

SAFE TOUCH POLICY

Teaching dance is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and teachers in class is essential to training.

Teachers can make physical contact with a student to illustrate a concept or to adjust a student's alignment (especially with the younger students). (Dance posture often requires adjustment of the ribcage and buttock area simultaneously)

We recognise that such physical contact is a potentially complex area and we also fully recognise our responsibilities for safeguarding students and teachers and for protecting their welfare.

The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil our obligations:

1. Contact by the teacher is made with particular awareness to the needs of each individual/to assist the student in correcting placement.
2. All teachers will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care and with due regard for the wishes of the student.
3. Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument.
4. Teachers will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student – all classes should be held in studios and performance areas with windows.
5. Students should be encouraged to discuss any worries with any member of staff.
6. Both students and teachers should feel free to report any concerns to Asher.