



**RADIANCE ACADEMY  
TOOWOOMBA**  
**Where dancers shine!**

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**Staff Policy and Procedures Document 5 Safe Touch Policy**

Touch is an essential and necessary tool in teaching and correcting dance and spotting with acro classes. However it does need to be managed inline with our current policy and procedures.

Teaching classical ballet is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and teachers in class is essential to ballet training. Teachers can make physical contact with a student to illustrate a concept or to adjust a student's alignment (especially with the younger students). Ballet posture often requires adjustment of the rib-cage and the buttock area simultaneously and it is sometimes necessary to touch the inner thigh, especially with younger students. In *pas de deux* classes, teachers will be demonstrating with students in ways which will involve supporting and lifting. In choreographic teaching, teachers demonstrate positions and movements to the students by moving parts of the students' bodies and by moving dancers in relation to each other: this often involves a considerable amount of physical contact with students.

Radiance Academy Toowoomba recognises that such physical contact is a potentially complex area; and the School also fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding students and teachers and for protecting their welfare.

**DO's**

The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil the School's obligations:

- Contact by the teacher is made with particular awareness of the needs of each individual, to assist the dancer in correcting placement.
- All teachers will treat any physical contact with relevant sensitivity and care, and with due regard for the wishes of the student.
- Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument.
- Teachers will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student; all classes are recorded on CCTV.
- Ask permission before physically correcting students.
- Ask permission for spotting and possibly physically contacting students.
- Do limit response to spontaneous physical contact from a student.
- Try to restrict students from physical contact with each other where possible.

- Have another adult with you if you need to take a student to the toilet.

### **DO NOT's**

- Do not hug or kiss students or family members
- Do not touch students in underwear zones.
- Do not sit students on your lap.
- Do not be alone with a student in the toilets or change rooms.
- Do not use unnecessary force in teaching (e.g. gripping, applying physical pressure, manhandling)

Please read the following for further information.

<http://www.danceaustralia.com.au/expertise/keeping-the-children-safe>

<https://ausdance.org.au/articles/details/effective-dance-teaching-methods>