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Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well.

As both Principals and members of the SA Public Primary Schools Music Society Board, we are writing to share some reflections on the scheduling of choir rehearsals during students' break times—a topic that has arisen in recent discussions within our network.

We are mindful of the budget and staffing pressures all schools are experiencing and recognise the considerable value that the Festival of Music choir program adds to our curriculum.

Choir participation encourages musical growth, fosters teamwork, and enriches the educational experience for our students.

However, much research, along with the Department for Education guidelines, consistently reinforce the critical importance of students' access to their scheduled break times. Breaks support not only students' social and emotional wellbeing, they also support their readiness to learn and overall health.

While it may appear practical to schedule choir rehearsals during break times, this approach can inadvertently curtail the opportunities students have for rest and informal socialisation.

Likewise, scheduling rehearsals before or after school is not aligned with best practice for delivering curriculum content, as core subjects such as Maths and English are not timetabled during these times.

To best support student wellbeing while maximising the curriculum advantages of choir, we strongly encourage consideration of integrating choir rehearsals within the normal school timetable, in the same way we schedule other curriculum areas. This approach affirms the value of music and the arts as integral to the holistic development of our students.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

We welcome any discussion or collaboration as we continue to seek the best outcomes for our students.

Warm regards,

Principals on the SA Public Primary Schools Music Society Board,

Terena Pope - Clovelly Park PS

Melissa Evans - Norwood PS

Graeme Fenton - Golden Grove PS

Di Scott - Tea Tree Gully PS

Michelle Parkes - Pooraka PS