

## Live Arts Speech & Drama Rules and Conditions 2025

1. No photography/ video recording will be allowed at Live Arts (except by the appointed Live Arts representative). This is a requirement of the British and International Federation of Festivals (“BIFF”) of which Live Arts is a full member  
<https://www.federationoffestivals.org.uk/>
2. Competitors must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.
3. A performance time limit is indicated for each class. Performances exceeding this time may be stopped.
4. The organiser reserves the right to refuse the use of any electrical equipment.
5. The organiser reserves the right to combine or reorganise classes depending on the number of entries received.
6. Entry Fees:  
Individual: £7.00  
Duo: £10.00  
Choral Speaking (maximum entry of 20 performers):  
    Up to 8 performers: £24.00  
    From 9 to 19 performers: £28.00  
    20 performers: £32.00
7. Age Groups: ‘Year’, means school year, not age:
  - Primary – Competitors up to and including Year 6
  - Senior – Competitors from Year 7 to Year 13
  - First Form to Upper Sixth Competitors must be aged 18 or under on 31st August 2025.
  - No adults can compete in any event, except for Choral Speaking, when an adult may take part only as a conductor.
8. Competitors will be notified of the date and time of their classes by no later than 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025. Please contact the organiser if you have not received entry information by the 1st March 2025.
9. Competitors will have their initial and surname printed in the official programmes for sale at the Live Arts Festival, unless an anonymity request is received by the Safeguarding Lead (Carole Nicholls [liveartsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:liveartsmusic@gmail.com) ).
10. In line with the Data Protection policy, no personal information will be shared with third parties under any circumstance.
11. The organiser regrets that no changes can be made to competition timings once the programme has been finalised, so please ensure competitor’s availability to compete on Saturday 15th March 2025 before returning the entry form.

12. Entry fees will only be reimbursed at the discretion of the organiser.

13. Prizes: Each competitor (excluding Choral Speaking) will be awarded a participation certificate. Choral Speaking groups will be awarded one group participation certificate. Gold, Silver and Bronze Wenlock Olympian medals will be awarded to the winners in each class. In the Group Choral Speaking section, where relevant, one Gold, Silver and Bronze will be awarded with the corresponding participation certificate. All performers in the winning groups will receive a medal.

14. Special trophy awards will be given to the following:-

SPEECH AND DRAMA PERFORMER OF THE YEAR – PRIMARY  
SPEECH AND DRAMA PERFORMER OF THE YEAR – SENIOR

The decision of the adjudicator shall be final and binding.

15. Categories: There are 6 Speech and Drama categories in which to enter. Competitors can enter each category but must only enter once. The categories are:

- a) Choral Speaking (Primary only)
- b) Verse Speaking
- c) Reading for Performance
- d) Creative Poetry Writing for Performance
- e) Acting – Solo
- f) Acting – Duologue

16. All selected repertoires must be performed in English.

17. Copyright Compliance: As a full member of BIFF, Live Arts pays an annual copyright fee. Live Arts has entered into an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS). This means that performers do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed to a time limit of 10 minutes. ACTING DUOLOGUES ARE NOT COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT. Therefore, competitors in this competition are responsible for obtaining Performing Rights by application to the publishers and by payment of any stipulated fee before the date of the competition. If anyone is unsure what they need to do in this respect, they should call 01625 428297, the British & International Federation of Festivals, for advice. To qualify for copyright indemnity:

- at the start of each competitor class the title of the work and the author's name must be announced.
- For all Acting competitions the character name must be announced also
- the competitor must not change any wording

Competitors and teachers should know that their participation in Live Arts means that authors will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their work being performed at the Festival.

18. Capacity of the Venue - Choral Speaking Only: Due to the capacity of the venue (both seating and car parking) and for Health & Safety reasons, a maximum of 5 groups can compete (with no more than 20 competitors in each group). Entry to the Choral Speaking category is on a first come first served basis. Contacts will be alerted immediately by the organiser if they cannot compete. Audience seating is limited and will be on a first-come-first-served basis.
19. Costume, Props and Make Up: Costume is permitted for all Acting classes. Nudity is not permitted. The organiser can provide a small table and up to 2 chairs. Competitors must ensure to have warned the organiser in advance should they be required. The organiser reserves the right to refuse any prop which they deem inappropriate or is deemed potentially harmful if not used appropriately.
20. No electronic devices may be used unless required as a prop. If a device is to be used, it must be approved by the adjudicator before the start of the performance. The adult(s) responsible for the performer(s) must always take full responsibility for the supply and safe operation of all props and in all circumstances within the venue. Animals (except guide dogs) and pyrotechnics (including cigarettes and e-cigarettes) are not permitted within the venue.
21. **Choral Speaking (Primary only) IMPORTANT** – See Speech and Drama Rules and Conditions 4. Capacity of the Venue - Choral Speaking Only (p4). The group (up to a maximum of 20 competitors\*) will perform one poem from memory. The selection must be published and age appropriate. The group should demonstrate:
- vocal skills (to include audibility and clarity of diction)
  - use of body language (i.e. alignment, facial expressions and occasional gestures)
  - listening and interacting with one another

A legible, clean copy of the poem must be provided at the start of the class for the adjudicator. It will be returned to the competitor at the end of the class. Small hand props are permitted but must be minimal. No electronic devices are permitted to be used unless required as a prop. If one is to be used, it must be approved by the adjudicator at the start of the competition class and must be switched off. To comply with copyright indemnity:

- at the start of their performance, the group (either one or more) must announce their poem with the title and the author; and
- the group must not change the wording of the poem

Maximum performance time of 8 minutes. The adjudicator reserves the right to deduct marks or stop a performance if the time limit is exceeded.

\*There is a maximum of 20 competitors per entry due to venue capacity.

22. **Verse Speaking** The competitor will recite one poem of their own choice from memory. The work must be published and age appropriate. A legible, clean copy of the poem must be provided for the adjudicator on the day. It will be returned to the competitor at

the end of the class. The competitor should demonstrate:

- vocal skills (i.e. audibility, clarity and variation in volume, pace, pitch and pause)
- use of body language (i.e. alignment, facial expressions and occasional gestures)

To qualify for copyright indemnity:

- at the start of their performance, the competitor must announce the poem's title and the name of the poet.
- the performer must not change the wording of the poem.

There is a specific time allowance limit for each age group. The adjudicator reserves the right to deduct marks or stop a performance if the time limit is exceeded. All timings exclude announcement of pieces.

Primary (Up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 2 minutes  
Senior (Years 7-13/ First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 3 minutes

**23. Reading for Performance** The competitor will:

- read a passage of prose of their own choice (they must not memorise the reading but read it aloud from a book or folder); and
- announce the prose passage with the book's title and the author's name.

The selection must be published and age appropriate.

The competitor should demonstrate:

- vocal skills (i.e. audibility, clarity and variation in volume, pace, pitch and pause)
- use of body language (i.e. alignment, facial expressions and occasional gestures)

Small hand props are permitted but must be minimal. No electronic devices are permitted to be used unless required as a prop. If one is to be used, it must be approved by the adjudicator at the start and must be switched off.

To comply with copyright indemnity:

- at the start of their performance, each competitor must announce their passage of prose (text) with the title and the author; and
- the competitor must not change the wording.

There is a specific time allowance limit for each age group. The adjudicator reserves the right to deduct marks or stop a performance if the time limit is exceeded. All timings exclude announcement of piece.

Primary (Up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 2 minutes  
Senior (Years 7-13/First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = Up to 3 minutes

**24. Creative Poetry Writing for Performance** The competitor will write and recite a poem based on a theme of their choice

- **Primary** The poem should be no longer than 250 words

- **Secondary** The poem should be no longer than 500 words

The adjudicator will be looking for:

- Originality and uniqueness
- Variety in the use of the English language
- Overall thoughtfulness

All poems will need to have been submitted to Claire Forrester prior to the event. Should the work be deemed unsuitable, the organisers reserve the right to withdraw the work before the competition date.

There is a specific time allowance for each age group ( i.e. an extract from the poem will be required if it exceeds the time limit). The adjudicator reserves the right to deduct marks or stop a performance if the time limit is exceeded.

Primary (up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT=up to 2 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT=up to 4 minutes

25. **Acting – Solo Scene** The solo competitor will:

- perform a solo (monologue) scene from memory;
- announce the title of the play/book and the playwright/author; and
- announce the character's name.

The scene must be age-appropriate and selected from either: a published play; or a screenplay; or a published collection of solo scenes; or adapted from the dialogue of a published novel.

A legible, clean copy of the scene to be performed must be provided for the adjudicator on the day. It will be returned to the competitor at the end of the class.

The competitor should demonstrate:

- vocal skills (i.e. audibility, clarity and variation in volume, pace, pitch and pause)
- use of body language (i.e. alignment, facial expressions and occasional gestures)
- appropriate use of performance space

Full costume is permitted.

To comply with copyright indemnity:

- at the start of their performance, each competitor must announce their scene with the title and the author/ playwright as well as the character's name.
- the competitor must not change the wording.

There is a specific time allowance limit for each category. The adjudicator reserves the right to deduct marks or stop a performance if the time limit is exceeded.

Primary (Up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 2 minutes and no more than 3 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/ First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes

**26. Acting – Duologue Scene** The two (duologue) competitors will:

- perform a duologue scene from memory;
- announce the title of the play/book and the playwright/author; and
- announce individually the character's name.

The scene must be age-appropriate and be selected from either: a published play; or a screenplay; or a published collection of solo scenes; or adapted from the dialogue of a published novel.

A legible, clean copy of the scene to be performed must be provided on the day of the competition. It will be returned to the competitor at the end of the class.

The competitors should demonstrate:

- vocal skills (i.e. audibility, clarity and variation in volume, pace, pitch and pause)
- use of body language (i.e. alignment, facial expressions and occasional gestures)
- appropriate use of performance space

Full costume is permitted

Both duologue competitors are responsible for obtaining Performing Rights.

There is a specific time allowance limit for each category. The adjudicator reserves the right to deduct marks or stop a performance if the time limit is exceeded.

Primary (Up to and including Year 6) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 2 minutes and no more than 3 minutes

Senior (Years 7-13/ First-Upper Sixth Form) PERFORMANCE TIME LIMIT = a minimum of 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes