

Mid North Coast Dance Festival 2025

Clarence, Coffs and Mid North Coast Public Schools

Dear Principal/Dance Coordinator,

The Mid North Coast Public Schools Dance Festival is an arts event showcasing the talents of students and teachers in dance and choreography K-12. The dance festival **promotes excellence in dance education** and will showcase high quality choreography and performance items that use the NSW Dance Syllabus as the foundation for creating work with integrity and merit.

The Festival is an inclusive celebration, **NOT** a competition.

2024 Festival dates:

D Theatre - Coffs Harbour Education Campus (CHEC)

Evening Performances 6:30pm - 7:45pm - Monday 16th June - Wednesday 18th June 2025

Showcase Evening Performance 6:30pm - 7:45pm - Thursday 19th June 2025

Participation in the MNC Dance festival is via a process. Schools interested in participating in the festival are required to submit an electronic entry form and prepare an audition Vimeo submission of their dance item.. All applications must be approved by the supervising staff and school principals prior to submitting the form/s. **One form should be completed per item.** Detailed information relating to the festival guidelines and criteria for selection are included in this package. **Please read these sections carefully as amendments have been made from previous years.**

2025 Application Process:

Date		What's Happening
17th March	Week 8 Term 1	Festival Application Close Ensemble Application Close
24th March	Week 9 Term 1	Application Feedback and Confirmation of Performance Day returned to schools Ensemble Acceptance Offered
12th May	Week 3 Term 2	Audition footage in costume and with the final edit of music due
26th May	Week 5 Term 2	Audition Feedback and Confirmation of Showcase inclusion e-mailed to schools
2nd June	Week 6, Term 2	Tickets Go On Sale
16th - 19th June	Week 8 Term 2	Mid North Coast Dance Festival

Application for inclusion forms are to be submitted through the Google Form listed below:

<https://forms.gle/jkZr8kAdhCB2awWU6> This form will only work using a DET login.

Mid North Coast Dance Festival 2025 Guidelines

The 2025 application process is as follows:

Step One, is to complete an online Application Form, outlining the specifics of the item to be included -<https://forms.gle/jkZr8kAdhCB2awWU6>

Step Two, includes Audition footage submitted via google form and final Music edit to be submitted via e-mail

Step Three, Schools will be invited to perform as part of our Showcase Performance

The dance festival aims for excellence and integrity. A high standard of performance and choreography which meets the NSW Dance Syllabus outcomes is a requirement for a place in the festival. **All items must be auditioned and satisfy the selection criteria in order to be a part of the festival.**

Schools Showcase Performance

Inclusion in the Showcase Performance will be via invitation based on the quality of the item performed in the Audition footage submitted. The performance program will highlight the exemplary performances that have been displayed throughout the festival. Items who are invited will perform on either the 30th June, 1st, 2nd July **AND** then again on 4th July in both the Showcase Evening Performance, performing twice times in total within the festival.

All items will be considered for inclusion in the Showcase Performance. An email from the School Principal outlining reasons for exemption from consideration will be required from schools at the time of the initial application if applicable.

The **Showcase Performance** will commence at 6:30pm with performing students required to attend the CHEC by 5:00pm. The Directors of Educational Leadership and other VIP's will be invited to this performance.

Comperes and Ushers

Each school will be required to supply 2 students as comperes or ushers. These students can also be performers and will be provided compere notes by the end of **Week 7 Term 2**. Students will be required to wear full school uniform and will share the role with students from other schools so that they are speaking in a different half of the show to when they are dancing; or will be ushering.

Criteria for Selection for Inclusion in the 2025 Dance Festival

The following criteria must be met by all items:

Syllabus Outcomes

Teacher choreography as a role model must reflect an understanding of the basic compositional structures and choreographic processes taught in the curriculum:

- Items should be based on a concept/intent or theme.
- Choreography should use the **Elements of Dance** (space, time, & dynamics) as the basis for generating movement to communicate the concept/intent or theme. Thought should be given to variation of these elements.
- Shapes and movement motifs that reflect the concept/intent or theme should be used to communicate the meaning of the work.
- Choreographers should try to use relevant movement as opposed to known phrases of generic choreography and consider form/structure to reinforce their concept/intent or theme.

Choreographers

- Items are to be produced by NSW Department of Education teachers and/or students currently enrolled at the school and developed as a part of an ongoing program.
- It is preferred that items are teacher or student choreographed, however external tutors can also be used. If so, please indicate on your application form.
- Choreography must be original work created in accordance with choreography and copyright laws.

Integrity

The overall choices made by the choreographer should be age appropriate and suitable for the skill level of the dancers. This is essential when selecting the theme/intent, music, costume, lighting, staging and movement choices.

Content

- Choreography must be devised with the guidelines of the dance festival in mind. Do not assume that items choreographed for other educational or school based events will meet the guidelines of this festival.
- Sensitivity should be displayed in the treatment of themes such as romantic relationships, depression, suicide, racism, sexism, violence, drug and alcohol abuse etc. These themes are not suitable for primary or junior secondary students. If these themes are explored by senior students, they should be treated in an abstract context rather than representational.

Concept/Intent

When creating your work, it is important to identify the intended concept/intent or theme. Spend time reflecting on *what* (concept/intent or theme) you are trying to communicate to the audience and *how* you are going to communicate it – through movement, music, costuming, props, staging and lighting.

Questions to ask yourself throughout the choreographic process:

- What is the dance about?
- What is the concept/intent, theme or narrative being developed?
- How do you intend to develop your idea?
- Does the movement support the concept/intent, theme or narrative?
- How do you intend to develop the relationship between dancers/characters?
- How will you explore the elements of dance? e.g. shapes, space and formations?
- How will you create variations or dynamic contrasts? e.g. variations in time - frantic rush to a moment of stillness
- Does the movement help to convey the intent of the piece?
- Does music choice and costuming enhance the concept/intent, theme or narrative?
- What atmosphere and 'feeling' do you want to create? and
- Is the concept/intent, theme or narrative clear to the audience from beginning to end?

Movement

- Movement should reflect the concept/intent or theme to communicate the meaning of the work.
- Movement content of the item should be appropriate to the age, skill and level of development of the students.
- Movement should explore the elements of dance using shapes, space, levels, formations and varying the dynamics etc. Large amounts of repetitive movement should be avoided e.g. blocks of unison choreography in lines.
- Movements of a mature and sexual nature such as chest and pelvic thrusts, running hands down the body and straddling chairs will not be accepted.
- Where a student choreographer is involved, the supervising teacher is responsible for checking the appropriateness of the movement content.
- Avoid using 'tricks' that do not have any relevance to the theme or intent of the work.
- Items should end in a position and/or shape. Performers will receive their applause as the stage lights fade out. Items are asked not to include a bow.

Safe Dance Practice

The committee endorses safe dance practices. Care should be taken so that potentially harmful activities are excluded. Unsafe dance practices will not be accepted. Choreographers need to cater for the skill level of their students and be aware of these potentially dangerous activities:

- full neck roll;
- splits;
- sustained forward flexion or back arches;
- quick and repetitive plies;
- falling/landing on knees rather than lowering down to the floor;
- unstable or under-rehearsed lifts or weight bearing movements; and
- heavy/unsafe landing techniques.

The following are **NOT PERMITTED** in schools as per the Sports Unit Guidelines - <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/page/1078#content>

- Gymnastic Bridges
- Any form of Somersalts
- Head Stands
- Dive Rolls

Music Suitability

- Music and lyrics help communicate the intent of an item. Your music choice should support the intent/theme of your work.
- Music must be legally purchased on behalf of the school with principal acknowledgment of the purchase.
- Care should be taken to ensure the music and lyrics are appropriate to the concept/intent or theme of the work.
- Music should be selected and screened carefully with the school principal endorsing both song choice and song lyrics. Please attach a copy of song lyrics for each music track used in your item to your application form.
- Songs with inappropriate lyrics or intent will not be accepted.
- **Avoid using Top 40 hits or current 'popular songs' unless they are relevant to the intent of the item. Keep in mind that it is highly likely another school will use the same music.**
- **Music files will be uploaded by supervising teachers into the designated Google Drive with item and school name**

Copyright

The committee adheres to all copyright laws. When a school requires additional copyright permission, copies of permission need to be attached to the application for inclusion. To support the committee, please abide by the following *general* copyright guidelines.

- Schools should choose sound recordings from commercially available CD's or through itunes. Once the sound recording has been purchased, the school is not automatically covered for copyright under the educational copyright agreement. Some sound recordings may fall under the category of 'Grand Right Works' or 'Dramatic Context' and additional licence/s may need to be obtained. To seek advice or clarification, please refer to the APRA AMCOS website <http://www.apra-amcos.com.au>
- Schools wishing to use sound recordings from an unsigned artist (artist who is not with a record label and the music is not available to purchase), YouTube or a composer with an original music piece not commercially available, then permission needs to be sought. Schools are required to directly contact the original composer and gain written permission to use the sound recording.
- Once schools have permission to use the sound recording and purchased additional licences (if required) *the school is still not automatically covered for copyright* under the educational copyright agreement. ***It is what the school does with the original sound recording that may require additional permission and payment.*** These fees are called **Arrangement Fees**.
- If the school changes an original sound recording in any way such as changing lyrics, deleting lyrics, changing the tempo, looping instrumental sections, changing the order of the song or merging multiple sound recordings together so they overlap etc then permission needs to be sort. This includes using programs such as Garage Band or having a professional edit the sound recording.
To seek permission, the school needs to contact the record label directly eg Sony BMG and seek information on the approval process. The school will need to explain the context of how the music will be used, changes the school intends to make, the number of performances the school will use this music for and the number of copies of the music that the school will need to make.
Information about the record label is usually on the CD cover. If the sound recording was purchased from itunes, the information can be found in the album details. If schools are unsure of the record label to contact or the record label contact details, please contact ARIA www.aria.com.au.
Schools will need to seek permission for the arrangement of each sound recording and the school needs to pay the appropriate fees for the arrangement of each song.
- Choreography must be original work created in accordance with choreography and copyright laws.

For detailed copyright information, please visit the following websites:

- Smartcopying – The official guide to Copyright Issues for Australian Schools and TAFE www.smartcopying.edu.au
- APRA/AMCO <http://www.apra-amcos.com.au>
- ARIA www.aria.com.au
- Australian Copyright Council 'Choreography and Copyright' www.copyright.org.au

Staging

D Theatre, Coffs Harbour Education Campus

The stage space dimensions are: Rear of the stage - 6m wide, front of the stage - 9m wide and 6m deep.

Entrance to the stage is from **Stage Right only**. Dancers entering the stage from stage left side must cross the stage in **Blackout**.

Crossovers are not permitted.

Dancers will exit the stage via the **Stage Left Side** behind the curtain.

Movement that travels backwards can be potentially dangerous for young and inexperienced dancers. It is the coordinating teacher and choreographer's responsibility to ensure that dancers are aware of stage dimensions and how to orientate themselves in the space.

The curtain will not close between performances. Performers are not required to bow.

Props

- All props should be included in the audition footage submitted
- Props should appear as an integral part of the item, complementing, not dominating it or appearing as a gimmick.
- Sets and props must be able to fit through a standard door and be an appropriate weight for 2 students to carry. Free standing props must be secure. Props on wheels must have safety locks.
- All props will need to be set on stage prior to performance and will be visible for the duration of the performance. Please note, the lighting rig design will prohibit the use of backdrops.
- Keep in mind there is limited time to set up props and often limited light.
- Props or weapons that imply violence will not be permitted on stage.

Costumes

- Costumes must be work in the Final footage submitted
- Costumes should support the concept or theme of the work.
- Costumes must be suitable to the age, gender and movement of the dancer.
- Sensitivity should be shown to the body shape of the dancers. Undergarments should not be seen when dancers are performing in costume.
- Midriff, cut-away tops, plunging necklines and high-cut leotards are not acceptable.
- Changing costume on stage is not permitted.
- No costumes eg hats, feather bowers should be thrown from the stage area or into the wings
- The committee reserves the right to withdraw any item if costumes are unacceptable.

Timing

- Primary items should not exceed five minutes. The recommended timing is up to three and a half minutes.
- Secondary items should not exceed seven minutes. The recommended timing is up to five minutes.

The item should last as long as it takes to communicate the choreographer's intent. The time limit is not a parameter to be aimed for; choreography and technique must be of high quality to fill this much time. Items that take on a 'mega mix' approach can become laboured and disjointed.

Number of Students

- Items should be a class or ensemble group performance with students currently enrolled at your school.
- The minimum number of students is 5; the maximum number of students is 25 for High Schools and 30 for Primary Items.
- HSC works may apply to be included and may be successful if room permits on the program. This is at the discretion of the Dance Festival Committee.
- Items should try to avoid:
 - solo or duet work;
 - choreography featuring a 'star' performer supported by the chorus; or
 - extended sequences with less than 4 performers on stage.

Number of Items

Prior to nominating items for the Dance Festival, schools are asked to discuss with staff and their school principal on the item/s that should be nominated. Schools should ensure that they are nominating high quality performance items that meet the dance festival criteria to represent the school at a principal's networks and state level.

Schools are permitted to nominate a **maximum of 3 items for audition.**

Special consideration given to larger Primary Schools.

Special Consideration Application

Schools may choose to nominate an additional item/s from their school for inclusion in the festival.

To apply for special consideration, an e-mail should be sent to claire.porter@det.nsw.edu.au and provide a statement as to why the school should be able to have an additional item included in the dance festival. An example may be the large size of the school population.

Schools nominating for special consideration must also complete Application for Inclusion Form and provide an audition Vimeo submission as per the festival guidelines.

Special consideration items are to be ranked in order of priority. Schools with large numbers of high quality items, above the school quota guideline, are able to submit additional items for special consideration on a case by case basis.

Applications must be received by the due date for consideration. Late applications will not be considered. Completing this form does not guarantee inclusion in the festival.

Costs

All successful dance item/s will be required to pay a **participation fee of \$110.00 per item.** This fee will partially contribute to paying for:

- Venue hire;
- Costs such as venue staff, venue set up, security, admin and cleaning;
- Lighting and audio production elements and audio-lighting engineers for the duration of the festival; and
- Complimentary DVD. This will include one copy of the schools item/s.

The \$110.00 participation fee will be automatically deducted from school bank accounts. **Schools are responsible for advising the School Administrative Manager.**

The following considerations will become the responsibility of your school:

- Participation fees for multiple items;
- Teacher relief during the week of the festival;
- Traveling expenses;
- Costuming and makeup;
- Supply and transport of props; and
- Fees for additional cleaning/damage to holding rooms and or venue property.

If items withdraw from the Festival after 28th April, schools are still liable to cover the participation fee.

Audition submission

Footage is due **12th May 2025. This is to be a completed performance.** The committee expects to see the potential for high quality. Please polish as much of your item as possible.

- The performance must be a current 2025 dance item.
- Students appearing in the audition submission must be current students enrolled at the school for 2025 who will be performing at the festival in the item.
- The performance must be a final version
- Schools submitting more than one item for inclusion should note that the committee may request that your school performs over more than one day. If this will not be possible for your school to participate, please ensure that this is indicated on the application form and state reason.
- **Schools with more than one item may be asked to perform across more different performance evenings.**

Audition Footage Link

Schools applying to participate in the dance festival must submit their audition via Vimeo, Youtube link or GoogleDrive Link. Inclusion in the Showcase Performance is based off this audition

The following points should be considered when preparing the audition submission of your item:

- Film the whole group from a fixed camera angle, not individual dancers. Replay your item to ensure that the camera angle is appropriate and all students can be seen;
- It is recommended that schools use a tripod, particularly if panning to ensure a steady image; and

See below “How To” instructions for Vimeo and You Tube.

DVD's/Footage

Schools will be sent a digital file of each item to the supervising teachers email address. It is up to each school as to how they distribute this to families. Options may include: passed on free of charge or sold to families to redeem participation costs. Schools are to manage this individually.

T-Shirts and Hoodies

T-Shirts and Hoodies will be made available for purchase this year. They will be made available for purchase online through the suppliers website and at performances.

Contacts

For further enquiries please contact the Dance Festival Committee

claire.porter@det.nsw.edu.au

0433 185 527

How to upload footage to YouTube

- 1) Go to www.youtube.com
- 2) Click 'Sign In' or 'Create an Account' if you don't already have one
- 3) Click on Camera Icon
- 4) Choose Upload Video
- 5) Follow the instructions on screen to upload your video. Make sure you select '**Unlisted**'.
- 6) When this is finished, you will be given a URL for your video. Copy this URL into the online application form.
- 7) We will contact you if we don't receive your YouTube link or are unable to view it. Due to the volume of applications, we are unable to confirm receipt of every video link.



How to upload footage to VIMEO

Viewing of items prior to the festival is essential to ensure:

The items suitability

Adherence to the guidelines

For the purpose of programming

The festival audition panel is made up of a selection of Primary and Secondary teachers selected by the Festival Director.



How to upload footage to Vimeo

1. Go to www.vimeo.com
2. “Login”or“Join”and create an account if you don’t already have one:
3. Select“Upload”
4. Follow the instructions on screen to upload your video
5. Set your privacy settings to “Only people with a password can see this video” and set password as **MNCDFestival24**
6. Please do not use a different password as we will not be able to view the footage.
7. We will contact you if there are any issues with your Vimeolink.
8. When this is finished you will be given a URL for your video.Insert this in to your school’s entry form.

