

Diocesan Spelling Bee 2017 Information Guide

The Diocesan Spelling Bee was introduced in 2013 as a fun and educational way for primary and secondary school students to engage in spelling. The program included activities to encourage all students to engage with spelling and to promote improved literacy in combination with the English K-10 Syllabus

Who is eligible to compete?

The Diocesan Spelling Bee is open to all primary, K-10 and secondary schools. The competition comprises two divisions in primary and two in secondary – Junior Primary for Years 3&4 and Senior Primary for Years 5&6. Junior Secondary for Years 7&8 and Intermediate Secondary for Years 9&10.

Each school can enter a maximum of two students per division.

Where will the Diocesan Spelling Bee be held in 2017?

The Diocesan Spelling Bee will again be held in Wellington. It was a perfect venue in 2013-2016, with the host school being very helpful and welcoming to both CEO staff and teachers, students and parents from our Diocesan schools.

What are the competition procedures?

There is a demonstration round using simple words to help familiarise contestants with the competition format. No one is eliminated in this round. Elimination rounds of increasing difficulty follow this. The announcer reads the word, then a sentence including the word, and then repeats the word again.

Each contestant must repeat the word to the satisfaction of the announcer before they spell, and then say the word again to indicate they have finished spelling. Up until this point, contestants may self-correct if they clearly indicate that they are starting again.

Students have 45 seconds in which to spell the word. A warning bell is rung at 30 seconds with two bells at 45 seconds to indicate the contestant's time has expired.

Contestants may ask the announcer to repeat the word – this is included in their 45-second time limit. Any self-corrections must also be made within the time limit. At the second bell, any incomplete spelling will be taken as the contestant's final answer.

When a student has finished spelling a word, the announcer will either state 'That is correct' or 'That is incorrect. The correct spelling is...'

How is a winner determined?

At the Diocesan Final, the elimination process continues, round by round. To win the competition a contestant must spell more words correctly than all the other contestants. A contestant will only be eliminated if at least one other contestant in the same round spells their word correctly. If all contestants in a particular round misspell their words then no one is eliminated.

What are the prizes?

All Diocesan Finalists receive a certificate of participation.

Diocesan winners and runners up receive gold & silver medallions and are acknowledged with their school name on a perpetual trophy. Schools who currently have the plaques are asked to return these to the CEO at the commencement of the school year.