



## PERFORMING ARTS – ETIQUETTE & DUTY OF CARE

One of the aims in presenting performing arts to the students in Catholic schools is to educate them in **'appropriate'** audience and performers' behaviour. Enjoyment of the arts is not just for the young, and an understanding of the disciplines of performance may lead to a lifetime of enjoyment. Performers need an audience, so an audience educated in particular art forms will show a greater appreciation of that art.

It is hoped that the teachers will discuss the expected form of audience appreciation with their students prior to the students departing from their separate schools to perform.

Teachers are also expected to show consideration for the co-ordinators of the various sections by submitting plans (lighting and stage plans) in time for the organisers to incorporate them into the timetable.

### Etiquette

Audience response should therefore be appropriate to the performance.

- Whistling, shouting and stamping may be appropriate at a rock concert, but inappropriate for performances in concert halls and churches.
- Talking, moving from one seat to another, and leaving or re-entering the performance area should not happen once a performance has begun, or, in the case of a concert, once the conductor has entered the stage.
- It may be acceptable to take food and/or drinks into a cinema, but it is not acceptable for food to be taken into performance venues.
- In the case of school students, full school uniform is the expected and recommended dress for most of the Festival sections.
- There is no place for mobile phones at performance venues. If carrying a mobile phone it should be switched off before entering the venue. A mobile phone ringing during a performance is irritating to the audience and distracting to performers.
- The Festival Committee is constantly seeking suitable venues for the variety of arts being presented each year. It is hoped that all performers will respect the property and goodwill of the host venue.
- When a performer or group enters the stage they should not be distracted or wave to a person in the audience. The audience will acknowledge the performance appropriately at its completion.

### Duty of Care

- Although School Excursions Guidelines indicate a minimum ratio of one teacher be present per 32 students, it is considered sound practice for a minimum of two teachers/supervising adults to be present per school group, as one adult may be required to attend to an unexpected situation. If possible, consideration should also be given to having a lower ratio (eg 1:16) for primary school aged children. Note that under the National Quality Standard (NQS) requirements, a much lower ratio (1:10) is required for students younger than Year 3.
- It is the responsibility of all schools to have a **First Aid Kit** or adequate provisions at every performance. Each school is responsible for their own students.