



POLYFEST COMPETITION POLICY

OUTCOME STATEMENT

Wesley College School Board commits to providing safe and equitable opportunities for cultural participation and celebration at the Polyfest Competition whilst recognising that it is a privilege and should not be to the detriment of other aspects of school life, particularly academic achievement and staff and student wellbeing.

SCOPING

In order to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for students, staff and whaanau, guidelines for Polyfest cultural groups will be implemented and maintained to provide clear guidance and expectations for group leaders, and to uphold safeguarding and the College's values and standards.

DELEGATIONS

The board delegates to the Principal full responsibility of ensuring guidelines and processes are in place and operating effectively and adequately.

EXPECTATIONS and LIMITATIONS

In complying with this policy, the Principal will ensure:

- That involvement in the Polyfest Competition is seen by students, whanau and the school community as a privilege supported by whaanau.
- To encourage students to aspire to excellence in cultural competition.

GUIDELINES:

1. Academic achievement is the first pre-requisite for being accepted into a Cultural Group for all students, either through passing NCEA the previous year or reaching the required Curriculum levels.
2. Cultural Group membership will be dependent upon student attendance and behaviour over a sustained period. Students are required to have a minimum attendance of 90% in order to be eligible to participate in Polyfest. Persistent lateness to school and/or classes (8 or more in Term 1) will also result in students participation in Polyfest being jeopardised.
3. Parents of students who are not present at school on the days leading into Polyfest must be informed that students are jeopardising their chance to perform by teachers in charge.
4. At least one staff member must be present at every Group practice. For groups of more than 40 students, two staff members are present (in addition to Hostel Parents if they are on duty).
5. Practice times are agreed on and kept to for the entire lead in to Polyfest. Practice **MUST NOT** exceed more than two hours on school days and should finish no later than 8:00 p.m..
6. Weekend and evening practices sessions must be approved by and will be at the discretion of the Head of Boarding.
7. Weekend practices may not exceed more than six hours i.e. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; lunch; 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. The final weekend prior to Poly Fest, practice should not exceed more than eight hours i.e. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; lunch; 1:30 – 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. in the weekend.
8. Group Leaders are responsible for ensuring that all day students have a safe means of transport home.
9. Hostel prep time will not be used except Monday, Wednesday, Friday two (2) weeks out from the event. (The event date is measured from the Saturday of Polyfest).
10. Practices are not to interfere with other after school activities except the week (1) leading into the event. (The event date is measured from the Saturday of Polyfest).

11. Any form of bullying, especially at cultural practices, will not be accepted and may result in the withdrawal of an individual student or the entire cultural group from participating in Polyfest.
12. It is agreed **NO** sleepovers for Polyfest will be undertaken.
13. For entry into the Competition, a Cultural Group must have a suitable tutor and clear support from parents. **NO** tutor should be enlisted unless they can meet school expectations, set practice times and comply with Polyfest guidelines. All tutors must be police vetted in advance of practices commencing with the exception of tutors who are currently employed as an educator in another school. In these instances, the Business Manager will contact the school to confirm their identity, status of their police vetting, and suitability for the role.
14. Each entry is to be considered on a case-by-case basis each year, with no automatic entry.
15. Where possible the competition is to be used to gain NCEA credits. This should be in consultation with the Principal's Nominee.
16. Each Cultural Group must stay within set budgets.
17. All fundraising activities associated with any Polyfest cultural group must be approved by the Principal.
18. Groups who fail to adhere to these expectations may forfeit their place in Polyfest.
19. Participation is at the sole discretion of the Principal.

The Wesley College School Board approved this policy at the April meeting 2024.
This policy will be reviewed on / before the April meeting 2027.

PRESIDING MEMBER

4 April 2024
DATE

