

Physical Contact Policy

Teaching dance is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and teachers in class is essential to training. In order to help and facilitate the student's learning, the teacher may occasionally physically guide a movement by touch. This will be in a professional manner and the intention of the contact will be made clear. The only intention is to help the student become a better dancer.

Teachers will use their hands, and occasionally a foot or knee, to illustrate a concept to a student or to adjust parts of a student's body (especially with the younger students). Correct posture often requires adjusting the rib-cage and the buttock area simultaneously and it is sometimes necessary to touch the inner thigh.

When doing contact or partner work and teaching choreography, teachers will be demonstrating with students in ways which will involve supporting, lifting and demonstrating positions or movements which may involve contact with the body.

JMC Dance and Music 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.

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

- a) Contact by the teacher is made with particular awareness of the needs of each individual, to assist the young dancer in correcting placement
- b) All teachers will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care
- c) Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument
- d) Teachers will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student;
all classes should be held in studios and dance areas
- e) Teachers and students should feel free to report any concerns to the Principal.