

Dance Curriculum Overview

“Great artists are people who find the way to be themselves in their art.” (Margot Fonteyn)

Our intention is to create students who are not only confident in their ability to perform in public but who are also able to interpret dance through a range of performance skills. We pride ourselves in our ability to develop students' personal and social skills by working as part of a team.

Our curriculum is broad and enriching. We aim to provide opportunities for students to explore and develop ideas, devise performances and evaluate their work. Students will be introduced to a range of dance skills in both performance and choreography so that they can interpret various dance works as well as using skills effectively in their own performances.

The curriculum is sequenced to ensure that key skills are learnt first and then filtered into all future learning, building on their knowledge and understanding of not only what these are, but how and why we can use them in our performance work. Across all three performing arts disciplines students will focus on three key areas of study: confidence, accuracy and fluency.

The learning journey in dance is both educational and enriching: enabling all students to study performance and choreography in practice as well as dance from around the world. Exploring different types of world dance will enable them to make decisions about style when developing their own ideas. Students will look at professional repertoire; analysing this as well as learning excerpts and creating their own work inspired by what they have seen.

Examining other production roles forms part of extended learning work as well as being covered in the wider reading articles.

Outside of the classroom, we want to ensure students recognise the importance of Dance more widely. Dance club forms an important part of the department's enrichment offer. We are passionate about giving students opportunities to participate in performances and our annual whole school production is one of the highlights of the academic year.

Theatre trips also inspire students to pursue Dance and to develop their understanding of performance and choreography by experiencing live Dance on the stage. Dance will support students with their further academic study enabling them to go on to study not only dancing and choreography but a range of other non-performance production roles.

| | TOPIC 1 | TOPIC 2 |
|---------------|---|---|
| Year 7 | Dance Around the World Exploring African, American, English, Chinese & Indian dance styles & developing performance skills | Dance through the Decades Exploring the 90s, 80s, 70s, 60s & 50s popular dance trends with a choreography and performance final assessment |
| Year 8 | Dancing with Props Using chairs to develop performance and choreography skills | Diversity – Street dance Using the BLM dance to develop performance, analysis and choreography skills |

Year 9

5 Soldiers

Using this piece as a stimulus to develop performance, analysis and choreography skills

MINI OPTIONSTOPICS:

I love you mum

Analysing the performance based on a true story to then research and develop a piece of dance on another social issue, developing performance and choreography skills in doing so.

Grease

Analysing the musical performance to then research and develop their own medley of 3 different dances using music & steps from the film, developing performance and choreography skills in doing so

The Apprentice

Looking at how skills learnt in Performing Arts transfer to the 'real world' by creating and marketing their own product using dance.