

**AWESOME**

# Teachers Handbook

Excursion Program and Essentials for Teachers



Schools Week: Mon 20 Sep - Fri 24 Sep 2021

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## The AWESOME Festival

The AWESOME International Arts Festival For Bright Young Things has been providing exciting and quality arts experiences for Perth children and families since 1996.

Our mission is to provide ever-expanding opportunities for Western Australia's children to actively engage with the arts and intensifying their connectivity with the broader world in which they live.

AWESOME are intent on offering 'quality', 'impact', 'reach', and 'value' for children, their parents, and their educators. We value our ability to offer different ways of thinking about and 'imagining' our world. We believe in our ability to serve as a catalyst in inspiring children's creativity and we value our role in promoting quality engagement with the arts that will provide enduring benefits as today's children move towards adulthood.

The AWESOME Festival is a multidisciplinary arts festival, bringing the best International, Australian, and local arts into the Perth Cultural Centre for two weeks of high quality engagement. In the last week of of Term Three the AWESOME Festival opens exclusively for school groups to explore the live theatre, films, workshops, exhibitions, installations and activities that make up the

AWESOME Festival.

Its truly... well...





# Benefits of the Arts in Education

## Arts Statistics

- Integrating Arts across curriculum results **increased attendance and performance** in core subjects
- At risk Students with a high level of arts engagement are **71% more likely to attend university** than their peers.
- A student involved in the arts is 4 times more likely to be **recognised for academic achievement**.
- A student involved in the arts is 4 times more likely to **participate in a maths or science fair**.
- A student involved in the arts is 3 times more likely to win an award for **school attendance**.
- A student involved in the arts is 4 times more likely to be **recognised for academic achievement**.

## Arts Facts

- **Disadvantaged students** The arts reach students who might otherwise slip through the cracks: Increasing motivation and attendance for those who are socially and economically disadvantaged.
- **Learning styles** The arts reach students with different learning styles: By communicating in different languages and promoting lateral thinking and exploration.
- **Community** The arts create a feeling of connection and cooperation between students: By physically making people work together and by exploring important themes of community and self-expression and narrative.
- **Cross Curriculum** The arts create schools that are exciting places for learning and discovery: By utilising a cross curriculum approach to education and engaging a wide variety of learning styles and interest.

## Literacy

- In the Arts, students use literacy along with the kinetic, symbolic, verbal and visual languages of the five arts subjects.
- Through making art and responding to art students enhance and extend their literacy skills as they create compose, design, analyse, comprehend, discuss, interpret and evaluate their own and others' artworks.

## Numeracy

- In the Arts, students select and use relevant numeracy knowledge and the skills to plan, design, make, interpret, analyse, and evaluate artworks.
- Students work with a range of numerical concepts to organise, analyse and create representations of data relevant to their own or others' artworks, such as diagrams, charts, tables, graphs and motion capture.
- Opportunities to use numeracy and pattern making when students combine dance movements or musical notes to create a sequence or combine sequences to create sections.

<http://www.miarted.org/pdf/AFTA-Arts-Education-Navigator-Facts-Figures.pdf>  
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Arts-At-Risk-Youth.pdf>  
<https://www.dreambigfestival.com.au/schools-info/downloads/>



## Creative Learning Goals

### Professional Artists

AWESOME employs professional International, Australian, and local artists to present the best of contemporary arts for children. During schools week children gain the opportunity to see a professional performance, and to meet specialist artists who will engage them in workshops.

### Process Driven

AWESOME's approach, with an emphasis on creativity and skill building. Enhancing students' ability to investigate, problem solve, build personal and social capabilities and increase investment and ownership over their work. We encourage children to use their creativity everywhere.

### Professional Development

We believe that excursions to the festival offer a valuable professional development opportunity for teachers to learn from practicing artists. Our aim is to empower teachers to continue creating in the classroom well after their AWESOME experience has ended.

### Arts Integration

The Education Kit focuses on integrating the arts with other areas of learning, with a particular emphasis on numeracy and literacy. At AWESOME we believe that the arts are a useful tool to enhance students understanding of other subject areas and help overall understanding and skill building.

### Educators' Resource Kits

The AWESOME Arts Education Kits are created as a teacher resource to run alongside the festival excursion experience. The kits can be used to look closer at the themes explored during the residency or excursion, including follow up activities for the classroom.

### Curriculum Assistance

AWESOME has been using the Western Australian Curriculum since its first introduction to schools. AWESOME uses clear cross-curriculum activities and assessment suggestions to ensure implementation of curriculum is easy and engaging.



## AWESOME Day Out!

The AWESOME Day out is designed to inspire and engage bright young things with the very best contemporary art from Australia and around the world.

Throughout venues at the State Theatre Centre, Art Gallery of Western Australia, WA Museum Boola Bardip and State Library of Western Australia, we present a dynamic platform through which children can easily access the arts.

To ensure maximum depth of engagement for students during the excursion we will split larger bookings into touring groups of 30 or less. Each group should include at least one adult/teacher supervisor. We include 1 free parent/teacher supervisor per every 8 students.

## Excursion Packages

Mon 20 Sep - Fri 24 Sep, last week of Term 3

### AWESOME Day Out

**Package includes:**

Theatre Show

+

Workshop

+

Lunch Break

+

Tour of arts activities

**\$27.50 pp**

**inc GST**

### Performance Only

**Package includes:**

Theatre Show

**\$15.50 pp**

**inc GST**





## Plan Your Day

### Scheduling

An AWESOME Festival excursion is designed to work within the school timetable – departing school as it commences, and returning back before the end of the school day. If you require a variation on these times please let us know. We are here to help!

### Location

The AWESOME Festival is centrally located in the Perth Cultural Centre, surrounded by transport options. Please see the following page for further transportation alternatives.

### Arriving on Site

We suggest arriving half an hour before your first activity is due to commence to ensure adequate time to settle in, meet your Festival Guide, eat some morning tea and make a toilet stop before your day begins.

### Accessibility

Please let us know upon booking if your students have any additional access requirements, as we like to ensure artists can prepare to provide the best experience possible!

### Festival Guide

Your AWESOME Festival Guide will meet you at the beginning of your excursion and lead your group around the festival site to a schedule. They will be easily identifiable by their AWESOME Festival vest and lanyard.

Your Guide will be able to answer questions, help your group find toilets and make sure that your day is AWESOME! Front of house staff from the venues will also be available to assist.



## Transport

The AWESOME Festival is centrally located in the Perth Cultural Centre, which makes getting here a breeze! We are located right next to Perth Train Station and are surrounded by ample City of Perth parking facilities, so planning your trip has never been easier. For bus and train timetables please visit [transperth.wa.gov.au](https://transperth.wa.gov.au)

### BY TRAIN

The Perth Train Station is located directly opposite the Perth Cultural Centre, and used during the festival by the majority of our attendees. By using the Roe Street overpass you can exit the train station and enter the Perth Cultural Centre without needing to cross any roads.

### BY BUS

The Roe and Wellington Street bus stations and Perth Bus Port are all within walking distance of the Perth Cultural Centre. Many Transperth buses service the area including the free Blue CAT which runs regularly seven days a week. There is a Blue CAT stop on Beaufort (stop 5) which stops between the WA Museum Boola Bardip and the Art Gallery of WA.

### CHARTER BUS

A bus set-down area is located on the North side of the Perth Cultural Centre, along Francis Street (next to the WA Museum Boola Bardip). All buses must park elsewhere during the excursion. Please contact City of Perth on 9461 3333 for bus parking information.







## Excursion Paperwork

### WWCC

All staff and volunteers have valid Working with Children Checks, issued by the WA Government. Copies of these cards are kept on file in the AWESOME office, and can be sighted upon request.

### Sun Protection

Aside from being inside venues for performances, much of your festival excursion will be outdoors as you travel between activities. It's important to ensure you and your students come prepared with sunscreen and adequate clothing to protect yourselves from the sun.

### First Aid

There is always a minimum of two First Aid trained staff members on site, should you require first aid assistance.

### Risk Assessment

A full risk assessment report has been conducted by AWESOME Arts in order to comply with National Safety Council of Australia standards and a copy of AWESOME's Public Liability Certificate can be produced upon request.

### Excursion Kit

A full excursion kit will be sent to your class prior to the day including an excursion management plan (including emergency evacuation procedure), Education Resource Kit and Public Liability Certificate.



## Template Letter to Parents

Permission slip forms are an essential part of encouraging parents to approve their child's attendance at the AWESOME Festival. We have included below some example text for you to use when sending communications to parents highlighting the importance of arts education to children, and how an AWESOME Festival experience can assist with their schooling.

You may also want to consider getting consent from parents to share your students' artwork with festival audiences after your visit.

*AWESOME Arts aims to engage with young people under 12 through exciting, inspiring, accessible, and challenging arts activities and programs. The AWESOME Festival is an annual showcase of the best and latest contemporary arts from around the world.*

*This excursion will provide students with hands-on experience in the arts, through attendance of live performance and participation in workshops, which can help challenge them and create opportunities for critical thought and reflection on the world around them.*

*All of the AWESOME Arts excursion programs are linked to the WA curriculum for arts education.*

# Theatre Etiquette

Theatre is a one of a kind experience! Every performance is unique as the performers react to their audience working with their energy. Please ensure that you and your students follow the correct theatre etiquette during performances for the best experience possible. Our volunteer guides are excited to help out with any questions about the show or the festival, however, will not be managing students' behaviour.

## TIMING



It is polite to arrive at your performance space in a timely manner, especially with large groups. Arriving early will ensure you have enough time for a toilet break, a quick drink and still have plenty of time to get seated and settled before your performance is due to start.

## TALKING



Performers expect the full attention of their audience. Once the lights have dimmed and/or the performance has started please stop all chatter (even whispering) so that all audience members may pay their full attention to the presentation.

## SITTING STILL



Performers often need to use the aisles for their performances. Please ensure the audience is seated in the correct area when the performance has begun. AWESOME Arts provides students with toilet breaks at set times to minimise audience members moving around the performance space.

## PHOTOGRAPHY



Enjoy the performance in the moment! Please refrain from taking photographs or video footage during the presentation. Photos, especially flash photography, can distract the audience and the performers. If you wish to have a photograph with the artists, please ask your guide after the performance.

## PHONES



Phone alarms, messaging alerts, and electronic devices can also disturb the performance. Please switch these off and refrain from checking any screens that light up in the audience as a courtesy to your neighbours.

## APPLAUSE AND LAUGHTER



This is how you can show your appreciation to the artists! Please feel free to react to the performance appropriately: laugh, clap, and join in (when asked to do so by the performers). They will love to see how much you're enjoying yourself!



# Frequently Asked Questions

## HOW DO I MAKE A BOOKING?

Please email [admin@awesomearts.com](mailto:admin@awesomearts.com) with any booking enquiries. Bookings will open in June following the launch of our excursion packages. You can sign up to our Teachers' Club E-News on our website [www.awesomearts.com/excursions-incursions](http://www.awesomearts.com/excursions-incursions) to be the first to hear about our excursion launch. Once open, bookings are taken via an online form.

## HOW WILL I KNOW MY BOOKING HAS BEEN PROCESSED?

When AWESOME receives your online booking, Nadia will process and send you a confirmation email. Once the schedules for the school bookings have been confirmed, she will then send you further information for your excursion.

## HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I WILL GET INTO THE SHOWS I WANT?

Some of our shows are very popular and can book up fast. We encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment.

## HOW DO I ARRANGE PAYMENT?

Upon receiving your online booking, Nadia will issue an invoice to your school with payment terms of 14 days. If payment terms are going to be an issue for your school please contact AWESOME and we can arrange a payment extension.

## CANCELLATIONS

If for any reason the excursion is cancelled within two months of the excursion date full costs will still apply.

## HOW WILL I KNOW WHERE TO GO AT THE FESTIVAL?

Once you arrive at the Perth Cultural Centre, your Festival Guide will be waiting for you, holding a sign with your group's name written clearly so you can spot them easily. Your Festival Guide will spend the day with your group, directing you between venues and ensuring your visit stays on schedule. They will be there to help with any queries and concerns you may have and to ensure that you and your school have an AWESOME day.

## WHAT IF SOMEONE IN MY GROUP HAS SPECIAL NEEDS?

Please notify Nadia in the online booking form if your group has any special requirements, whether in regards to access or scheduling. Alternatively, you can notify Nadia by emailing [admin@awesomearts.com](mailto:admin@awesomearts.com)

## WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION SUPPORT MATERIALS DO YOU PROVIDE?

You will be sent an Education Resource Kit to help generate discussion around your Festival visit. These kits are curriculum linked, and will provide content to engage your class after their Festival experience.

**Please feel free to email [admin@awesomearts.com](mailto:admin@awesomearts.com) if you have any questions.**