

PRESENTATION BALL POLICY



St Francis Xavier College
Ratified by Board of Management October, 2002
Amended July, 2006
Ratified by College Board August, 2006
Amended February, 2010
Ratified by College Board February, 2010
Amended February, 2014
Ratified by the College Board February, 2014

VISION

St Francis Xavier College is a Catholic community that is educative and supportive. We have a clear purpose: the development of a person of competence, conscience and compassion formed in the Christian tradition; one who is guided by a sense of hope and self-belief and who will be of service in the world. We recognise God's presence in our lives by celebrating and pursuing personal excellence and by living courageously with optimism and respect for all.

AIMS

During Year 11 a Presentation Ball is held for Year 11 students by invitation of the Parents and Friends Association. The major aims of the Presentation Ball are:

- To bring Year 11 students together in a happy, relaxed atmosphere.
- To learn something of the basics of Ballroom dancing.
- To make students aware of social graces, formal dress and deportment.

Past students reflect that the Presentation Ball is a major highlight of their years at St Francis Xavier College.

The Presentation Ball Committee along with the College endeavours that the Presentation Ball is a memorable occasion for the Debutantes and their partners, their families and their friends.

ORGANISATION & SUPERVISION

The selection of students to participate in the Presentation Ball will be made by the Presentation Ball Committee in consultation with the Head of Campus. Upon selection, students and parents will be required to attend a compulsory Information Evening at which the rules for participation will be clearly detailed. All students and their parents wishing to participate will then be required to pay an initial deposit and to sign a Participation and Behaviour Contract agreeing to the rules. Acceptance of enrolment into the Presentation Set will be subject to up to date payment of school fees and compliance of all the Presentation Ball Committee Rules, as well as fulfilling all Year 11 (including Unit 3 / 4 where applicable) academic and extra curricular requirements.

Once the schedule for weekly rehearsals has been arranged, the staff member assigned the duty of overseeing the supervision of students will organise a roster of staff volunteers and ensure that the rules for student behaviour are enforced. The Head of Campus will be kept informed of any rule breaches to ensure appropriate consequences are put in place.

SELECTION CRITERIA

When organising multiple Balls, selection of students to be presented at each Ball will be determined by the organising Committee, in consultation with the Head of Campus, as follows:

- Students with relatives in the same year level will automatically be on the same night.
- Students with mutual relatives will automatically be on the same night.

- Students undertaking TAFE studies will be trained on afternoons which are least disruptive to their after-hours courses.
- The Presentation Ball is a Year 11 function and for this reason, only students in Year 11 will be accepted into the Presentation Set. If a student is promoted to Year 11 and his/her enrolment status changes (eg. Exit), they will be unable to participate in the Presentation Ball set. The Committee will endeavour to offer every assistance possible to replace a student's partner so affected by an exiting student.

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

In order to achieve the above stated aims it is vital that there be a set of rules which govern the practices and the actual night of the Presentation Ball. Complete co-operation of the following rules is essential:

- Attendance at Presentation Ball practices is mandatory for Debutantes and Partners. Unexplained absences will jeopardise enrolment in this event.
- Attendance at the Year 11 Information Evening (incorporating Presentation Ball) is compulsory for the Debutante, the Partner and the parent(s) of both Debutante and Partner. **Acceptance of enrolment in the Presentation Set will be subject to attendance at this meeting.**
- All students must wear the full school uniform to practice. Sports shoes are required to be worn at practice by both girls and boys.
- All College rules apply for the duration of each rehearsal class. This includes no chewing gum, no use of mobile phones/iPods, etc.
- The girls' ball gowns are required to be of a modest fashion, in keeping with the spirit of a Catholic College. All gowns must have firmly attached straps that are a minimum of 25mm. No strapless or halter-neck gowns permitted. All gowns must be approved well in advance by the Presentation Ball Committee members prior to the evening via the submission of a photograph to the committee by the date specified, so that any alterations to meet requirements can be effected in a timely manner.
- Gloves must be purchased from the College. The College will arrange hire of the boys' suits and shoes. Black socks must be worn.
- The consumption of alcohol by the Debutantes **OR** their Partners on the night of the Ball is strictly forbidden. Any student arriving at the venue intoxicated will not be presented.
- Limousines are permitted to be hired to transport students to the Ball only with parental consent.
- Debutantes and Partners are to arrive dressed ready for the Ball and **no street clothes or bags** are to be brought into the venue.
- The College does not condone 'after parties' and strongly advises parents not to risk hosting such events. Acceptance into the Presentation Ball Set is made on the understanding that parents fully support this policy and will take responsibility to ensure that no such activities are arranged.
- Students are eligible to attend one Presentation Ball per year only (at the discretion of the Principal), either as a member of the Presentation set or as a spectator. Should students have tickets purchased on their behalf for attendance at an additional Ball, they will be asked to leave the venue.

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Complete co-operation by the students with the above rules is essential. If a student does not fully co-operate with the Ball organisers he/she will be given three warnings after which they will be withdrawn from the set after consultation with the Deputy Principal – Head of Campus – Beaconsfield. The College Principal reserves the right to withdraw any student from the Presentation Ball Set.

TICKETING

Committee members who have a student in the Presentation Set will pay full price for every ticket purchased to the Ball where their child is being presented. Committee members who attend any Balls purely to work do not pay for their tickets. Depending upon ticket availability committee members may be allocated a partner ticket at the same rate that the venue charges per head.