



Hilder Road State School Rising Dancers

Performer Information Handbook

Years 3-6

2026



Welcome to Hilder Road State School Rising Dancers

I am pleased to welcome you to our brand-new program at Hilder Road State School; Rising Dancers. Throughout this year you will be given the opportunity to develop your dance skills, build confidence and express yourself creatively in an inclusive and supportive environment. Whether you are a beginner, experienced dancer or somewhere in between, this program will enable you to develop skills in your dance journey, as you explore the vast and beautiful world of movement.

As they say in the Performing Arts world, *Chookas* for the year ahead, I look forward to seeing you grow both as a dancer and student this year.

Mrs Jen Maskiell



Rising Dancers Coordinator

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul” --- Martha Graham



Rising Dancers Vision Statement

Hilder Road State School's Rising Dancers seeks to nurture the whole dancer—technically, expressively, and socially—in an inclusive and inspiring environment. This program offers accessible, affordable and time-efficient dance training with a focus on skill development, teamwork and confidence.

General Information

The Program:

In Rising Dancers, students will build a strong technical foundation in dance, while experiencing the joy of learning and performing engaging choreography.

Each lesson begins with structured exercises based on contemporary and ballet techniques, helping students develop strength, coordination and flexibility. From there, they will explore choreography in a variety of styles, including hip-hop, jazz and contemporary, developing a student's stage presence, musicality and storytelling skills.

Rising Dancers will also have the opportunity to showcase their progress by performing at selected assemblies, competitions and events toward the end of the year.

Selection Process:

Please apply for the Rising Dancers through our Hilder Road State School website, look for the *Programs of Excellence* tab. If we exceed our enrolment number in EOI forms, the dance coordinator and another staff member will use the **selection criteria** below, along with an **audition** to select our Rising Dancers. The audition will be in the form of a regular dance class.

Selection Criteria:

- a. **Positive Attitude to Learning** – Demonstrates enthusiasm, openness to feedback and a willingness to improve.
- b. **Commitment and Discipline** – Shows dedication to training, consistent effort and perseverance in developing skills.
- c. **Body Control and Awareness** – Exhibits focus, coordination and kinaesthetic awareness in movement.
- d. **Active Engagement** – Participates fully in regular school classes.
- e. **Academic Commitment** – Displays dedication to schoolwork.
- f. **Consistent Attendance** – Demonstrates reliability through high attendance at school.

All students will be notified of the outcome by parent/carer email.



Rehearsal Timetable:

Currently classes are likely to be held on Wednesday morning for Years 3 & 4, and Thursday morning for Years 5 & 6. Please arrive by 7.40am so that class can start on time. Students will be released at 8.45am when the first bell goes.

Cost:

The cost of the program is \$250 for the year which includes the hire of costumes, hire of dance shoes and transport to one competition. This year we are considering entering two competitions, the extra bus fee will likely be an additional cost of approximately \$15 per student. This year we are sourcing a Rising Dancer uniform/T-shirt which will be an additional cost of approximately \$30-\$40. We will work with our uniform shop on this and provide final costs soon. All fees are non-refundable and due after 4 weeks of involvement in the program.

Staff Contact:

Rising Dancers Coordinator - Mrs Jen Maskiell - jemas0@eq.edu.au

Mrs Jen Maskiell – Performing Arts Educator & Dance Specialist

Mrs Jen Maskiell is a dedicated and highly experienced performing arts educator with 18 years of expertise in both the dance industry and school Performing Arts programs. She specialises in contemporary, ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop and musical theatre.

Mrs Maskiell holds a **Bachelor of Performance** and a **Master of Teaching** from the University of Western Sydney. Throughout her career, she has taught in a variety of educational and extracurricular programs, bringing her expertise to both academic and industry settings.

Passionate about fostering the next generation of dancers, Mrs Maskiell is committed to cultivating both technical excellence and artistic expression. She strives to instil confidence, creativity and discipline in her students, inspiring a lifelong love of dance.

Costumes:

Costumes will be sourced and provided for students on a hire basis. Occasionally, students may be asked to provide items from home that match a specific theme. Students may also be asked to purchase tan stockings from Bloch for contemporary.



Parent and Community Engagement:

There are many ways that parents and the wider community can support Rising Dancers. These include but are not limited to; costume and prop making, support events, fundraising, sound, lighting, set up/pack down and much more. If you have skills in a particular area or simply a desire to support this program please let Mrs Maskiell know. We are also looking for someone to head up a sub-committee of parent supporters, if this is of interest to you, please contact Jen Maskiell, she would love to hear from you!

Expectations of Participants

Conduct:

- Rising Dancers is a team-based activity. Students are expected to maintain a high level of professionalism, respect and a positive approach to their peers, rehearsals, events, staff instructions and promotion in the community.
- School rules must be followed in all areas of school involvement; including in class, in transitions, at play and at dance class.
- Appropriate behaviour must be displayed while at school, at external competitions and when travelling to and from competitions.

Attendance:

- Participation in the Rising Dancers program is a year-long commitment and attendance at weekly classes is compulsory. If you will be absent from class, please email Mrs Maskiell prior to the class time.
- Please **arrive at 7.40am**, so that class can start on time at **7.45am**. Students will be released at 8.45am to move to their classrooms.
- Extra dress rehearsals may be called in the lead up to performances. Students will be given plenty of warning for any extra rehearsals, however if there is a clash of timetables, please notify the Dance coordinator. In the lead up to a performance we will hold a technical dress rehearsal. Students who are unable to attend the **technical dress rehearsal** *may* not be able to perform. Decisions about student participation is at the discretion of the Rising Dancers Coordinator.
- As Rising Dancers 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. 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 Rising Dancers Coordinator. Written communication from a parent/guardian is required.

School Work:

- Students must achieve a minimum of 90% attendance at School unless absences are supported by a medical certificate.



- Effort and participation should average 'good to very good' across all days, and all school-related contexts. This includes completion of class work and assignments. Classroom teachers will report breaches to the Rising Dancers Coordinator.

Uniform and Presentation:

- Students are required to wear the School **sports uniform/Dance uniform** for events and rehearsals. This consists of the coloured polo shirt or blue interschool sports shirt, shorts or skort and sneakers with socks. If the students PE lesson does not fall on Wednesdays, this will mean that they need to wear their Sports uniform twice each week. When events, such as formal assemblies or photo day falls on Wednesday, students will be required to change into their full School Uniform after class.
- Students are required to come to class with their hair properly tied back in a ponytail, braids or bun. Please make sure fringes are tidy.

Performances:

- Rising Dancers will compete at the Beenleigh Eisteddfod in the Primary School's division. Travel arrangements to and from Logan Entertainment Centre will be provided closer to the date.
- We will also explore the possibility of competing at another Eisteddfod this year.
- Rising Dancers will have the opportunity to showcase their progress by performing at selected assemblies and events throughout the year.
- Students are to arrive and depart School-based and external performances wearing their full school Sports uniform including shoes.



Rising Dancers Behaviour Management Policy

In addition to the Student Code of Conduct of Hilder Road State School, the Rising Dancers Program has further developed its own process to assist in the development of self-discipline and regulation. A system of demerits has been devised which operates solely within the Rising Dancers Program. **The primary reason for this is to assist students in making good choices and developing their personal character.**

Demerit

A demerit is issued for every breach of the HRSS's Student Code of Conduct.

The following table outlines some of the (but not limited to) reasons for which a demerit would be issued:

| Reason | Demerits |
|--|----------|
| Rising Dancers: | |
| Failure to comply with special rules and conditions of the specified Rising Dancers Program | 1 |
| Failure to comply with HRSS Uniform requirements following Dance lessons (without note/email stating valid reason) | 1 |
| Repeated lateness to dance lessons (without note/email stating valid reason) | 1 |
| Failure to attend training (without note/email stating valid reason) | 1 |
| Inappropriate behaviour during dance classes and performances | 1 |
| Failure to have correct equipment e.g. Water bottle, hair tied back, sports uniform, joggers and socks | 1 |

| Reason | Demerits |
|---|----------|
| General classroom or school excursions: | |
| Repeated minor breaches of HERO expectations within a week (3) | 1 |
| A major breach of HERO expectations | 1 |
| Failure to achieve an average of 'good effort' across all subject areas | 1 |



There are eight (8) levels of action taken with regard to Demerits. The following table outlines the consequences:

| LEVEL | DEMERITS | CONSEQUENCE |
|-------|----------|--|
| 1 | 3 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 1 st advisory email to parents reminding them of the Demerits Process. |
| 2 | 4 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 2 nd advisory email to parents advising that one more demerit will mean suspension from the next performance. |
| 3 | 5 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 3 rd advisory email informing parents that the student has been suspended from the next performance. |
| 4 | 8 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 4 th advisory email to parents advising that three more demerits have been gained since suspension, reminding them of Demerits Policy and that one more demerit will result in the next two Performances suspension from the next two performances. |
| 5 | 9 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 5 th advisory email informing parents that the student will be suspended from the next two performances. |
| 6 | 12 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 6 th advisory email to parents advising that three more demerits have been gained since suspension and reminding them of Demerits Process. |
| 7 | 13 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 7 th advisory email to parents stating that one more demerit will result in expulsion from the program. Principal advised. |
| 8 | 14 | Rising Dancers Coordinator forwards 8 th and advisory email to parents stating that the student has been referred to Administration. Administration to officially inform parents of student's removal from the program. |

Students will retain each demerit for a period of 12 months from time of issue.

We look forward to your child participating in the Rising Dancers program. Should you require further information about Rising Dancers, please email jemas0@eq.edu.au.



RISING DANCERS PROGRAM: STUDENT TERMS OF ENROLMENT

1. I acknowledge that by being accepted into the Rising Dancers Program, I have been provided with a special opportunity to continue with both my schoolwork and my dance training.
2. I understand that my efforts must be 100% in both my academic studies and my dance commitments and must meet the standards expected of me by my teachers and instructors. I will seek assistance at once if I am having difficulty achieving this.
3. I will adhere to the School's Uniform Policy.
4. I will attend school and all program activities, ensuring that I am always punctual and prepared with the appropriate attire and equipment.
5. At all times, I will ensure that nothing I do will damage the good name of the School or the Rising Dancers Program.
6. I will maintain a courteous and cooperative demeanour towards my teachers, instructors, classmates, and visitors.
7. I will inform my Coordinator or Instructor of any outside commitments that may clash with my Rising Dancers activities.
8. I will report any injuries or illness to my dance teacher immediately.
9. I will notify my Coordinator in writing, in advance, of any planned absences.
10. I realise that my place in the Rising Dances Program is dependent upon my adherence to all stated rules and conditions, and I am fully prepared to accept any penalties that may result from my failure to comply with these rules.
11. I understand that my place in the Rising Dancers Program is for a minimum period of a year. Any withdrawal from the Program must be applied for through the coordinator in the form of a written request from my parents.

Student Name:

Student Signature: Date:/.....



RISING DANCERS PROGRAM: PARENT TERMS OF ENROLMENT

1. I understand that my child's involvement in the Rising Dancers Program has associated costs and that a yearly payment will be invoiced. Fees for the year enrolled in are non-refundable. Payment plans may be arranged through administration. I also understand that, should my child choose to leave or if they are excluded from the Program, then no part of the fee will be refunded.
2. I acknowledge that a condition of participation in the Rising Dancers Program is that all school-associated costs such as levies, costumes, and performance fees must be paid for continued involvement. Fees must be paid four weeks after invoice date.
3. I understand that I/we are responsible for getting my child to rehearsals, performances, and any external dance commitments on time.
4. I understand that my child's behaviour and participation are required to be maintained at a high standard for continued involvement in the Rising Dances Program. I will support my child in understanding their responsibilities.

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date:/...../.....