

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS ENROLMENT POLICY 2014-15

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts caters for gifted and talented students in the areas of Dance, Drama and Music and related areas such as technical aspects of the Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Creative Writing. The school enrolls students from the local community (local students) and performing arts students from outside the local area (non-local performing arts students). All students, be they local or non-local, must complete an *Application to enrol in a NSW Government School* which is available from the school and the Department of Education and Communities website.

This policy has been developed with reference to the DEC policy Enrolment of Students in Government Schools: A Summary and Consolidation of Policy- August 1997 which is available on the 'Our Policies' site of the Department of Education and Communities website at www.det.nsw.edu.au

Rationale

There needs to be a clear and consistent policy in enrolling students at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts so that students and parents are treated equitably.

This policy was formulated in consultation with the parent community, the teaching staff and the School Education Director (SED).

Based on consultation with the School Education Director, the State Demographer and historical data an enrolment buffer of 5-10 students per Year group has been established. These places are not to be offered to non-local students.

ENROLMENT OF LOCAL STUDENTS.

To be enrolled as a 'local student', applicants are required to prove that they are bona fide permanent residents of a dwelling the address of which is in a geographical area designated for the school by the Department as the school's **local area** (see the area marked on the *School Catchment Map* (Appendix A).

This proof of address evidence must include:

- A current Council Land Rates notice OR a Residential Tenancy Agreement of at least 12 months duration (sub letting agreements will not be accepted as proof of residence), and
- At least two of the following current documents:
 - Electricity account
 - Gas account
 - Home telephone account (landline)
 - Centrelink documents or Medicare account

- In circumstances where applicant students do not reside with both or either parent, the school will rely on Family Court orders to determine the child's place of residence

NOTE: only original documents will be accepted as proof of address evidence.

- In some cases additional evidence as specified by the Principal may also be required

Where applicants for enrolment as local students fail to provide the required evidence of their permanent residence, they will be treated as non-local students for the purpose of enrolment

ENROLMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS.

Given the purpose and focus of this school, and the fact that demand for places is greater than supply of available places, all non-local applicants for enrolment will be considered on the basis of audition and interview.

Each audition/ interview is assessed on its own merits. The decision of the examiner and interviewer is final and no appeal can be made except on procedure. Information on individual student's performance in their audition/ interview will not be given. The purpose of the audition/ interview is for the school to select the best and most suitable students as assessed by the examiners/ interviewers based on the stated criteria. These are the conditions under which students and parents/carers must agree to when applying to audition.

The general criteria on which students will be assessed are:

- the ability to work independently and cooperatively
- demonstrated genuine interest in the performing arts
- demonstrated self discipline and commitment
- the ability to successfully apply themselves to curricula and co-curricula performing arts commitments as well as other academic studies.

In addition the following criteria specifically apply to each performing arts area:

Dance

- demonstrated dance skills
- physical and cognitive potential in dance

Drama

- high standard of movement skills
- high standard of vocal skills
- demonstrated adaptability to various roles
- demonstrated creativity and imagination
- proficiency in script work

Music

- demonstrated pitch, rhythm, creative ability and potential
- demonstrated concentration and focus

Additional information regarding performance requirements is sent to applicants prior to auditions.

Procedures for Students Seeking Enrolment in Years 7 or 11.

1. Students register on-line for an audition in Dance, Drama and/ or Music. Application forms are sent to all registered students.
2. Students return application forms and required documentation
3. Auditions are held at allotted times in semester 1
4. Students short-listed, based on their audition, proceed to an interview with the Principal, member of the Executive/ teaching staff or School Counsellor. A rank order waiting list is then determined based on the audition and interview.
5. Positions are offered based on these lists.
6. Waiting lists remain valid for one year.

Procedures for Students Seeking Enrolment in Years 8, 9, or 10.

1. Students/ parents visit our website in September to register online their expression of interest for possible enrolment for the following year.
2. Students names are placed on register of interest
3. Auditions are held once every 12 months and only for those school Years that the Principal deems positions are available or likely to soon become available.
4. Students short-listed, based on their audition, proceed to an interview with the Principal, member of the Executive/ teaching staff or School Counsellor. A rank order waiting list is then determined based on the audition and interview.
5. Positions are offered based on these lists.
6. Waiting lists remain valid for one year.

Enrolment Placement Panel.

At the completion of auditions/ interviews the Enrolment Placement Panel will meet to confirm enrolment decisions and review selection criteria for the next year.

Appeals

Where a parent wishes to appeal against the decision of the placement panel, the appeal should be made in writing to the Principal. Where required, the Principal should provide or arrange assistance, such as an interpreter, to enable the appeal to be set out in writing. The principal will seek to resolve the matter.

If the matter is not resolved at the local level the Director, Public Schools will consider the appeal and make a determination. The Director, Public Schools will consult with the relevant Principals and school communities as necessary.

The purpose of the appeal is to determine whether the stated criteria have been applied fairly.