not take part in the discussion about that child. Decisions are made jointly, and if a decision cannot be agreed upon the producer and choreographer have the deciding vote.

We prefer parents to stay and watch, particularly if the child is not known to us, as we are unable to be responsible for children who are not members. This also enables parents to support their child, and see the auditions in progress. We hope it will also give new people a chance to meet members of the society and find out more about us.

The children are asked to sing a short song, usually in small groups or all together unless the production requires solo singing from children. If this is the case they will have the choice whether or not they want to audition for those parts – no child will be forced to sing alone.

The choreographer will teach the children a short dance routine which they will perform in small groups.

The children will be asked to take part in an exercise which will demonstrate their ability to speak clearly, to act and to perform.

The children are selected based upon a number of criteria, and the children must demonstrate these at the auditions. We do not rely on what we know about children from previous years. Places are limited due to fire regulations, and the amount of adults that we need to have for principal parts. We try to use as many children as is possible and practical, the number is usually around 6 juniors. In addition, older junior members are sometimes used in the adult chorus.

The primary criteria are:

- Ability to dance

- Ability to learn and follow instructions
- Concentration
- Ability to sing
- Ability to speak clearly
- Performance skills

A balance of these skills is required and weakness in one area does not necessarily exclude the child from selection. The needs of the individual production may be used to determine any specific bias towards one criteria.

Following the application of these criteria, if further discussion is needed other aspects may be taken into consideration.

- Age
- Height
- Where the child lives (i.e. in Pinhoe or not)
- Previous experience
- Parental involvement or willingness to be involved if new
- Previous attendance record
- Attitude/behaviour of child at audition and in previous shows
- Whether or not they smile!

The producer, choreographer or member of the casting committee will telephone parents within one week of the auditions to let them know if their child has been successful and will be happy to explain the reasons for the child being selected or not. It is important to remember that we often have large numbers of children auditioning and therefore some will be disappointed. We hope those who are unsuccessful will come back in future years as we welcome new members.

If you have any further queries or concerns about the auditions please see the producer and chairperson directly.