



PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

for Catholic Schools and Colleges

OVERVIEW

From its somewhat modest origins in 1989, the Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools and Colleges, has developed to the point where today it is recognised as an event of major significance in the Catholic Education calendar. The consistent increase in student participation over the years has also resulted in the Festival becoming the envy of education sectors across the country.

Established to help Catholic school students in Western Australia experience the spirit and tradition of the performing arts, the Festival formally recognises the contributions of the religious orders who were dedicated to promoting the arts in both the city and country areas.

The Festival provides a unique opportunity for young people to perform in a public forum, developing the confidence, self-esteem and social skills of those who choose to participate. Given this structure, it also has the potential to provide a foundation for those students who intend to pursue further studies and/or careers in the performing arts.

Whilst its focus is on the students, the Festival also offers teaching staff the opportunity to display their many varied talents as they work with students to create, develop and present their performances.

Festival Guidelines and Rules

Due to the phenomenal growth of the Festival, it has been necessary to continually refine the guidelines and rules under which the performances are both conducted and adjudicated. A comprehensive overview of these guidelines/rules can be found within this handbook along with helpful information relating to copyright conditions of use for Festival venues and Festival sponsorship.

In keeping with the aims of the Festival, the guidelines/rules have been developed to:

- Foster an environment of fairness.
- Maximise the opportunities for all students to participate.
- Ensure efficient organisation of the event throughout its duration.

It is imperative that the guidelines/rules be adhered to, however, any concerns in relation to them can be brought to the attention of the Performing Arts Festival Committee at any time. To ensure the guidelines/rules do not become dated, the Committee conducts an extensive review of the Festival at its conclusion each year. At this time modifications are made to the guidelines/rules in order to meet the changing needs of participants, adjudicators, organisers and other interested parties.

Festival Goals

The underlying goal of the Festival is to provide students with unique 'performance platforms' through which they can strive for excellence and perform to a public audience in a spirit of competitive, affirmative participation. To this end the Festival seeks to:

1. Encourage the development of excellence in performance in all students.
2. Provide opportunities for students to participate in performance at the highest level.
3. Provide participants with positive, helpful guidance in the form of written adjudication.
4. Provide an opportunity for students to share their gifts and talents with the broader community.

I encourage all Catholic Schools and Colleges to get involved and participate in our Performing Arts Festival.

Deborah Robertson

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Chairperson, Catholic Arts