

igsa

Dance Festival

Guidelines

2026

Risk Warning

(Under Section 5M of Civil Liability Act 2002)

On Behalf of IGSA and participating IGSA Member Schools listed below:

Abbotsleigh	MLC School	Santa Sabina College
Ascham School	Monte Sant' Angelo	SCEGGS Darlinghurst
Brigidine College	Mount St Benedict	Stella Maris College
Canberra Girls Grammar	NEGS	St Catherine's School
Danebank School	OLMC Parramatta	St Scholastica's College
Frensham	PLC Armidale	St Patrick's College
Kambala	PLC Sydney	St Vincent's College
Kincoppal-Rose Bay	Pymble Ladies' College	Tangara School
Loreto Kirribilli	Queenwood	Tara
Loreto Normanhurst	Ravenswood	Wenona
Meriden School	Roseville College	

Dance Festival 2026

The Association of Heads of Independent Girls' Schools NSW, trading as **IGSA** (Independent Girls' Schools Association) organises many inter-school activities with our members' schools such as the Dance Festival during the course of the year.

IGSA administers and convenes inter-school activities such as the IGSA Dance Festival in which many students, parents, teachers, volunteers and spectators participate. Students participating in these activities take part in workshops and in performances.

IGSA and its members' schools expect students to take responsibility for their own safety by wearing compulsory safety equipment, by thinking carefully about the use of safety equipment that is highly recommended and by behaving in a safe and responsible manner towards students from their own and other schools, spectators, officials, property and grounds.

IGSA expects parents, spectators and other participants to behave in a safe and responsible manner, to comply with any Codes of Conduct and to set a good example for the girls.

While IGSA take measures to make the Dance Festival as safe as reasonably possible for participants, there is a risk that students can be injured and suffer loss (including financial loss) and damage as a result of their participation in these activities, whether at the workshops or in performances.

Such injury can occur while the student is engaging in or watching, travelling to and from, or volunteering at the Dance festival. The injury may result from a student's actions, the actions of others, the state of the premises or equipment failure (e.g. a collapsed stage during a performance).

On some occasions, an injury can be serious (such as torn ligaments, dislocations, back injuries, concussion or broken bones). In very rare cases an injury can be life threatening or result in permanent disability.

Students could also suffer loss as a result of their personal property being lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed.

The venue and providers for the Dance Festival are not responsible for any loss, injury or damages incurred during the Festival.

It is the responsibility of IGSA members' schools to ensure that all staff and volunteers undertaking duties at any IGSA event have the required "Working with Children" clearance.

Preamble

There was consensus amongst the Heads of our schools that we should hold a Dance Festival that should bring students together whereby the focus should be on collaborative dance and learning, rather than competition. The Festival would extend IGSA's offering in the performing arts, create new performance opportunities and provide a welcome pathway for our high-performing dancers to work with outstanding professionals at a level difficult to achieve in any one school.

Format overview

IGSA will oversee the management and administration of the event. Sydney Dance Company will collaborate with IGSA to deliver a two-day workshop (Wednesday 16 April and Thursday 17 April 2026) culminating in two performances on Sunday 19 April at Sydney Dance Company's Neilson Studio Theatre Space, Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, Dawes Point, Sydney

The performances will primarily feature the combined-schools genre-specific routine; this might allow 2 - 4 students representing each school to participate. It is envisaged that these would be dancers of strong experience and ability given the high standard required for the program.

A Director of Sydney Dance Company will be appointed to lead the program; including workshops and rehearsals and will work with IGSA Dance Directors from participating schools. We envisage that the programme may also provide further professional development opportunities for IGSA school Dance Directors.

IGSA will set the direction and parameters for the event, including the allocation of responsibilities amongst schools and their staff.

Programme

Over two-days of workshops, Sydney Dance Company will provide **an intensive training program** where each group of students participate in eight 90-minute dance classes (morning and afternoon) incorporating a variety of dance genres and styles including: Contemporary Dance, Lyrical, Theatre Jazz, JFH (Jazz, Funk and Hip Hop).

In each dance class, students will be guided through a technique warm up and learn a genre-specific routine culminating in a performance opportunity. Students will be divided into 2 x groups of up to 30 per group based on similar ages to maximize learning outcomes and individual development.

Performance 1 Sunday 19 April 2026, 2.00 pm -2.30 pm TBC

Performance 2 Sunday 19 April 2026, 3.15 pm – 3.45 pm TBC

Performance 3 Sunday 19 April 2026, 4.15 pm – 4.45 pm TBC

Student nominations

Nominations from each school will be due by 5pm, Monday 16 March 2026. All names are to be entered in to the Google doc.

Each school may nominate up to three students in order of ability and strength. IGSA will not accept nominations directly from students or parents and must come from the Dance Director. Please note that if there are vacancies, further students may be able to attend.

Schools are to determine who they nominate. A suggestion to finalise nominations may be through collaboration with Dance Directors from other schools to assist with selection, if deemed necessary.

IGSA will distribute the final list of students to all participating schools no later than Monday 30 March 2026.

Withdrawals

Please note that if there are any withdrawals in the period 10 days prior to the Dance Festival, the school may still be charged according to their prior participant numbers.

Cost

IGSA will invoice schools a fee of \$400 per student.

Catering

Please note that it will be up to the students to bring their morning tea and lunches, noting that there are very few shops in the area. There is a café onsite at Sydney Dance Company should students wish to purchase their lunch, however this is not open on the day of the performances.

Choreographers.

Sydney Dance Company workshop classes will be delivered by industry professionals. Sydney Dance Company will provide IGSA with biographies and head shots of the programme teachers four weeks prior to the programme.

2-DAY SCHEDULE, PLUS PERFORMANCES

Workshop Dates: Wednesday 16 April 2026 – Thursday 17 April 2026

Performance Date: Sunday 19 April 2026

Key
Group 1
Group 2

2-day Dance Festival, plus performance					
Time	Thursday 16 April 2026		Friday 17 April 2026		Sunday 19 April 2026
9:00	Welcome				Lighting Plot. (no dancers)
	STUDIO 4	STUDIO 5	STUDIO 5	STUDIO 4	
9:30	Lyrical	Contemporary	Lyrical	Contemporary	9:00 - 10:00am
10:00	Group 1	Group 2	Group 1	Group 2	Lyrical & Contemporary Rehearsal
10:30	9:30am-11:00am	9:30am-11:00am	9:30am-11:00am	9:30am-11:00am	Technical Run
11:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	10:00 - 11:30am
11:30	Contemporary	Lyrical	Contemporary	Lyrical	Theatre Jazz & JFH Rehearsal
12:00	Group 1	Group 2	Group 1	Group 2	Technical Run
12:30	11:30am-1:00pm	11:30am-1:00pm	11:30am-1:00pm	11:30am-1:00pm	11:30am - 1:00pm
13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Break
13:30					1:00pm - 2:00pm
14:00	Theatre Jazz	JFH	Theatre Jazz	JFH	Performance #1
14:30	Group 1	Group 2	Group 1	Group 2	2:00pm - 2:30pm
15:00	1:45pm-3:15pm	1:45pm-3:15pm	1:45pm-3:15pm	1:45pm-3:15pm	Break 2.30pm - 3.15pm
15:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Performance #2
16:00	JFH	Theatre Jazz	JFH	Theatre Jazz	3:15pm - 3:45pm
16:30	Group 1	Group 2	Group 1	Group 2	Break 3:45pm - 4:15pm
17:00	3:45pm-5:15pm	3:45pm-5:15pm	3:45pm-5:15pm	3:45pm-5:15pm	Performance #3
17:30					4:15pm - 4:45pm