



Dressing Space and Costume Fitting Policy

for Performing Arts Students



Elizabeth
College

**UNLOCK
YOUR
POTENTIAL**

Purpose

This policy has been created to outline the rights and responsibilities of Elizabeth College's students and staff about privacy and respect in dressing spaces, costume, and backstage areas.

Policy Statement

At Elizabeth College, we endeavour to make sure that all students feel cared for, safe and respected at all times. The Elizabeth College Responsibilities underpins this policy.

We recognise that some students may not feel safe changing or fitting costumes in open spaces, including dressing spaces, side of stage or backstage.

In the Performing Arts we acknowledge that costuming and costume changes are an important part of performances/productions. To cater to this, we have had professionally installed dressing cubicles.

We acknowledge that staff have a duty of care and responsibility to monitor dressing spaces and backstage areas.

Responsibilities of Elizabeth College

- Provide safe change room spaces for rehearsals and performances.
- Ensure separate change spaces for males, females, and non-binary students.
- When requested, provide private change cubicles for individuals (these spaces may be used by a number of students, but students will use individually to change)
- Ensure Performing Arts staff and any supervising teachers working backstage are aware and have read this policy.

Responsibilities of Elizabeth College Performing Arts Staff

- Ensure dressing spaces are safe and that students are behaving appropriately in dressing spaces and backstage areas.
- Ensure male staff only access male dressing space and only female staff access female dressing space.
- Ensure mobile phones, cameras and bags are not permitted in dressing spaces, backstage or in the dance studio.
- Ensure signage outlines who is permitted in different spaces and that no cameras, phones and personal bags are permitted.
- For costume fittings, ensure that staff outline what measurements are being taken, for what purpose and seek permission before making physical contact with a student. Fittings to be conducted with at least one other student or teacher present.
- One staff member will always carry the Performing Arts mobile phone throughout the performance season for emergency contact.

Responsibilities of Performing Arts Students

All Performing Arts students are required to:

- Respect the privacy of every student.
- Be aware that staff will visit dressing rooms for a variety of reasons.
- If removing under clothes, a private dressing cubicle is to be used.
- Students may request a private individual space when changing by discussing this with the teacher prior to the performance/season.
- Students are not to move between gender designated dressings room spaces. All individual dressing cubicles will be signed with Female, Male or Unisex.
- Mobile phones, cameras and personal bags are not permitted in the dressing spaces, backstage and dance studio.
- Mobile phones and devices with cameras to be stored in personal bags. Bags will be stored in a lockable space for the duration of the rehearsal/performance.
- Staff will have the Performing Arts mobile phone which can be used for contact in case of an emergency. Students will be provided with this phone number. Parents and students can call this number in case of an emergency.

Breaching Responsibilities

- Students who breach this policy will be counselled by their teacher, and if serious the matter may be referred to the Curriculum Leader/Assistant Principal for further intervention.
- Students who have any concerns about the behaviour of a student/teacher should report the matter immediately to a supervising teacher. The matter may be referred to the Curriculum Leader or Assistant Principal for further intervention. Student Services are also available to support.