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திகதி
Date } 18.02.2025

Circular Number: 08 / 2025

All Provincial Education Secretaries,
All Provincial Directors of Education,
All Zonal Education Directors,
All Divisional Directors of Education,
All Principals

All Island Schools' Western Music & Dance Competition 2025

The Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education has provided the conditions, guidelines, and topics for submissions for the annual competition scheduled for 2025. We kindly request that you communicate these details to all relevant teachers and students. Furthermore, please ensure that their entries are duly prepared and submitted by the stipulated guidelines for the competition.

Nalaka Kaluwewe
Secretary

All Island Schools' Western Music & Dance Competition 2025

The Aesthetic Branch of the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education conducts this competition annually to promote the performance of Western Music among students in the country.

1.0 Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 To highlight and nurture student talent in Western music and dance through a national-level platform.
- 1.2 To promote cultural exchange and appreciation through Western performing arts.
- 1.3 To inspire creativity, innovation, and confidence in student performances.
- 1.4 To Foster teamwork and collaboration through group performances.
- 1.5 To recognize and reward excellence with certificates.
- 1.6 To encourage participation from schools across the island to ensure inclusivity.
- 1.7 To instill values of sportsmanship through structured and fair judging.
- 1.8 To promote Western music and dance as integral to school education.
- 1.9 To unite students, educators, and stakeholders to build a thriving artistic community.

2.0 General Rules

- 2.1 This competition is open to all Government, Semi-Government, Private, and International schools in the country.
- 2.2 Participation is mandatory for all schools employing a state-appointed Western Music teacher.
- 2.3 Schools violating the Ministry's rules will face disqualification.
- 2.4 Participating schools will be categorized as follows:

2.4.1 Category A1:

All Government schools where students are trained by a Professional Instructor.

All Semi-Government, Private, and International Schools.

2.4.2 Category A2:

All Government schools (where training is conducted exclusively by the Western Music teacher or another member of the school staff.

- 2.6 For the relevant categories of all items, the Senior and Open groups will compete together in this competition. This means participants from both groups will be evaluated under the same criteria and judged collectively within their respective categories.
- 2.5 Instrumental accompaniment may be played by the school's music teacher or a student. Pre-recorded piano accompaniment may also be used, but in both cases, the teacher is prohibited from conducting.
- 2.7 The maximum time for performances, including stage entry, is 10 minutes. Penalty marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit.
- 2.8 Participants must adhere to the specified dress code (except for dance items):
- Girls: White short/long-sleeved shirt or blouse with a collar and a black skirt (skirt length 1 inch below the knee) or white shirt with black trousers.
 - Boys: White short/long-sleeved shirt with black trousers.
 - Note: Ties, bows, or accessories revealing the school's identity are prohibited.
- 2.9 First-place winners of solo items in the previous competition are not eligible to apply for the same item in this competition.
- 2.10 Students participating in the Provincial round cannot be substituted at the National round.

3.0 Groups

3.1	Junior	Grade 6 to Grade 9
3.2	Senior	Grade 10 to Grade 13
3.3	Open	Combination of all age groups
3.4	Mixed	Girls & Boys (only for Choirs)

Exception: For choral items, Grade 9 students may participate in either Junior or Senior Groups.

4.0 Selection of Items

Item Selection Rules

- 4.1 Schools are encouraged to prioritize group items over solo items to provide participation opportunities for a larger number of students.
- 4.2 Each school is allowed a maximum of five (5) entries, with only one entry permitted per item.

4.3 The selection of items should adhere to the following guidelines:

No. of Items		Solo	Group
01			01
02	either	01	01
	or		02
03	either	-	03
	or	01	02
04	either		04
	or	01	03
	or	02	02
05	either	01	04
	or	02	03
	or		05

Students per Item

4.4.1	All group Items	Minimum - 15 - Maximum - 30
4.4.2	Piano Accordion/ Guitar Ensemble	Minimum - 05 - Maximum - 20
4.4.3	Mixed Instrumental	Minimum - 15 - Maximum - 30
	Chamber Groups	Minimum - 02 - Maximum - 05
4.4.4	Orchestra/Band	Minimum - 20 - Maximum - 40

5.0 Stages of the Contest:

Refer to the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education Website for information on the following:

5.1 The Contest is conducted in two stages:

First Round at Provincial Level - 1st May 2025, onwards

Final Round - National Level - 20th May 2025 onwards

- Date of posting Set music on Website 24th February 2025
- The Provincial Level of the competition will be conducted by the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education in collaboration with the respective Provincial Education Offices.

5.2 There should be at least 25 entries of the total items for the first round of the competition to be conducted at the Provincial Level. In the event of fewer entries, the Provincial Level competition may be conducted by combining two provinces.

5.3 Those obtaining First place at the Provincial level will qualify for participation at the National level and the next two highest-scoring schools from all participants per item will be selected to compete at the National level.

5.4 Award Announcement Statement

The awards for the first, second, and third places will be determined based on the marks achieved by the participating schools.

- **First Place:** Awarded to the school with the highest overall score.
- **Second Place:** Awarded to the school with the second-highest overall score.
- **Third Place:** Awarded to the school with the third-highest overall score.

In addition to these awards, two **Merit Awards** will be presented to the highest-scoring schools at the **National Level**, recognizing their exceptional achievements.

6.0 Items

6.1	A1/A2	Vocal	Solo	Junior & Senior (Girls/Boys)	Must perform the Set Piece & a Choice Piece
6.2		Choir		Junior / Senior and Open (Girls /Boys/ Mixed)	
6.3		Recorder	Solo	Junior & Senior	
6.4		Piano	Solo	Junior & Senior	
6.5		Recorder	Group	Junior/ Senior and Open	
6.6		Melodica	Group	Junior/Senior and Open	Must perform Two Choice pieces of contrasting style.
6.7		Mixed Instrumental	Group	Junior/ Senior and Open Instruments that can be used: Piano, Recorder, Guitar, Melodica, Accordion, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, violin, viola, cello, double bass, and percussion instruments *Electronic keyboards, Electric Guitars, Brass instruments, and Oriental Instruments will not be permitted.	

6.8	A1 / A2	Guitar	Ensemble	Open	Perform Two Choice pieces of contrasting style.
6.9		Piano Accordion	Group		
6.10		Chamber	Group	Open Only Duets, Trios, Quartets and Quintets (Any combination of instruments)	
6.11	Standard A1	Wind Band	Group	Open - Boys/ Girls	Perform the Set Piece & a Choice Piece
	General A2				Perform Two Choice pieces of contrasting style.
6.12	A1	Classical Orchestra	Group	Open	Set Piece & a Choice Piece
6.13	A1 / A2	Western Dance	Group	Junior/ Senior and Open Girls/Boys	(English country Dances, and Line Dances only)
• Music for the dance could be live or recorded. • Avoid repetition of dance presentations made in the previous two years (2022/2023) • Costumes should be appropriate for a school performance. • Marks will not be allocated for costumes at the Provincial Level. • All dancers should be dressed in simple appropriate costumes at the National Level					

7.0 Music

- 7.1. The relevant set of music can be downloaded from the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education's website www.moe.gov.lk and no other version of the set piece will be accepted.
- 7.2. In addition to the set song/ piece, a Choice Song/ Piece should be performed. The Choice Song/piece can be of any version and **cannot be changed** at the National level.
- 7.3. The choice pieces should be a Western classical, modern or film music composition.

- 7.4. A copy of the music's full score in respect of all choice pieces should be handed over to the judges on the day of the competition at the Provincial and National level, before their performance. A penalty of Five (5) marks will be imposed on competitors who do not comply with this requirement.
- 7.5. All schools should submit a printed list of the names of participants including each student's name, grade and their respective signatures certified by the principal on the day of the competition.

No school will be permitted to participate in the competition without submitting the above-mentioned details before the event.

8.0 Teachers accompanying students to the venue of the competition.

- 8.1. Where the number of students is 18 or less, 2 teachers should accompany the students, and for every additional 10 students, there should be an extra teacher.

9.0 Payment

- 9.1. Please note that **no** payments will be made to teachers or students.

10.0 Application

- 10.1. All applications must be submitted online by the **10th of March 2025** through the following link: <https://forms.gle/Yj5tXLpq2AYLYGjh8> to conform to the specimen form given.

A printed copy of the form certified by the Principal must be forwarded by Registered Post to the following address to reach on or before **15th of March 2025**.

*Director of Aesthetic Education
Aesthetic Education Branch,
Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education,
'Isurupaya',
Battaramulla.*

- 10.2 The Principal should certify that the trainer of the item is either the Western music teacher /member of the staff or a hired professional.
- 10.3 Each item should be on a separate Application Form. (They may be mailed in one envelope)
- 10.4 Any withdrawal of an item or from the entire competition must be made to reach the Ministry in writing 10 days before the Provincial Round.

NOTE: *The Panel of Adjudicators' decision is final. Those challenging the decision of the Panel will be disqualified. No Correspondence in this regard will be entertained.*

SPECIMEN APPLICATION FORM

ALL-ISLAND SCHOOLS WESTERN MUSIC & DANCE COMPETITION 2025

- Each entry should be on a separate Application Form
- Fill the form in block capital letters.

Name of School:	
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Telephone No. of the School :	
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Province:	
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Category: A1 or A2						
Item Trained by: ✓ (Tick the correct cage)		Western Music Teacher/ Member of the staff				Professional
Name of Item						
Section Selected:	Junior			Senior or Open		
	Girls	Boys	Mixed	Girls	Boys	Mixed
Vocal Solo						
Choir						
Instrumental Items						
Name of Teacher:						
Assisted by:						
Mobile phone No of teacher-in-charge (WhatsApp) (This is compulsory)						

I hereby certify that the information given above is accurate.

.....
Music Teacher

.....
Principal
(Official Stamp)

Date.....