



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the front office on 9744 0500

Rationale

Sunbury Downs College is committed to promoting a well-structured Debutante Ball. The Debutante Ball is a significant event for Year 11 students and for the College. This policy outlines the expectations of the College in terms of student expectations in the lead up to, and throughout each student's participation in the Debutante Ball.

Aims

Each year a Debutante Ball is held for Year 11 students by invitation of the College Council.

The major aims of the Debutante Ball are to:

- bring Year 11 students together in a happy, relaxed atmosphere
- learn the basics of Ballroom Dancing
- make students aware of social graces, formal dress and demeanour
- promote connectedness between students, families and the College.

Past students have reflected that the Debutante Ball is a major highlight of their years at Sunbury Downs College.

The Senior Sub School is committed to making the Debutante Ball a memorable occasion for the Debutantes, their Escorts, families and friends.

Organisation and Supervision

All students and their parents wishing to participate will be required to pay an initial deposit to the organising company (no payments are to be made to Sunbury Downs College) and to sign a Commitment Form agreeing to the terms and conditions, including the rules, financial commitment and expectations.

Acceptance of enrolment into the Debutante Ball will be subject to up-to-date payment of school fees, 90% attendance in all classes, and compliance to all the rules of the College.

Once the schedule for weekly rehearsals has been arranged, the Senior Sub School staff will liaise with the contracted company overseeing the event to ensure that all College rules are adhered to. The Assistant Principal will be kept informed of any rule breaches by students to ensure appropriate consequences are put in place.

Eligibility Criteria

The following eligibility criteria must be met in order to be able to participate in the Debutante Ball:

- Debutantes and Escorts must be enrolled Year 11 students at Sunbury Downs College at the time of the Debutante Ball
- Students must not have been suspended during the academic year in which the Debutante Ball is held



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- Students must commit to attending all rehearsal as scheduled by the contracting company.

In event that circumstances lead to one or more of these eligibility requirements not being met, the student will be unable to participate in the Debutante Ball.

Rules of Participation

The following rules of participation are in place and must be followed by students in order to participate in the College's Debutante Ball.

Attendance Requirements:

- Attendance at Debutante Ball practices is mandatory for Debutantes and Escorts
- Unexplained absences will jeopardise participation in this event
- Attendance at all Debutante Ball information sessions is compulsory for the Debutante, the Escort and the parent(s)/carer(s) of both Debutante and Escort. Acceptance of enrolment in the Debutante Ball will be subject to attendance at this meeting(s)
- All students are permitted to wear neat casual clothes to practice. Sports shoes are required unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor(s). Female students will at times be required to wear the heels they intend to wear on the evening of the Debutante Ball.

Behaviour of Students:

- All College rules apply for the duration of each rehearsal class and at the Debutante Ball
- Prior to the purchase of any gowns, approval of the design must be given by a member of the Senior Sub-School team to ensure all College standards are upheld.

Debutante Ball expectations:

- Limousines are permitted for transportation of students to the Ball only with parental consent. This must be organized and paid for by the student and their family
- The serving of alcohol at the venue is at the discretion of the College and external provider
- Debutantes and Escorts are to arrive dressed ready for the Ball with no street clothes or bags being brought into the venue. Students may change to neat, casual attire at the conclusion of the event, once approved to do so
- The College does not condone 'after parties' and strongly advises parents not to risk hosting such events. Acceptance into the Debutante Ball Set is made on the understanding that parents fully support this policy
- Participation in the Debutante Ball is subject to the completion of the agreement form (see appendix A)
- Complete cooperation by the students with the above rules is essential. If a student does not fully cooperate with the Ball organisers they will be given two warnings after which they will be withdrawn from the set after consultation with the Assistant Principal or Principal
- The College Principal reserves the right to withdraw any student who breaches this policy from the Debutante Ball Set, without expectation of a refund.

Ticketing

The ticketing of this event is the responsibility of the contracted company overseeing the Debutante Ball.

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P o l i c y

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	September 2025
Consulted by	Education Sub-committee
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2028



Appendix A

DEBUTANTE BALL AGREEMENT FORM

1. **Participation in the Debutante Ball is a PRIVILEGE and not automatic upon application.** Senior Sub School staff, in consultation with the Principal, reserve the right to deny participation to any student whose general behaviour and adherence to school rules has been persistently unsatisfactory.
2. Debutantes must be in Year 11. There will be no exceptions.
3. Debutantes and Escorts MUST be current students of the College at the time of the Debutante Ball and have attended classes regularly prior to the Ball.
4. Families of Debutantes and Escorts MUST NOT be in financial debt to the College OR must have at least made arrangements for regular payment of any monies owing at the time of enrolling to participate in the Debutante Ball. This is a matter of policy put forward by School Council to protect families from incurring undue financial hardship due to the Debutante Ball. All outstanding money owing to the College for any purpose, including camps, books, and material charges (excluding voluntary fees) must be paid when submitting the deposit payment for the Debutante Ball.
5. Unsatisfactory behaviour at dance rehearsals may result in a student being withdrawn from the Ball. A breach of rules by Debutantes or Escorts at the Ball particularly in relation to cigarettes, e-cigarettes, alcohol or any illicit substance **will** result in a couple not being presented.

The following rules will apply to all Debutantes and their Escorts.

- i. Students must arrive on time to all timetabled practices (without exception) unless ill, in which case official documentation will need to be provided.
 - ii. No form of harassment, bullying, violence or offensive language towards students or staff.
 - iii. Students must ensure that their behaviour does not interfere with the rights of others to receive instruction and attend practice and the Ball.
 - iv. Students must follow instructions of Sunbury Downs and the contracted company the first time given.
6. Students from Sunbury Downs College wishing to attend the ball may do so with a responsible parent/carer.
 7. Drinks to be served at the Debutante Ball will be soft drink, wine and light beer.

No person under the age of 18 is permitted to consume or be in possession of alcohol with or without parent consent, and if in breach of this, will be removed from the venue immediately. Sunbury Downs College students may be sent home in a taxi at the parent/carer's expense.

Tables of unsupervised students will not be permitted at the Debutante Ball.

8. All Debutantes and their Escort must comply with the College rules for piercings and tattoos. Participants should not have visible tattoos or facial piercings other than a single nose stud.
9. All Debutantes must wear a white gown with straps (clear or visible) and must not be split. All Escorts must wear the suit hired by the contracting company.
10. The rules of the Debutante Ball venue will apply to all guests, and it is expected that guests will comply with all requests.



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11. All costs are managed by the contracting company, and this will be communicated via an information evening. The costs incurred must be paid by the prescribed due dates as stipulated by the contact company.
12. Transportation to/from the venue is the responsible of the parent/carer. This includes any rehearsals and the Debutante Ball.
13. On the night of the Ball, guests of the Debutante and their Escort will not be permitted to stand/sit on the stairs or the dance floor area. This is to ensure that all guests can view the presentation and minimise OH&S concerns.
14. A professional photographer will be on-site during the event taking photographs of participants. Any photos purchased are an agreement between the photographer and purchaser. The College will endeavour to assist in the event of an error or non-delivery of photographs, however, bears no responsibility for photos that are taken or purchased.
15. **Suspension from school will lead to an immediate removal of the student from the Debutante Ball.**

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AGREEMENT FORM:

I understand that if I fail to keep this agreement, my involvement in the Debutante Ball will be at risk and possibly terminated without refund.

	Name (please print)	Signature	Date
Debutante			
Escort			
Parent/Carer of Debutante			
Parent/Carer of Escort			
Debutante Ball Coordinator			
Principal			