

Dance Eisteddfod 2026

What is an eisteddfod?

Dance eisteddfods are competitions where groups from all different dance schools compete. There are all different age groups and within each age group genres such as Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Song & Dance and Novelty. They are a heap of fun and the focus of all our performance stream classes in term one. A child recently told me dance eisteddfods are their favourite time of year. Even better than Christmas and Birthdays!

Is it very competitive?

It is not like dance mums! Being in our eisteddfod dances is heaps of fun, very encouraging and inclusive. All work is in a GROUP and we encourage teamwork and enjoyment. We do expect students to work hard and commit to the team as we want to produce work we can all be proud of. However, winning is not the focus. (Though we do achieve very well) We see eisteddfods as a wonderful learning ground for students.

Does it matter if we miss a rehearsal or two?

YES! We have only very limited rehearsals for eisteddfods (most schools rehearse all year round and don't do the drama plays, musicals or pantomimes we also fit in) We have made a big effort to schedule eisteddfod classes on a day you are already at the studio so you don't have to come an extra day. However, to be able to do successful items in this limited time 100% PUNCTUAL attendance at all rehearsals is absolutely compulsory. **WE ACHIEVE A HUGE AMOUNT IN EACH REHEARSAL AND MISSING ONE MAY MEAN MISSING OUT ON BEING IN ALL OR PART OF AN ITEM. IF THERE IS A DAY YOU CANNOT AVOID MISSING PLEASE LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE AND WE WILL TRY TO FOCUS ON AN ITEM YOU ARE NOT FEATURED IN. TEXT MESSAGE ANY ATTENDANCE ISSUES TO TESS ON 0408182223.**

Do we have to be available for all three performances.

YES! It can take hours and hours to respace items without ONE performer. You do need to be free for all THREE performances or you will not be able to take part at all as it is too detrimental to the whole group to have to learn all different versions of the items.

Why do you compete in so many different sections?

Some studios specialise in one or two genres and may only enter a couple of sections in each age group. We aim to produce excellent all round performers so we feel it is important to enter many different genres to give students skills in all different areas. Its also more fun for them and gives more students their chance to shine!

When will I know what day and time we are on at the eisteddfods?

Programs for eisteddfods are given to me 2-4 weeks before the eisteddfod begins. This means I can't tell you exactly when items will be until a couple of weeks before as I honestly don't know myself. The minute I know I will let you know. The eisteddfod organisers do the timetabling so I have no control over it. No-one will be needed all days- in fact if you are only in one age group you will probably only be needed one day. However, we won't know which day now so you need to be available for any of the days.

Do we need to buy lots of new costumes?

Each item has a different costume however we don't get many new costumes at eisteddfod time as we get our new costumes at concert time. (Except sometimes new overlays for ballet items or an occasional new item) You may need to buy some secondhand costumes from older students moving out of items but rarely expensive brand new costumes.

What age groups do I compete in?

All eisteddfod age groups are taken from the students age as of 1 January. This means students are often competing 10&under for instance long after they have turned 11! Students generally compete their own age group and the one above for a few items as well. Own age group must be prioritised. eg A 7 year old competes 8&under as a priority and may also be in a few 10&unders, a 10 year old competes 10&under AND some 12&under items. A 14 year old competes 15&under AND some Open items.

REHEARSAL COMMITMENT

Studio Rehearsals (These all fit on your regular days so you don't have to attend extra days)

IT IS ESSENTIAL WE HAVE FULL ATTENDANCE AT THESE REHEARSALS. WE ACHIEVE A HUGE AMOUNT IN EACH REHEARSAL AND MISSING ONE REHEARSAL MAY MEAN **MISSING OUT ON BEING IN ALL OR PART OF AN ITEM**. IF THERE IS A DAY YOU CANNOT AVOID MISSING PLEASE LET US KNOW AND WE WILL TRY TO FOCUS ON AN ITEM YOU ARE NOT FEATURED IN THAT DAY.

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8 & under - 15 x Saturday studio rehearsals 12-12.45pm

31 January, 7,14,21,28 February, 7,14,21,28 March, 25 April, 2,9,16, 30 May, 6 June.

10 & under - 15 x Saturday studio rehearsals 10.30-12noon

31 January, 7,14,21,28 February, 7,14,21,28 March, 25 April, 2,9,16, 30 May, 6 June.

12 & under - 15 x Saturday studio rehearsals 9.00-10.30am

31 January, 7,14,21,28 February, 7,14,21,28 March, 25 April, 2,9,16, 30 May, 6 June

15 & under - 18 x Tuesday rehearsals 4.45-6.15pm

3, 10,17, 24 February, 3,10,17,24, 31March, 21, 28 April, 5, 12, 19, 26 May, 2,9,16 June.

OPEN - 18 x Thursday Rehearsals 7.15-8.45pm

29 January, 5, 12, 19, 26 February, 5, 12, 19, 26 March, 23, 30 April, 7, 14, 21, 28 May, 4,11,18 June

PERFORMANCE COMMITMENT - You need to be free for ALL Performances.

1. EISTEDDFOD CONCERT at Ipswich Civic Sunday 17 May

12.00-4.30 blocking rehearsal

5.00-8.00 Concert in makeup and costumes

1st Competition Evolution ALL AGE GROUPS- 22-24 May

8s and possibly 10s may be in school time.

2nd Competition Ipswich ALL AGE GROUPS - 11-21 June

8s and possibly 10s may be in school time. The older groups will all be over the weekends.

COST

\$595 one dancer

\$695 family of 2 or more dancers

Includes

*All extra tuition from February till June - this is a once off cost - not per term! Many students compete two age groups so this can mean up to 50hrs of inclusive rehearsals.

*All Extra rehearsals

*Onstage rehearsals in the lovely professional venue - Ipswich Civic Centre

*Music copyright

*Teachers time at eisteddfods

*Eisteddfod competition entry fees for all items for both competitions.

*Eisteddfod Competitor passes for both competitions.

*Performers entry into eisteddfod venues.

*Concert in the Ipswich Civic Centre.

***UNLIMITED entry for family and friends to attend the eisteddfod concert.**

***UNLIMITED entry for family and friends to attend Evolution Competition**

*10% GST on top

***Please note fees are significantly more this year as Evolution is run differently to other Eisteddfods. The entry fees and competitor fees are roughly triple as much as other competitions so entries are significantly more expensive. However, once this is paid there are NO entry fees for audience members. So while it is more expensive upfront you may bring as many people to watch Evolution as you like for no additional cost.*

HOW TO JOIN THE FUN?

All you need to do is turn up at your first rehearsal! Times below. We will make cast lists on these days and organise invoices from there.

Saturday 31 January 12-12.45 - 8&under (Born 2017 and later)

Saturday 31 January 10.30am-12noon - 10&under (Born 2015-2019)

Saturday 31 January-9.00-10.30am - 12&under (Born 2013-2016)

Tuesday 3 February - 4.45-6.15 - 15&under (Born 2010-2014)

Thursday 29 January - 7.15-8.45pm - Open (Born 2012 and earlier)

Remember it is compulsory to do your own age group first. If you wish to dance the older age group as well you are most welcome but this is not compulsory.