

Dance Troupes Handbook



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Introduction

Brisbane State High School has a proud history and our Extra-Curricular (E-C) program forms an integral component of the State High experience. Tradition is valued in order to acknowledge the past and maintain a consistent identity.

The E-C program aims to offer a range of activities (sporting and cultural) that provide opportunities for students to participate, learn, develop and excel. Our E-C program is an integral part of student well-being, promotes a sense of belonging and fosters a sense of pride in both individual and group achievements. Student participation in regular sporting and recreational activities is linked to improved attention and concentration, raised academic performance, improved self-confidence and reduction in stress.

History of Dance Troupes

Brisbane State High School has a proud history in the Dance Troupes program of developing talented and passionate dancers. Established in 2004, the Dance Troupes program has seen many of its students go on to teach, perform and choreograph in a professional setting. Since its inception, the Dance Troupes program has proudly won numerous sections at various competitions, including the Beenleigh, Gold Coast and Brisbane Dance eisteddfods and Dance Life Unite. We look forward to continued success and the creation of more State High history throughout the year.

Goals of the Activity

1. Culture – provide opportunities for students to demonstrate school spirit through engagement in a positive learning and community culture through dancing.
2. Progress – the Dance Troupes program aims to engage dance students of all ages and abilities in group performance, enabling them to develop their own dance and performance skills while promoting development of self-confidence, creativity and critical thinking.
3. Competition – enable school dance troupes to develop to a point where they find success at eisteddfods and are engaged to perform at events where they receive critical acclaim.

Mission of Dance Troupes

The Dance Troupes program forms part of a vibrant community of performing arts excellence at our school. We are confident in the knowledge that students will be able to explore their dance potential and find a rich and rewarding dance experience in State High's program.

Please read this document carefully as it contains all the information you need to get the most out of this diverse and stimulating program.

Vision

Brisbane State High School's extra-curricular Dance Troupes program aims to develop the dancer as a whole – technically, expressively, and socially. The program provides students with accessible, affordable, time-efficient and valuable opportunities to support students' development across those key areas. The program also strives to improve the profile of dance in the State High community. This vision is achieved through student participation in rehearsals, industry-led workshops and performances, both at school and in the community.

“
Scientia est Potestas
Knowledge is Power
 ”

Troupes

Brisbane State High School offers a number of different dance troupes and crews. All Dance Troupes rehearsals occur outside of school time, generally before or after school.

The dance troupes and crews are:

- Senior Dance Troupe – contemporary, jazz and musical theatre (Years 10 – 12)
- Junior Dance Troupe – contemporary, jazz and musical theatre (Years 7 – 9)
- State High Crew – hip hop (all year levels)
- Bollywood Troupe (all year levels)

Staff

Each cultural extra-curricular activity has a Master in Charge (MIC). The MIC is responsible for overseeing the management of the program. Individual Troupe Directors manage their troupes and crews and participate in discussions regarding event management scheduling and ensemble attendance.

In 2024, Dance Troupes staff are:

- Miss April Williams – Master in Charge and Director of Senior Troupe
- Miss Gracie Troy – Director of Junior Troupe
- Mrs Hana Bermingham – Director of State High Crew
- Ms Tarryn De Sylva – Co-Director of Bollywood Troupe
- Ms Katrina Hasthorpe – Co-Director of Bollywood Troupe

Expectations of Participants

Conduct

Dance Troupes is a team-based activity. Students are expected to maintain a high level of professionalism, respect and a positive approach to their peers, troupe rehearsals, events, staff instructions and promotion in the community.

Attendance

Participation in the Dance Troupes program is a year-long commitment and attendance at rehearsals is compulsory. Students should check their rehearsal times at the beginning of the year to avoid clashes when planning their participation in various school activities. If a clash arises during the year, students must contact the MICs of affected activities to try to negotiate a compromise that suits all parties and maximises opportunities for participation. If a compromise cannot be negotiated, then the relevant Director of Sport and Director of Cultural Activities will work together to resolve the issue.

All Dance Troupes staff maintain attendance rolls. Students enrolled in a Dance Troupe are expected to attend rehearsals on a weekly basis.

The process for absence from a troupe engagement is as follows:

- **Illness:** students who are absent from school due to illness should contact their relevant troupe director via email prior to the rehearsal.
- **School approved excursion:** notification of absence due to a school excursion must be provided via email to the relevant troupe director at least one week prior to the scheduled rehearsal or troupe commitment.
- **Technical dress rehearsals** are considered a compulsory aspect of the performance schedule. If a student is absent from a technical or dress rehearsal, a parent is required to notify the troupe director as soon as possible. Students who are unable to attend compulsory technical dress rehearsal sessions may not be able to perform due to workplace health and safety concerns. Decisions about student participation is at the discretion of the MIC and Director of Cultural Activities.

As Dance Troupes is a group activity, students who are absent from rehearsals may not be able to participate in certain sections of routines that are taught while absent. The absent student's participation in that routine is at the discretion of the Troupe Director and MIC.

Where students miss several rehearsals, a discussion with parents/guardians may be necessary to determine future involvement in the program.

Students seeking to withdraw during the year must contact the MIC of Dance Troupes. Written advice from a parent/guardian regarding the reason for withdrawal is required.

Uniform

Students are always required to wear appropriate uniform/dress for events and rehearsals. The Dance Troupes uniform will be worn for all school-based rehearsals and external performances. This uniform consists of:

- Dance Troupe 'firework' design polo or singlet option.
- Dance Troupe 7/8 tights. Alternatively, students have the option to wear the tights or HPE shorts for State High Crew and Bollywood Troupe.

No other shorts or bike pants above the knee are permitted. If students wish to have more cover from uniforms, they are permitted to wear a plain white or black long sleeve shirt underneath their Dance Troupes shirt or singlet.

The Dance Troupes jacket from previous years is optional for external performances. Alternatively, the State High sports jacket may be worn. No other jackets, jumpers or blazers are permitted.

What to wear and when:

- **School-based performances** – students are to arrive and depart school-based performances wearing their full school uniform, unless advised by the MIC.
- **External performances** – Dance Troupes uniform is to be worn to and from external performances as advised by the MIC. All students must wear socks and sport shoes with laces (no slides/thongs/slippers, etc.).

Costumes

All costume items will be provided to students from our Dance Troupes costume range with the exception of some items, in particular, tights and shoes. Costs are included in an additional activity levy for costume usage and maintenance. Students are expected to provide their own tights and shoes for relevant routines which may include jazz, chorus and sneakers. Directors will notify students of these requirements early in the year. If there are any issues with sourcing these, please speak to the MIC.

Communication

Key Contacts

Dance Troupes contacts are listed in the table below. For Extra-Curricular Office contacts, please visit the [school website](#). The best method to make initial contact is via email.

Parents/guardians may communicate directly with the MIC, Troupe Director or the Extra-Curricular Office if clarification about the program is needed.

Staff	
Director of Cultural Activities	Mrs Karen Hadfield - culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au
Troupe Directors	Miss April Williams (MIC & Senior Troupe) – awill821@eq.edu.au Mrs Hana Bermingham (State High Crew) – hkuch1@eq.edu.au Miss Gracie Troy (Junior Troupe) – gtroy2@eq.edu.au Ms Tarryn De Sylva (Bollywood Troupe) – tdesy0@eq.edu.au Ms Katrina Hasthorpe (Bollywood Troupe) – kmhas0@eq.edu.au
Extra-Curricular Support Officer	Miss Jasmine Taylor – culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au
2024 P&C Association Dance Troupes Sub-Committee	
Chair	Danielle Core – dance-chair@bshspandc.org
Secretary	Megan Casserly – dance-secretary@bshspandc.org
Treasurer	Michelle Buckey – dance-treasurer@bshspandc.org
Captains	
Student captains are appointed annually for each troupe.	

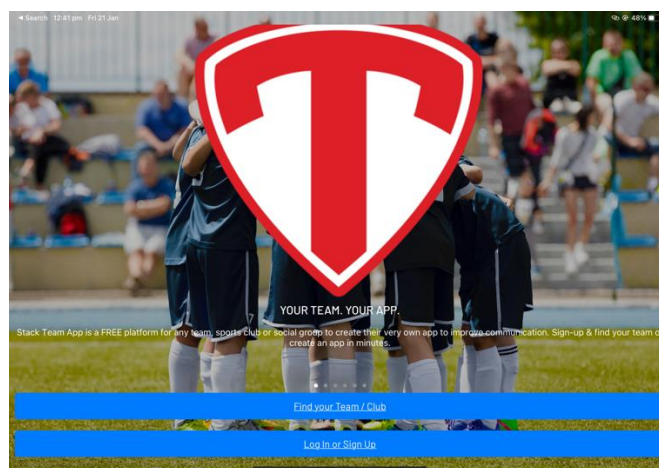
Team App

The school has approved the use of Stack Team App (previously known as just Team App), Showbie and email to maintain communication for all extra-curricular activities.

Letters, notices and information regarding performances and events are published via Team App. All participating students and their parents/guardians are required to sign up to the 'BSHS Dance' group on Team App. It is essential that all students use their school email address – not their personal email address – when signing up to Team App.

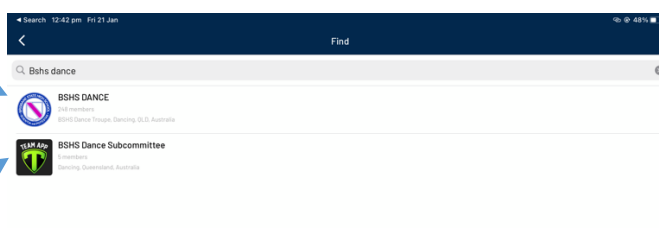
Instructions for signing up on Stack Team App:

1. Download the app on your preferred device by searching for 'Stack Team App'.
2. Register for an account (or sign in if previously registered) with your full name (parents/carers use their personal email and students use EQ email only).
3. Select 'Find your Team/Club'.
4. Type in BSHS Dance and search.
5. Click on BSHS Dance (with the school logo).
6. Click on 'request to join this team's app'.
7. Select the relevant group: parents/guardians select the relevant parent/guardian group/s in the correct year, students select the relevant student group/s in the correct year.
8. Parents/guardians need to put their child's name in the access request message so we know who we are approving. Occupation and employer details are not required. Click on 'send'. We will go through and approve requests on a regular basis at the start of term.
9. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to join the BSHS Dance Sub-Committee (this shows up when you search BSHS Dance) so that you can keep engaged with the parent community and involved in initiatives to support students in the program.
10. Please ensure that you have selected to receive notifications and emails so that when time sensitive information is sent, you will receive it in a timely manner.



Required: Click on this one

Optional: This is to join sub-committee communications



Parent and Community Engagement

There is an active P&C Association sub-committee dedicated to the Dance Troupes program. The P&C Association Dance Troupes Sub-Committee organises fundraising initiatives including catering, raffles and admission for in-school performances. The sub-committee is committed to enhancing the opportunities and equipment for the Dance Troupes students and supporting the work of the Dance Troupes staff.

The P&C Association Dance Troupes Sub-Committee meets either on campus or online approximately once per term. Specific meeting dates are listed in the Dance Calendar on Team App. Parents and guardians interested in joining the sub-committee are welcome to attend these meetings.

For further information regarding the Dance Troupes Sub-Committee, please contact the Chair via email – dance-chair@bshspandc.org.

Selection Policy

Financial Eligibility

In order for a student to audition/trial and be accepted to participate in any extra-curricular activity, parents must be up to date with payment of all school levies and subject fees or meet the payment plan requirements. Further queries should be directed to the school finance department.

Registration

Parents/guardians must grant consent via QParents to the Annual General Consent 2024 – Extra-Curricular Program and express interest in the program via the 2024 Extra-Curricular Program EOI survey that was email to all parents/guardians.

Please make contact with the Extra-Curricular Office via culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au if you are unable to complete the survey.

Selections

Membership to the Dance Troupes program is granted via an audition and selection process. Auditions are conducted through video submission or live auditions. Re-entry to troupes is not automatic, and students who wish to participate must complete an audition each year. Auditions will be held in Term 4 of the year prior (with supplementary auditions for newly enrolled students within the first week of Term 1) and process to audition will be published on StudentNet and emailed out to parents who have registered interest in the activity.

Newly enrolled students to the school seeking to apply for the Dance Troupes program outside of standard audition timelines are to make contact with Extra Curricular Office via culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au to confirm availability.

Performance Policy

The MIC of Dance Troupes plans performances for all troupes. These include contest and concert performances, and a variety of other performances within and outside the school community. As Dance Troupes performances are a group presentation, each member is integral to presenting the best possible performance. If a student is unable to attend a

performance, the Troupes Director must be notified in writing by parents/guardians prior to the event. Unexplained absence from performances may be grounds for withdrawal from the program. If unforeseen circumstances prevent attendance at a performance and the Troupe Director is not notified beforehand, the Troupe director must be informed at the earliest opportunity.

No Surprises Policy

The MIC and Troupe Director will conduct regular check-ins with students throughout the year around their attendance, progress, behaviour and contribution to their troupe. This will provide the opportunity for a transparent and clear understanding of expectations and how they align with students' conduct within their troupe.

Students who do not meet the above minimum requirements may be required to forfeit their position in the Dance Troupes program, or certain performances.

Levies

All students participating in the Dance Troupes program are required to pay the annual Dance Troupes program participation levy for each troupe in which they are involved. The levies cover expenses such as eisteddfod entry, buses to and from events, costume maintenance, choreographers, professional workshops, and other necessary items and services. All invoiced levies are required to be paid by the end of Term 2.

Please pay upon receipt of the invoice for this activity. Payment plans can be arranged; please contact our Accounts Management Officer, Ms Kelsey Marriott on (07) 3291 4213 or email kmarr44@eq.edu.au to discuss options.

There are two categories for the levies. The first is a non-refundable 'core troupe' levy and applies to all students who participate in the Dance Troupes program. For those students who elect to participate in a second troupe, they will need to also pay the 'additional troupe' levy.

Troupe Name	Core Troupe Levy 2024	Additional Troupe Levy 2024
Senior Dance Troupe	\$210.00	
Junior Dance Troupe	\$181.00	
State High Crew	\$199.00	\$185.00
Bollywood Troupe	\$122.00	\$113.00
Costume Usage and Maintenance fee (all students)	\$50.00	

Acknowledgments and Rewards

Pockets

Students may be eligible to receive a Pocket (a line describing participation, which is embroidered on their blazer) for participation in school activities. All acknowledgements and rewards are dependent on meeting the generic criteria as outlined in the Acknowledgements and Rewards Policy.

Strom Award

The Strom Award honours the Strom family and their contributions to the State High Dance program community since 2009. Year 12 students are eligible to nominate themselves or a peer for this award. The successful recipient will have participated in dance performances, eisteddfods and showcases throughout their enrolment at State High. They will have provided exceptional service and commitment to the State High dance community. Nominations will be sent to students in Term 3.

Troupe Information

Dance Troupes Rehearsal Timetable

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	Senior Dance Troupe 7:15am – 8:45am P104	Bollywood Troupe 7:15am – 8:45am P103/P105	Junior Dance Troupe 7:15am – 8:45am P104
After school	State High Crew 3:00pm – 4:45pm P104		

Repertoire and Choreography

Decisions regarding management of events, choreography, and repertoire are the responsibility of the Troupe Directors and the MIC of Dance Troupes. At times, the program will seek external choreographers and invite students from within the school to assist with creation of routines at the discretion of Dance Troupe staff.

Eisteddfod Kit

Costumes will be provided to students in a garment bag.

Hair

- French pins in hair colour
- Bobby pins
- Hairspray
- Hair gel
- Comb
- Brush

- Undergarments**
 - Appropriate underwear (e.g. nude/clear straps etc.) as needed for each costume
 - Tights appropriate for routine (consult Troupe Director)
 - Short black bike pants for under costumes

- Make-up**
 - Liquid foundation in correct skin tone
 - Powder
 - Pink blush
 - Brow pencil for blondes
 - Eyeshadow in shades of black and brown
 - Black eyeliner
 - Black mascara
 - False eyelashes (optional)
 - Bright red lipstick
 - Make-up remover or wipes

- Other items**
 - State High Dance Troupes uniform items as outlined above
 - Relevant dance shoes (consult Troupe Director)
 - Safety pins
 - Needle and thread
 - Scissors
 - Cotton tips
 - Tissues

Specific details will be provided for each performance once costuming has been confirmed.

Most costumes have been purchased by the P&C Association Dance Troupes Sub-Committee or paid for through levies and are owned by the school. If any damage or loss of these items occurs during the year, the parents/guardians of the student will be required to replace the lost or damaged item.

Contact and Dealing with Concerns

Parents and guardians can raise concerns with any member of our staff. Where possible, speak directly to the person with whom you have the concern. To make an appointment to see a staff member, please contact the school office by phone on (07) 3291 4111 or by email to admin@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au.

In the first instance, any concerns regarding the Dance Troupes program should be directed to the MIC of Dance Troupes, Miss April Williams on (07) 3291 4111 or via email – awill821@eq.edu.au.

Where issues may be of a more sensitive or serious nature, the following staff members can be contacted where relevant.

Director of Cultural Activities

Ms Karen Hadfield – khadf7@eq.edu.au

Head of Extra-Curricular & Activities	Mrs Leisa McGiffin– lmcqi9@e.edu.au
Guidance Officer – Year 7 & Year 9	Ms Carly Simpson – csimp100@eq.edu.au
Guidance Officer – Year 8 & Year 10	Julia Cottone Gundelach – jcott55@eq.edu.au
Guidance Officer – Year 11 & Year 12	Jessica Hall – jhall304@eq.edu.au
Guidance Officer	Tia Perchard – tperc11@eq.edu.au
Deputy Principal – Year 7 – 9	Mr Jamie Hunt – jhunt318@eq.edu.au
Deputy Principal – Year 9 – 10	Mr Matthew Thornton – mjtho4@eq.edu.au
Deputy Principal – Year 11 – 12	Ms Maria Williamson – mwill69@eq.edu.au

We look forward to your child participating in the Dance Troupes program.

Should you require further information about the Dance Troupes program, please email culturalevents@brisbaneshs.eq.edu.au.

Karen Hadfield
Director of Cultural Activities