

Stowmarket High School Production Audition Process Guidance

2026/2027

Our school production is cast on a 'merit-based' audition process. This approach emphasises talent, skill, and the needs of the production while promoting fairness through a standardised, transparent audition process. This policy ensures all students have an equal opportunity to audition and that final decisions are made by the directorial team based purely on performance, suitability, and the artistic vision for the show.

1. Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

Stowmarket High School is committed to an inclusive environment. All students are evaluated solely on their audition performance, suitability for the specific role, and ability to meet the production's demands.

2. The Audition Process

All students interested in a role must participate fully in the scheduled auditions. The process is designed to give every student an equal opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.

- **Open Auditions:** All students are invited to take part in ensemble and solo auditions.
- **Preparation Materials:** Students will be provided with clear guidelines on what to prepare (dialogue, songs, dance routines) in advance of the audition dates.
- **Callbacks:** A select group of students may be invited to a second round of auditions (callbacks) to read specific scenes or perform additional material to help the directorial team further assess suitability for specific roles. They may be asked to perform with other students relative to the role / roles they are auditioning for.

3. Decision-Making Criteria

The final casting decisions are the sole responsibility of the directorial team (Director, Music Director, Choreographer, etc.). Decisions will be made based on the following criteria:

- **Audition Performance:** The student's demonstrated acting, singing, and/or dancing ability during the audition and callbacks.
- **Suitability for the Role:** The student's vocal range, stage presence (as dictated by the script and artistic vision), and overall fit for the character requirements.
- **Artistic Vision:** The directorial team's vision for the show as a complete ensemble piece. Sometimes a student may be talented but not the right fit for a specific combination of cast members.
- **Commitment and Attitude:** The student's demonstrated responsibility, reliability, and attitude during the audition process and their history of commitment to previous school activities (e.g., promptness, preparedness, positive attitude).

4. The "Best Person for the Role" Principle

The primary guiding principle is casting the best person for the role. This means:

- **No Pre-Casting:** Roles are not promised or assigned before the official audition process is complete.
- **No Guaranteed Roles:** Participation in previous shows or theatre classes does not guarantee a role or a specific role in the current production.
- **Challenging Opportunities:** The team may cast a less-experienced student over a more experienced student, if they feel the newer student demonstrated stronger potential and suitability for the specific character during auditions.

5. Notification and Feedback

- **Cast List Posting:** The final cast list will be posted as soon as possible after auditions in an accessible, designated location
- **Feedback:** Students who are not cast or who receive a smaller role are welcome to speak with staff who were present at auditions for constructive

feedback. The director will provide general feedback aimed at helping the student improve future audition techniques. This will be provided upon request.

6. Acceptance of Roles

Accepting a role is a commitment to attending all rehearsals, contributing positively to the ensemble, and prioritising the production schedule.

By participating in the audition process, students and their parents agree to abide by the decisions of the directorial team. The decisions made are final and in the best interest of the overall production quality.