



DEBUTANTE BALL POLICY

Rationale

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College recognises that the Debutante Ball is an event which connects the college to the community and provides the students with the opportunity to learn new skills.

DMSC is also cognisant of the need to keep children safe and will take all necessary measures to ensure their safety whilst they are participating in the Deb Ball.

Purpose

- To ensure all those involved with the DMSC Debutante Ball have the appropriate Working with Children Check (WWCC) or relevant Police Check
- To state the frequency of the event
- To clarify who is eligible to participate
- To clarify the structure of, and the protocols regarding, the organising committee and the running of the Debutante Ball.

Implementation

Eligibility

- Students must attend Dimboola Memorial Secondary College to be eligible to participate. (Girls and Boys)
- Girls in Year 11 are eligible to participate in the Debutante Ball
- Boys in Year 11 or 12 are eligible to participate in the Debutante Ball
- Girls who cannot participate in the Deb Ball during their Year 11 year, due to illness or other exceptional circumstances, may be permitted to participate during their Year 12 year. These students should seek permission from the committee and/or Principal if they wish to participate. (It should be noted as a general rule, that if a student is well enough to attend school, they are well enough to make their debut.)
- In exceptional circumstances, boys who are in Year 10 may be a partner

Frequency of event

- Dimboola Memorial Secondary College will host a Debutante Ball every year, unless the interested numbers of girls falls below eight (8). The final decision will factor in the cost of running the ball with low numbers.
- Should the numbers fall below eight (8) and the Ball is cancelled – the girls who miss out in their Year 11 year, are eligible to participate the following year when in Year 12.
- The Deb Ball will be held towards the end of Term One each year.
- Rehearsals will commence in the first week of first term – unless otherwise agreed by all participants.
- The format of the evening will also be influence by numbers. (I.e – whether to have round tables or people seated around the perimeter of the hall.)

Committee

- A member of the DMSC staff will join the organising committee
- The remainder of the committee will consist of interested parent and/or community members.
- The committee will jointly make decisions, after consultation with the student group, other parents and the DMSC Principal where appropriate.
- All expenditure for the Debutante Ball will be approved by the Principal/Assistant Principal/Business Manager, before any materials are ordered or booked.
- The committee will determine the cost per student for the Deb Ball based on the foreseen expenditure for the ball.
- All payments associated with the Deb Ball will transacted through the school.

Procedure for students

- All students wishing to participate will submit their names to the committee before the first day of Term Two in the preceding year.
- All girls intending to participate will pay a deposit by the first day of Term Three in the preceding year.
- All final payments for the Deb Ball will be due by the end of Week Three in Term One of the year of the Ball.
- All students (Girls and Boys) wishing to participate, will sign an agreement which outlines the rules and expectations regarding behaviour leading up to, and during the event.
- Any student suspended by DMSC, may be ineligible to participate in the Deb Ball.
- All students will respect the NO ALCOHOL policy of the DMSC Debutante Ball.

Procedures for Parents/Carers

- Parents/Carers will sign an agreement which covers their willingness to meet the financial costs associated with the Deb Ball
- Parent/Carers will be eligible to join the organising committee.
- Parents/Carers who do not join the committee will be expected to assist with the set-up and clean-up of the Hall.
- Parents/Carers will abide by the set numbers of guests for the Debutante Ball – which will be determined by the number of debutantes in that year.
- Parents/Carers and family members will respect the NO ALCOHOL policy of the DMSC Debutante Ball.
- Parents/Carers and family members will abide by the Victorian legislation which prohibits smoking on school grounds or within five metres of the school gate.

Procedure for DMSC

- DMSC will ensure that all parents/volunteers/instructors who assist with the Debutante Ball have the appropriate WWCC or Police Check. Their details will be added to the relevant DMSC register. (refer, Ministerial Order 870)
- DMSC will provide the venue for the Ball each year. (The Hall)
- DMSC will ensure that the venue is clean and ready to host the Ball
- DMSC will nominate a staff member to join the committee each year
- DMSC will encourage all staff to be involved in the Ball in some way

- DMSC will provide the catering for the Deb Ball.
- The Principal will have the ultimate say in any issues which are controversial or potentially divisive, regarding the Debutante Ball.

The DMSC Debutante Ball is an ALCOHOL and SMOKE FREE event.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in

August 2016

Reference: <http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafepages/resources.html>