

## St Francis Xavier Primary School Performing Arts Policy

### Rationale

The Performing Arts program at St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School has been developed to give students an opportunity to learn skills required in the various areas of The Arts. These skills become the foundation upon which they create, refine and evaluate their performances in the areas of music, dance, drama and media arts. The program follows a two-year cycle. Year A teaches Music and includes a knowledge rich teaching and learning program of beat, melody, music theory, style, music history, rhythm and learning to play classroom instruments proficiently. Year B encompasses Drama and Dance. The culmination of this skill development is displayed through a whole school production at the end of Year B. This provides all students an opportunity to experience the spectacle of performing on a full-sized stage in front of an audience other than their peers, three times during their primary school journey.

### Purpose:

The Performing Arts Programme is aimed at developing skills competence based on the Victorian Curriculum. In addition to this, we want the children to:

- Develop their singing voices from Prep to Year 6 through differentiated warm ups and songs;
- Grow into confident musicians and inspire them to take up independent learning of an instrument outside school;
- Develop strong communication skills as they work cooperatively with other children to develop performances;
- Become accustomed to giving and receiving feedback that is either complimentary or helpful;
- Develop resilience through group compromises and constructive feedback;
- Use the Performing Arts equipment safely and respectfully;
- Feel confident performing for their peers and participating in all the performance opportunities offered;
- Enjoy participating in the processes of creating, presenting and responding to The Arts;
- Develop their natural gifts of musicianship, imagination and creativity;
- Be encouraged to generate ideas which they will then refine and present and share in a variety of ways;
- Feel supported enough to take risks with their learning and in front of others.

### Implementation:

At St Francis Xavier Primary School:

- Each class will receive a 40-minute Performing Arts class each week.
- A specialist Performing Arts teacher will be employed by the school.
- Following the 'Vision for Instruction' model, each lesson will build on previous skills taught in Year A or B with coherent and deliberate planning of knowledge taught and sequencing of tasks.
- Over the two-year cycle, the children will experience the joys of dance, drama, music, media and a school production. The school musical will be directed by the Performing Arts teacher and will be supported by a choreography.
- Using the explicit instruction model, lessons will begin with teacher-guided instruction. Through careful modelling and guided practice throughout the term, the students will be encouraged to work independently in small or larger groups.
- The Music year will build their melodic percussion and classroom instrument skills as the students' progress through primary school. A termly 'Live Lunch' informal concert will occur to encourage students to perform on instruments they are learning outside school.
- An extra-curricular Choir club, supported by the Year 6 Performing Arts leaders, will occur weekly.
- There will be a strong emphasis on developing performance skills and numerous opportunities will be offered. These will include termly choir club performances, performing on an instrument they are learning in assembly, performing at the Year A termly 'Live Lunch' concert series, singing hymns with their peers at Mass and Liturgies and singing on stage with their class at the annual Christmas Carols.
- Students will be exposed to a range of musicians, dances and stories from a variety of social and cultural contexts including styles from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- The Media Arts will be incorporated across the two years, when needed, using applications, such as 'Garage Band' and 'iMovie.'
- Teacher notes and video recordings are used for assessment.
- Reports are written every semester.
- Each term, student work is shared with their family through Seesaw.
- The Performing Arts teacher is responsible for creating a Performing Arts budget and purchasing equipment for the program.

### Evaluation:

This policy will be revisited every odd year (e.g. 2025, 2027), reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or as changes are made to the Victorian curriculum.