**Schools APRA Licence**

Schools need a licence to perform music outside the classroom.  This includes [performances](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) at concerts, speech nights, fetes, Christmas carol nights, and at other venues outside the school premises such as shopping malls, town halls etc.  The [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) Licence grants each participating school a [licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/licence/) to perform in public any work within the [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) repertoire. The [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) repertoire covers musical works, but not sound recordings.  For more information on sounds recordings see 'Playing recorded music' below.

All government schools and most Catholic and independent schools are covered by the [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) Licence. You can check whether you are covered by contacting your school authority. Note that it does not  extend to education departments and administrative bodies.

If schools are performing music in the classroom they can do this under a special copyright exception. See [Performance and Communication of Copyright Material in Class](https://smartcopying.edu.au/performance-and-communication-of-copyright-material-in-class/).

**What does the**[**APRA**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/)**Licence cover?**

The [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) Licence allows schools and their students to perform [musical works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) at the school or at a function connected with the school’s activities.

The [performances](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) may be:

* at schools or
* by students and teachers of a school at non-school venues.

The following uses of music are covered by the [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) Licence:

* school concerts and [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) evenings (choirs, singing groups, school bands, orchestra or rock bands), school sports days, dance and fitness classes, school formals and dances
* school award nights or graduations
* school [performances](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) at music festivals, including music eisteddfods and the NSW Schools Spectacular or equivalent events in other States and Territories
* playing [films](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/film/) to students which contain music where that school has a Co-Curricular Licence, including [films](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/film/) containing the [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) of entire [Grand Right Works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/grand-right-works/) (an operetta, musical play, revue or pantomime to the extent that it consists of musical works and associated lyrics written expressly for it) and [Choral Works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/choral-work/) (works written to be sung by a choir or other group of singers, with or without any instrumental accompaniment) of more than 20 minutes in duration)
* [performances](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) by professional musicians
* [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) of [musical works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) in a dramatic context by:
  + primary schools
  + secondary schools, only if no fee is charged and the [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) is not publicised beyond the school community (see ‘Performances requiring APRA’s prior approval’ below)
* [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) of a [Grand Right Work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/grand-right-works/), provided the work is not performed in its entirety
* [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) of a [Choral Work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/choral-work/) of less than 20 minutes duration.

**Playing recorded music**

Schools are also able to play recorded music at school (eg as music on hold, background music in the staffroom or school foyer) and at school events (eg assemblies, graduations) under both the [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/) Licence in relation to the underlying [musical works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) and either s106 of the Copyright Act (for independent and Catholic schools) or an interim licence from [PPCA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/ppca-phonographic-performance-company-of-australia-limited/) (which is in effect until 30 June 2021 for government schools) in relation to sound recordings.

**Admission fees**

Schools can charge admission fees for performances under the [APRA Licence](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-licence/), as well as under s106, provided that the proceeds made go back to the school or to a charitable cause.

**Performances requiring**[**APRA’**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/)**s prior approval**

A secondary school must seek [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/)‘s written approval if it wants to perform a [musical work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) in a dramatic context, charge an admission fee for that [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) and advertise or promote the [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) outside the school community (students, teachers, staff and parents of the school).

**What does the**[**APRA**](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/)**licence not cover?**

* [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) of a [Grand Right Work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/grand-right-works/) in its entirety (unless performed in a film played under the Co-Curricular Licence)
* Rock Eisteddfod Challenge
* [performance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) of a [Choral Work](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/choral-work/) of more than 20 mins duration (unless performed in a film played under the Co-Curricular Licence)
* [performances](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) produced by a third party not associated or connected with the school, unless [APRA](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/apra-amcos-australasian-performing-right-association-and-australasian-mechanical-copyright-owners-society/)‘s prior written approval has been obtained
* [performances](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/performance/) where admission fees are charged and the majority of the proceeds do not go back to the school or a charitable cause.