



# Dance

## Curriculum Overview



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

### Intent:

Our aim is to provide an engaging and challenging curriculum that promotes enjoyment, resilience, healthy lifestyles and creativity. We intend to deliver high-quality teaching and learning opportunities that inspire all students to succeed.

### Impact:

#### Dance gives young people confidence.

- ▶ Confidence to present themselves in front of others.
- ▶ Confidence to be seen and not hide
- ▶ Confidence to show people what they can do

#### Dance gives students problem-solving skills.

- ▶ Working out how to create movement that fits a theme teaches them how to find a solution to a problem
- ▶ Working out the best exercise to improve a particular skill teaches them how to work on their own weaknesses to achieve

#### Dance gives young people leadership skills.

- ▶ Is it easy to create movement for a group of people, design them in space, communicate what you need and rehearse them until it's perfect? Dancers do this all the time!
- ▶ Leadership skills are skills that encourage innovation and success.
- ▶ Leaders move up in the world.

#### Dance gives students Life Skills

- ▶ Team skills
- ▶ Communication skills
- ▶ Health & Fitness
- ▶ Literacy

### Implementation:

The dance curriculum focusses on the two components Choreography and Performance. A range of dance styles are experienced from a range of cultures and disciplines. Students are expected to experience a range of problem-solving activities, opportunities to improve fitness and the opportunity to develop creatively with others. Each student will experience the role of a performer, choreographer, rehearsal director and critique.

### Enrichment:

Students have the opportunity to participate in a weekly after school dance club in Year 7 and 8. Those studying Dance at GCSE level have the opportunity twice a week to prepare for assessments, rehearse examination and just be creative.

Exam students work towards performances at Open Evenings, Assemblies, Options Evenings, Out-school projects with professional artists and an annual 'Evening of Dance'. Dance students also have the opportunity to audition for the Big School production.

## Key stage 3: Year 7 & 8

At Key Stage 3 students have their dance lessons as part of the PE curriculum. They will learn a variety of skills through Performance and Choreography.

Year	Topics Covered				
7	Building Movement Vocabulary and an understanding of safety	Responding to a Visual Stimuli	Duet Compositions based on basic choreographic devices.	Building knowledge of compositional devices through group work	Whole Class performance based on a recent topic in society
8	Building Movement vocabulary and technique	Responding to a Kinaesthetic stimulus	Responding to an Ideational Stimulus	Trust: Basic contact work in duets, sensitivity and safety when use full and partial weight supports	Whole class performance based on a recent topic in society

**Assessment:** Students are assessed through their ability to perform, create and evaluate.

## GCSE Dance – Year 9 - 11

**Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject.**

AQA

The GCSE specification recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and students will study a range of dance styles and style fusions. The study of the anthology of professional works will develop their ability to critically appraise professional dance works and provide a springboard for engaging in practical tasks.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Year 9	Emancipation of Expressionism (Hip Hop)  Safe working practice	Physical, Expressive, Technical and Mental skills.	A Linha Curva (Contemporary, Samba Capoeira)  Responding to stimuli	Choreographic devices  Learn one set phrase	Within Her Eyes (Contact Contemporary)	Performance analysis
Year 10	Artificial Things (Inclusive Dance)	Communication of choreographic intent  Trio performance	Infra (Contemporary Ballet)	Choreographic devices further	Shadows (Modern, neo-classical)  Choreographic processes	Mock Exam
Year 11	Trio/Duo Performance Moderation	Set Phrase Moderation	Anthology revision	Group Composition Exam	Written Exam	

**Advanced Level Dance:**

## Year 12 and 13

An exciting and diverse specification, accessible for all A-level Dance is a dynamic qualification which encourages students to develop their creative and intellectual capacity, alongside transferable skills such as team working, communication and problem solving. All of these are sought after skills by higher education and employers and will help them stand out in the workplace whatever their choice of career.

The specification reflects both historical and current dance practices, making it more relevant, and inspires a lifelong passion and appreciation for dance. The course recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and where students will be able to study a range of dance styles.

Assessments are clear, well-structured and easy to understand. Exam questions take a variety of styles; this helps to build students' confidence.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Year 12	Rambert Dance Company  Dance technique	Richard Alston Siobhan Davies  Sensitivity and performing with others.	Rooster Christopher Bruce  What makes a high level of performance	Essay writing skills PEEL  Quartet performance piece	Sidi larbi Cherkaoui Sutra  Solo performance piece through the movement style of a range of practitioners.	Mock Exam  Group compositions Choreographic process
Year 13	Dance technique Developing choreographic skills	Complete Quartet Solo Group Choreography	Practical Rehearsal and Exam preparation	Practical Exam  Revision	Written Exam	

