



# CHARTERS DANCE

## Appropriate physical contact Policy

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## Physical Contact

Teaching dance is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and teachers in class is useful but not essential to dance training. If a teacher believes that a student may hurt or injure themselves then they will use their hands, and occasionally a foot or knee, to illustrate a concept to a student or to adjust parts of a student's body (especially with the younger students). Ballet posture often requires adjusting the rib-cage and the back area simultaneously. Charters dance will try every other option such as different use of vocabulary and demonstration before any physical contact is made.

Teacher may need to demonstrate with students in ways which will involve supporting and lifting. In choreographic teaching, teachers demonstrate positions and movements to the students by moving parts of the students' bodies and by moving dancers in relation to each other: this can involve contact with students. Charters Dance recognises that such physical contact is a potentially a complex area; and the School also fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding students and teachers and for protecting their welfare.

The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfill the School's obligations:

- a) Contact by the teacher is made with particular awareness of the needs of each individual, to assist the young dancer in correcting placement. Teacher will gain consent before any contact is made.
- b) All teachers will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care
- c) Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument
- d) Teachers will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student; all classes should be held in studios and dance areas
- e) Teachers and students should feel free to report any concerns to the Rachel Moore.



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