



PERFORMING ARTS HANDBOOK

2023



SOPHIA
COLLEGE
Wisdom and Love

A Catholic **Co-educational Secondary College** - Year 7 to Year 9

***Architects and painters, sculptors and musicians, filmmakers and writers,
photographers and poets, artists of every discipline, are called to shine
beauty especially where darkness or grey dominates everyday life,"***

(Pope Francis, 2016).

Welcome

Welcome to the Sophia College Performing Arts Program. We are excited to have you join us as part of the program in 2023. Students and parents need to read this handbook carefully as it contains important information regarding the program. If you have any further questions regarding information in this handbook, please don't hesitate to contact Renee Hamilton at the College on (07) 5411 3400 or email rhamilton@bne.catholic.edu.au.

Renee Hamilton
Program Coordinator

Narelle Dobson
Principal

Program Mission and Values

The Performing Arts Program at Sophia College aims to provide students with the opportunity to:

- Expand upon lessons learned in curriculum classes by developing skills unique to each discipline
- Engage with a range of traditional and innovative experiences that foster a passion for creativity through self-expression
- Develop life skills such as teamwork, time management, problem solving and leadership
- Build connections with students from other year levels who share a similar interest
- Contribute to the College culture by adopting a commitment to service and community.

2023 Program Offerings

Sophia College offers a range of extra-curricular opportunities under the banner of Performing Arts. Please find below a description of each group, entry requirements and rehearsal times. A description of each group can be found on the following page.

Group	Rehearsal Time	Other Requirements
Music Ministry Team	Monday - 11:00AM-11:30AM	Invited students only. Rehearsals when required.
Sophia Singers	Tuesday - 7:30AM – 8:30AM	All students welcome
Drama Crew	Tuesday - 3:15PM-4:15PM	All students welcome
Theatre Association	Wednesday 3:15PM – 4:15PM	Audition required
Concert Band*	Thursday 7:30AM – 8:30AM	Instrumental music students only <i>(compulsory for instrumental students)</i>
Dance Troupe	Friday 7:30AM – 8:30AM	All students welcome
Drum Line	Friday 11:00AM – 11:30AM	Instrumental music percussionists.

*Students in these groups will need both the performing arts polo and the band/choir uniform. See below uniform requirements for more details.

Performing Arts Groups

Sophia Singers

Choir is for any student who loves to sing as part of a group. No previous experience or audition is required. This group allows students to develop their vocal skills in a positive environment. The choir performs at a range of events throughout the year, many of which parents and friends are welcome to attend.

Drama Crew

Drama Crew is for students in Year 7 and 8 who enjoy performing and wish to develop their skills in the discipline of drama. All students are welcome to be involved, no matter experience. Through game-based learning and activities, students will build confidence and connect with likeminded peers. Students will have opportunities to showcase their skills with family and friends at key points during the year.

Theatre Association

Senior Drama Club is for students in Year 9 who are looking for a more intensive drama experience to grow their skills outside of the classroom. This group is audition based and has limited places. Students will work on larger more complex projects and engage more frequently with industry.

Concert Band

Students enrolled in the instrumental music tuition are required to be part of Concert Band. Playing as part of an ensemble is essential for musical growth and development. Families will be notified when their student is able to start attending these rehearsals as some foundation skills are required before commencement. Concert Band engage in several performance opportunities throughout the year to showcase their skills.

Dance Troupe

Sophia Dance Troupe is a fun and relaxed place for students to engage in dance as a performance style. This group is suitable for any student who has an interested in dance, not just those with dance experience. The group will compete at eisteddfods to gain performance experience and showcase their skills for parents and friends at key points in the year.

Drum Line

Drum line is compulsory for students in the instrumental music program who are percussionists. As the Concert Band only requires limited percussionists, students will be invited to attend concert band when they have developed more skills. Students who learn other instruments through the program are also welcomed to join the drum line group. This group has a strong focus on service and will be used at several key college events during the year. There is no additional cost for being part of the Drum Line.

Music Ministry Team

The Music Ministry Team is a group for students who are committed to contributing to the spiritual life of the College through music and service. This group will be used for significant college events such as opening and closing masses and other liturgical celebrations. This group includes some instrumental music and some choir students. Students will be invited to be a part of this group as more advanced music skill is required. If students are interested in being involved, they can express interest to the activity coordinator. There is no additional cost for being involved in this group. Rehearsals and meeting occur only when required.

Cost

The cost of participation in the program varies for the number of activities the student wishes to engage in across the year. A once off annual fee covers the cost of purchasing new music, resources, printing, administration, and some performance expenses such as competition entry fees. Fees are non-refundable should a student withdraw from the program during the year. All fees go directly back into resourcing and sustaining the program. In 2023, the cost per group is \$50/year. Once sign up is complete, program fees will be added to the school fees.

NOTE: Students participating in drum line and music ministry are not included as additional groups as the emphasis is on serving and giving back to the College community.

Uniform Requirements

All students in the program are required to purchase a Performing Arts polo shirt. This shirt is to be worn with the bottoms outlined on the permission slip pending the performance requirements. Generally, this will include the black pants detailed below but may on occasion include black tights or casual attire.

Concert Band and Choir students also require an additional uniform for formal performance occasions. The uniform includes:

- Performing Arts Formal Black Shirt (specific design available from the uniform shop)
- Full length black trousers/slacks (can be purchased from external retail outlets). Pants must be completely black with no branding or logo visible. Black jeans, tracksuit pants or chinos are not acceptable. Links for suitable styles are included here for your reference:
 - o [Business Pants - Kmart](#)
 - o [Preview Classic Straight Leg Pants | Target Australia](#)
- Black leather closed in shoes (same as college uniform) and black socks
- College music scarf/tie (provided by college and distributed by staff prior to event).

All other college expectations regarding uniform, including hair, jewellery and make-up also apply to the Performing Arts uniform. Individuality of dress is not appropriate for performances.

2023 Price List

Item Description	Price
Formal Choir/Band Shirt (Male and Female style)	\$48
Performing Arts Polo (Unisex)	\$45

Other Expenses

During the year, students in Drama Club and/or Dance Troupe may require props or costumes for performances. These will be kept to a minimal expense and significant notice will be provided to source these items. Generally, students will be able to use items they have at home.

Excursion and performances are an important part of developing a student’s engagement with and Performing Arts. As such, some groups throughout the year will go on excursions that may involve an additional cost. A rough indication of these expenses as relevant to each group is outlined below.

Performances

There are several performance opportunities and events during the year that allow students to showcase what they have learnt in the program. **Performances are a compulsory part of engagement in the program.** Work or other regular commitments are not an acceptable reason to miss performances.

Details of all performances will be outlined by a permission form via parent slips. It is important that permission forms are returned by the due date. If a student is unable to attend a performance the Program Coordinator is to be notified in writing via email **prior to the due date of the form.** It will otherwise be presumed that they are available to attend. Students are expected to be present for the full length of the performance unless approval has been sought from the program coordinator prior to the event. Many performances during the year require a minimum number of participants for the group to qualify for the performance. Having a few group members missing from performances can have significant impact on others in the program.

To provide families with an indication of events during the year, please see below key performances. These provide an indication only and are subject to change. Specific dates will be provided to families at the start of each term. Students will also perform internally at a variety of school events throughout the year including mass and liturgies.

<u>Event</u>		<u>Ensemble</u>
Term 1		
Week 5	Kick Start Camp	Music Ministry + Choir
Term 2		
Week 2	Music Fundraiser	Any families/students in program + invited guests
Week 5	Ipswich Junior Eisteddfod	Choir
Week 7	Multicultural Mass	Choir
Week 9	Ipswich Dance Eisteddfod	Dance Troupe
Week 10	Five Minutes of Fame	Drama Crew
Term 3		
Week 6	Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival	Choir
Week 8	The Scene Project - Toowoomba	Theatre Association
Week 9	Lockyer District Dance Eisteddfod	Dance Troupe
Term 4		
TBC	Combined Performing Arts End of Year Project/Twilight Markets	All Performing Arts Groups

Student Expectations

Missed Rehearsals and Lessons

As performing in an ensemble is a group activity it is important that all students are present for all rehearsals. If a student is unable to attend a rehearsal for any reason, the student must provide a written email explaining their absence **prior** to the rehearsal or lesson. Students are expected to copy their parents into the email. Students are to contact the coordinator, teacher, or tutor directly. These details are below.

Group	Teacher	Contact Details
Music Ministry	Miss Danika Saal	dsall@bne.catholic.edu.au
Sophia Singers	Miss Danika Saal	dsall@bne.catholic.edu.au
Drama Crew (Year 7-8)	Miss Renee Hamilton	rhamilton@bne.catholic.edu.au
Theatre Association (Year 9-12)	Miss Renee Hamilton	rhamilton@bne.catholic.edu.au
Concert Band	Miss Renee Hamilton	rhamilton@bne.catholic.edu.au
Dance Troupe	Miss Bronte Nash	bnash@bne.catholic.edu.au
Drum Line	Miss Renee Hamilton	rhamilton@bne.catholic.edu.au
Music Tutor	Mr Connor Sharpe	Connor.B.Sharpe@outlook.com

Engagement in other College Programs

Sophia College supports and encourages students to be engaged in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. This may mean that during some seasons, students may have both a rehearsal, meeting and/or training session scheduled at the same time. If this occurs, the student is to contact both Program Coordinators to meet and discuss how they are to meet the requirements of both activities. An arrangement can be agreed upon that allows the students to meet both their commitments. This arrangement can only occur in the following circumstances:

- Both programs require students to be external representatives of the school
- The agreement is finalised as a contact between both Program Coordinators, the student, and a parent/guardian
- Does not apply to students who have commitments with clubs/groups outside of the school
- Does not apply to other regular student commitments such as work
- The student is maintaining all behaviour and academic obligations as per program policies
- Does not apply to more to two commitments at the same time.

Please note that pending the activity and commitments involved, an agreement such as this may not always be suitable.

Commitment

Unexpected departure from the program can upset planning and budgeting of the program. Parents are advised to seek advice from the Program Coordinator if your student's enthusiasm is decreasing, as there are often ways it can be restored. If after discussion you still wish to withdraw your student, you must give the program coordinator notice in writing of your intention to withdraw. Any withdrawal from the program is to be made at a mutually agreed time that does not impact negatively on other members. Program Fees will not be refunded should the withdrawal be made mid-term.

Practice

Students involved in the program are expected to practice their parts regularly at home. This ensures that rehearsals can focus on putting the parts together, rather than learning individual parts. It is also highly recommended that students practice in small sessions throughout the week, rather than in a large block one or two days a week. We encourage families to set a routine like the student's home learning routine. Parental support with home practice is very positive and encouraging for children. Please contact the Program Coordinator for ideas on how to motivate home practice.

Academic Obligations

Students involved across the Performing Arts Program will occasionally miss classes to attend rehearsals or performances. It is the responsibility, however, of all students involved in the program to seek materials missed and complete work from their regular classes. If a student becomes academically at risk or is not meeting home learning expectations, meetings with the parent, Program Coordinator, student, and Middle Leader - Learning and Engagement will be arranged to discuss the student's future in the program.

Behaviour

Involvement in the Performing Arts Program at Sophia College involves weekly rehearsals as well as occasional additional commitments. Actions of any individual can help or hinder entire rehearsals. Students are expected to follow all college behaviour expectations during rehearsals and performing arts events. This also includes upholding college expectations around behaviour during class, around the College and online. Repeat offenders or inappropriate behaviour may be removed from the rehearsal and/or the program at the discretion of the program coordinator, Middle Leader – Pastoral or College Leadership Team.

Instrumental Music Tuition

Instrumental music tuition provides students with access to more specialised lessons than provided in classroom music through either small group or individual lessons. It is strongly encouraged that students who elect to study classroom music consider engaging in the instrumental music tuition. Currently, the program offers the following instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Percussion

All students who express interest in the program will be given an opportunity to learn an instrument provided they uphold the values of the program. Once a student starts learning an instrument, changing to a different instrument is generally not encouraged. It is important for students and families to understand that learning an instrument can be a slow process and that due to the individual skills required, changing instruments can often hinder enjoyment and engagement as it slows down the learning process.

While the program aims to provide students with their first preference of instrument, a number of factors are taken into consideration when offering students place in the program. These factors include but are not limited to:

- Past or current experience on an instrument through previous school or private lessons
- The instruments required to create a balanced band/ensemble
- A student's stature, coordination and specific learning needs can also impact on their ability to be successful on certain instruments

Timetables and Lesson Times

Lessons are organised on a term basis, with the provision of a minimum of thirty lessons per year. Individual music tutors are available on certain days and times, with a different specialist for woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Lessons times and timetables functions on a rotating timetable so that students do not miss the same curriculum lesson each week. Timetables are issued to each student at the beginning of the term.

Timetables will be posted on the Sophia College student and parent portal and on the Greccio Notice Board. It is the responsibility of the student to check their lesson times for the following week and write their lesson time into their diary. This record is also used by classroom teachers to verify that a lesson is scheduled. Although every attempt is made to keep lesson times on the same day from week to week, lesson times often change due to excursions, camps, public holidays, and other college activities.

Lesson times will be on a rotational structure so that the same curriculum lessons are not continually missed. Lesson timetables are negotiated early in the first semester each year. If students have a clash with their lesson time, they are encouraged to negotiate a more suitable time with their instructor as early as possible.

Missed Lessons

It is expected that Instrumental Tutors would be advised of a pending absence due to absenteeism. In the case of illness, the tutor must be contacted either by phone or email. Lessons missed by students, without prior notice, or adequate excuse will forfeit the cost of the missed lesson and the lesson will not be rescheduled. Where a student misses a lesson because of a college event (e.g., an excursion or an exam), the music department will reschedule the lesson if prior notice is given.

Cost

Tutors invoice students and their families directly at the beginning of each term. These are payable to the tutor and the College do not accept any payments for lessons. The fees are determined in accordance with the Music Teachers Association of Queensland Guidelines and are reviewed annually.

Lesson Type	Per Lesson (30 mins)
Individual	\$30
Group	\$15

Instrument Hire

Sophia College does not have instruments available for hire. Students have the option of purchasing an instrument or hiring an instrument through Polygon Rental. Information regarding instrument hire can be found on the last page of this handbook. If students hire an instrument through our preferred company, all instruments will be shipped to the College ready for the start of the music year.

Storage

All instruments, when not in use, should be stored in the storeroom or tutor room within the Music Department and must be clearly labelled. Instruments should never be stored in the lockers. The College will not be held liable for lost or stolen instruments. The Music Department is open from 8:15am – 3:15pm to allow students to drop off and pick up instruments.

Termination of Lessons

On commencing lessons, students are required to complete one term's study. Should parents decide to withdraw their student before the end of term, it is necessary that such notice will be communicated to the program coordinator in writing. Where notification of withdrawal has not been received by the end of a term, payment is required in full for the following term, even if the student does not wish to take the lessons. This allows the College to meet its contractual obligations with part-time instrumental staff.

Family Engagement

Performing Arts Support Group

Parent and family support are an important part of the program, particularly in keeping students actively engaged. Research indicates that parent support significantly increases the likelihood a student will maintain a commitment long-term.

The Performing Arts Support Group serve a vital role in several key events throughout the year. This ranges from volunteering for fundraising and performing arts events through to distributing advertisements for performances in the local community or baking goods to sell or serve at events.

If you are interested in being part of these events, or helping support activities throughout the year, please indicate this on your student's enrolment. Communication for this group is generally via email and doesn't require large commitments or meeting times outside of the events themselves.

Expectations of audience members

Throughout the year, family and friends will be welcome to attend events as students share their work from the program in both informal and formal settings. At these times, any audience member is bound by the following agreements. Failure to meet these expectations may result in being asked to leave events or prevented from attending future events.

- Cooperate with the College to achieve best outcomes for students
- Support teachers, performers, adjudicators, and event volunteers in create and safe and respectful environment for all students
- Encourage participation of all students
- Be courteous and constructive in communication with all members of the performing arts community including speaking positively about any student performances
- Make new parents and students feel welcome on all occasions
- Do not interfere with the conduct of any events

Payment Process

Program fees are invoiced to families along with College Fees. These are generally processed and updated by Week 3 or Term 1. Annual fees are non-refundable. Students will be unable to attend rehearsals and participate in the program until fees have been paid. If you have any questions in relation to your fees/account or are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the Business Manager, Denise McGeary via email: dmcgeary@bne.catholic.edu.au

How to Enrol

By enrolling in the program, it is assumed that both parents and students agreed to the terms outlined in this handbook. Parents are expected to attend an information session regarding the program in early Term 1. Additionally, students will attend a session where they will be provided with the contract below.

To join the Performing Arts Program, please use the following link:
<https://forms.office.com/r/mpEmcwATj9>

Performing Arts Student Contract

Overview

The Sophia College Performing Arts Code of Conduct is a commitment by the student to exercise good judgment, to represent self, school, family, and community in the most positive manner at all times, and to encourage others to share these ideals.

Participation in Performing Arts groups at the College is a privilege, not a right. Dedication, desire, teamwork, effort, commitment, and good citizenship are essential personal characteristics across all the Performing Arts disciplines. In participating in the Sophia College Performing Arts Program, each student should develop a sense of pride in themselves, the school, and the community.

Expectations of Students

By signing the Performing Arts Contract, students are to adhere to the expectations outlined in the 'Sophia College Performing Arts Handbook' and understand that breach of these guidelines may result in the student's participation being monitored, suspended, or revoked. Additionally, these guidelines are in addition to the 'Sophia College Student Behaviour Plan' that students adhere to. In summary, these guidelines include:

- Student's commitment to the program
- Notification of absence/participation/injury
- Academic Obligations of a Sophia College Student
- Management of engagement in multiple College Co-Curricular Programs
- Exceed all behaviour expectations of a Sophia College Student
- Show leadership, respect, and pride to be a representative of Sophia College

Where unique behavioural events occur that are not explicitly stated in these documents, students may still receive appropriate consequences in line with any interpretation of the Sophia College Student Behaviour Plan.

I _____, have read and understood the listed documents above and agree to meet all expectations. I understand that once completed, this contract must be returned prior to the commencement of rehearsals.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Instrument Purchase and Hire Guide

Please find below price guides and information regarding purchasing or hiring an instrument. There are many suppliers and companies that either sell instruments or provide hiring options. Price lists are an indication and may not reflect current market value. Please contact the companies directly if you require more information. Instruments are required for the students first lesson and therefore it is recommended families do not delay making these arrangements.

Brass Music Specialists | 90 Appel Street, Graceville QLD 4075 | Ph: (07) 3278 1311



Student Price List

brassmusic.com.au



Ask about our 3 Part Payment Plan!

Last updated 07/07/2020

Product	Model	RRP	Student Price	Rent Per Month
Flute	Pearl P500 Flute	\$939.00	\$729.00	\$36.00
	Yamaha YFL222 Flute	\$929.99	\$749.00	\$37.00
	Pearl P505 Flute w/ Split E Mechanism	\$1,199.00	\$829.00	\$41.00
	Yamaha YFL212 Flute w/ Split E Mechanism	\$1,029.00	\$849.00	\$42.00
Oboe	Schagerl 800 Oboe	\$2,899.00	\$2,499.00	\$124.00
	Yamaha YOB241 Oboe	\$3,099.00	\$2,699.00	\$134.00
	Buffet Prodigie Oboe	\$3,599.00	\$2,999.00	\$149.00
Bassoon	Schagerl 815 Bassoon	\$6,295.00	\$5,999.00	\$299.00
	Fox 41 Bassoon	\$11,999.00	\$10,999.00	\$549.00
Clarinet	Leblanc LE650 Clarinet	\$799.00	\$649.00	N/A
	Yamaha YCL255 Clarinet	\$949.99	\$799.00	\$39.00
	Buffet Prodigie Clarinet	\$1,199.00	\$899.00	\$44.00
Bass Clarinet	Yamaha YCL221 Bass Clarinet	\$4,699.00	\$3,899.00	\$194.00
Alto Sax	Buffet 100 Series Alto Saxophone w/ High F#	\$1,499.00	\$1,199.00	\$59.00
	Yamaha YAS26 Alto Saxophone	\$1,799.00	\$1,499.00	\$74.00
	Selmer AS400 Alto Saxophone w/ High F#	\$1,999.00	\$1,499.00	\$74.00
	Yamaha YAS280 Alto Saxophone w/ High F#	\$2,249.00	\$1,899.00	\$94.00
Tenor Sax	Selmer TS400 Tenor Saxophone w/ High F#	\$2,599.00	\$1,899.00	\$94.00
	Yamaha YTS26 Tenor Saxophone	\$2,399.00	\$1,999.00	\$99.00
	Yamaha YTS280 Tenor Saxophone w/ High F#	\$2,749.00	\$2,299.00	\$114.00
French Horn	Yamaha YHR314 Single F French Horn	\$3,799.00	\$3,199.00	\$159.00
	Yamaha YHR567 Double French Horn	\$5,699.00	\$4,799.00	\$239.00
Trumpet	Bach TR600 Aristocrat Trumpet (Lacquer)	\$1,099.00	\$799.00	\$39.00
	Yamaha 2330(S) Trumpet (Lacquer or Silver)	\$949.99	\$799.00	\$39.00
Trombone	Bach TB600 Aristocrat Trombone	\$1,399.00	\$1,049.00	\$52.00
	Yamaha YSL154(S) Trombone (Lacquer or Silver)	\$1,349.00	\$1,099.00	\$54.00
	Bach TB301 Trombone	\$1,699.00	\$1,299.00	\$64.00
Baritone	Schagerl BH800S Baritone Horn (Silver Plated)	\$2,159.00	\$1,999.00	\$99.00
	Yamaha YBH301S Baritone Horn (Silver Plated)	\$3,199.00	\$2,799.00	\$139.00
Euphonium	Schagerl EP800S Euphonium (Silver Plated)	\$2,699.00	\$2,499.00	\$124.00
	Yamaha 201S Euphonium (Silver Plated)	\$3,399.00	\$2,899.00	\$144.00
Tuba	Schagerl EB800S Eb Tuba (Silver Plated)	\$5,559.00	\$4,799.00	\$239.00
	Schagerl BB800S Bb Tuba (Silver Plated)	\$5,669.00	\$4,899.00	\$244.00
	Yamaha YBB105S Bb Tuba (Silver Plated)	\$5,799.00	\$4,999.00	\$249.00



Polygon **Rental Advantage**

Renting musical instruments with The Polygon Group provides your family with the flexibility you need.

We understand how expensive purchasing musical equipment outright can be. Beginners may be concerned whether the instrument is right for them. Parents may worry "will they continue to play?" and either not go ahead with their child learning or purchasing a below standard instrument instead.

With The Polygon Group you can rent high quality instruments for low monthly payments. You can return after the minimum rental period, apply to buy at any time (even after one day), or continue renting until you make a decision. For peace of mind, there is also an optional protection plan available too.



For almost 40 years our rental program has helped more than 200,000 Australians experience the joy of music.

To arrange your rental, simply scan the QR code below. This will take you to a simple contact form to complete, and we will be in touch to help with any questions you may have.



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