

THE DANCE STUDIO COVID PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

Dance Studio staff have been researching, attending webinars and completing courses on how to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. Please see our well thought out plan which will be put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection to all that attend classes.

Safety

Safety is of the utmost importance to us at The Dance Studio and we want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to keep children and adults safe before, during and after classes. All teachers have undertaken infection control courses and additional training. They have been consulted and informed about the plans e.g. safety measures, reporting requirements, staggered arrival and departure times etc.

Risk assessment.

We have updated our risk assessments, taking into account COVID-19 precautions for every venue we will hold classes in.

Coronavirus Guidelines

Please ensure you have read and understood the Coronavirus guidance on the Gov.uk website. In sending your child to classes at The Dance Studio you agree to follow the guidelines: The web address for your reference is <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We ask that if your child or anyone in your household shows signs or symptoms of coronavirus that they stay at home and self- isolate for a minimum of 10 days. Please **do not** bring them to their dance classes. More guidance is in the link above. If your child has attended a class and subsequently shown symptoms, been tested and is positive, please advise Miriam at The Dance Studio immediately. As we will be social distancing in class, students will have been protected as far as possible. I will then seek advice from Track and Trace and let anyone concerned know of what steps must be taken straight away. Our staff will be following the same guidance.

If you/your child is classified as vulnerable, we ask that you shield and follow the specific medical advice given to you and do not attend classes. More information regarding Coronavirus and guidelines is in the link above.

Entering and exiting the building- social distancing is in place. Parents will NOT be allowed in the building unless absolutely necessary in order to minimise traffic and the spread of the virus. The exception is for our Teeny/ Tiny Ballerina accompanied and little ones classes. If any parent does need to enter for any circumstance or because a child is unsettled then they must sanitise their hands on entry and exit and wear a mask.

Parents of children are to walk their child to the entrance to be handed over to a member of staff (unless discussed otherwise in advance). The same goes for collection. Teachers will chaperone them to the exit where they will be collected by the parent, maintaining the 2m rule. Please be punctual in dropping off/collecting your child at the correct time. The teacher needs to have adequate time to clean in-between classes and allow time to bring the next class of children in. Most importantly, we need to avoid as much traffic as possible.

Please do not all crowd outside the entrance/exit areas but do keep your distance of 2 metres apart. Pupils will be expected to maintain this 2 metre distancing when entering the venue. Pupils will need to enter and exit the building via different doors. There will be a one-way system inside the building.

This is to minimise the amount of traffic. I will be sending out entrance and exit details specific to the venue you are using once you have confirmed your class places.

Space and social distancing in class

Socially Distanced classes are in place.

We know the virus can transmit through droplets from the nose and mouth – it can linger in the air, fall to the ground and be transmitted by talking as well as touch and close contact. Masks and visors are not conducive to a dance and drama environment, therefore we need to apply social distancing rules in class. All pupils from age 5 upwards will be expected to stay 2m apart for classes. If one tests positive, the answer to Track and Trace's question of who they have been in contact with for more than 15mins in a distance of less than 2m should hopefully be no-one. As such only the identified individual would have to isolate and not an entire class. With this in mind, we will be maintaining social distance for this to work.

Children will need help with judging distance and will need reminders about how to distance themselves. To help with this, pupils will have their own 2 metre square marked out on the floor in which they will have to stay in throughout their class so they can sit/stand away from one another. Pupils should stay in their square at all times unless completely necessary.

For children under 5 years the rules are different and they are not currently expected to social distance from each other, but will be encouraged to when possible. In Parent accompanied classes for little ones only one parent may attend with their child and they must wear a mask and social distance from the other parents/carers. Guidance will be given to you throughout the class by the teachers.

We have had each hall measured and know exactly how many pupils are allowed in each venue in order to keep to the guidelines supplied by the government. This will be strictly adhered to.

Staff have discussed correction measures (where these would normally be done with considered physical contact) and delivering guidance at a distance.

No changing inside of building unless absolutely necessary

Pupils are to arrive already in their uniform for classes. No changing facilities will be available in order to minimise spread of the virus. If pupils have more than one class and normally have to change uniform, they will not have to change in between classes. E.g. if they have ballet and modern, they can wear their black leggings/footless tights over their ballet tights and then take these off in between class inside the hall OR just wear ballet tights for modern. Please contact me if you have any problems.

Minimum belongings brought to class

Please minimise the amount of belongings needed in class. All pupils will need is a bottle of water, any medical items, a mask (if applicable) and their dancing shoes. Pupils will have their own individual space to leave their items which will be sanitised between each class.

Toilet

Please encourage your child to go to the toilet before class. We would like to avoid using the toilets if possible. If they need the toilet during class, they will only be allowed to go one at a time. Surfaces and toilets will be cleaned in between classes if they have been used.

Class times & Cleaning between sessions.

Class times will be slightly adjusted so we have sufficient time in between classes to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all entering and exiting the venue. This is also necessary so that teachers have time to sanitise any surfaces that have been touched in between classes and complete all safety checks. We also need time to ensure that our registers are accurate and well documented so we you know who was there at what time on what day. If someone contracts COVID-19 we need to know when and who, so we can update those who were in the venue at that time.

If your child is doing consecutive lessons on the same day, they will wait in a clean supervised area whilst the studio is sanitised ready for the next session.

Cleanliness

Students will be asked to clean hands on entry and exit to classes with hand sanitisers provided by ourselves and/or the venues. All common contact surfaces will be cleaned in between every class such as doors, light switches, chairs, barres etc.

Props will be used in our little ones classes but not shared between children. After their single use they will be set aside to be fully disinfected/washed before they are used again.

Where possible doors will be propped open to minimise touching surfaces.

Footwear

Footwear MUST be worn for all classes including modern, acro and contemporary where normally you would go bare foot. Please can pupils wear ballet shoes, dance or trampoline socks or split sole jazz shoes for Modern, Acro and Jazz classes.

All Jazz, Contemporary, Acro and Modern pupils must bring a yoga/ exercise mat to class as we are unable to share mats currently.

Ventilation

Where possible all spaces will be well ventilated, doors and windows will be opened frequently so that there is a maximum through flow of air.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching strategies will be adapted. Working in pairs or small groups will be avoided at this time. Teachers have been discussing how to make classes fun and enjoyable working within a small space and have lots of ideas. Team- work and interaction will be possible, but in accordance with social distancing.

PPE

Currently mask wearing is not recommended during exercise so will not be required for students in classes. However, all students age 11 upwards and staff will be required to wear a face covering in the common areas of each venue. Your co-operation in this matter is much appreciated.

Fees and payment policy

When registering your child for classes you agree to our terms and conditions. These have been updated and can be found on our website.

Our payment policy still stands and if you wish to terminate classes, we require half a terms notice in advance. Fees will still be due if you fail to give advance notice. Please understand that overheads (hall hire, teachers, insurance, and other expenses- such as COVID requirements) still need to be covered. See below for updates but do read our full terms and conditions and the payment policy on our website. Fees will be invoiced termly as before. Our multiple class discounts will be also available again.

As stated in our previous policy, refunds are not provided for students' sickness, injury, school trips, holidays etc. This includes Coronavirus. If classes are temporarily cancelled for any reason, we will offer a replacement class instead (in a venue or online) and no refund will be given. If a teacher at The Dance Studio contracts Coronavirus and has to self- isolate, as well as letting you know, we will try our best to keep classes running with another teacher or classes will then take place via Zoom until normal classes can recommence.

If lockdown is reintroduced, classes will revert to Zoom immediately. The timetable may adjust slightly to combine some of the separated groups but will roughly be the same. No refunds will be given.

Up to date information and your consent

Please ensure the contact information you have provided The Dance Studio with when registering your child is up to date so we can contact you if we need to. By sending your child to classes you also agree for us to contact you should we need to regarding a case of coronavirus in your child's class. By sending your child to class you also consent for us to share your information to Track and Trace if needed.

Please follow the link and fill in a COVID-19 parent consent form.

<https://www.thedancestudioherts.co.uk/covid-19-consent-form/>