



Dance Curriculum Intent Statement

Dance at St Paul's empowers students with the opportunity for creative expression. We strongly believe that our department brings breadth to our school curriculum and allows for rich and varied learning experiences. Dance can provide students with many benefits to help them grow in an inclusive environment.

Intent

Our Dance curriculum intends that students are able to come to lessons where they feel safe and cared for as well as providing them with a time of fun and enjoyment. Dance topics are of a wide variety of genres that explore different cultures, historical/ geographical contexts and social backgrounds. This varied curriculum allows students to learn in a cross-curricular form, which can help to develop their understanding of Dance as well as make links to other curriculum areas and the outside world. Our Dance curriculum not only intends to develop students' ability to dance and develop their fitness but also aid them to become enthusiastic learners, with the ability to question, argue and reason. We also have a focus on developing mental skills such as teamwork, confidence, critical thinking and problem solving.

Our Dance curriculum is diverse and respectful to the wide variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds we have at St Paul's especially by the study of cultural dance i.e. Bollywood and Capoeira. We also aim to continue to develop the school's Catholic values through celebrating, nurturing talent and respecting each other. We hope to provide an inclusive environment where every student can take part regardless of his or her background. Dance topics are accessible to all, but can push the high ability. We believe that Dance is for all, which is why we offer so many enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities in the form of afterschool clubs and performances.

We intend to teach knowledge and skills in practical lessons with clever use of questioning to capture students' curiosity of the subject. We believe that theoretical and practical understanding of the subject should be aligned and each lesson is a development of the last. Our curriculum objectives are:

- All students are encouraged to make progress through setting targets and receiving live feedback.
- Develop self-confidence and self-discipline, grow in self-esteem, and develop sensitivity to and respect for others.
- Celebrate diversity and different ethnic backgrounds.
- Offer an inclusive environment where all students can develop a variety of cross-curricular skills.
- Offer an 'extended' curriculum that offers enrichment and extra-curricular activities.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle, encouraging participation in physical activity and nurturing talent.

Implementation

Our current Dance curriculum is working towards the impact statement above. Over the past few years, we completed a lot of work to hit these goals and desires, especially the need to give students an inclusive dance education and help to provide varied dance topics and styles.

We currently deliver Dance to years 7 and 8, GCSE dance (AQA) and A Level Dance (AQA). In years 7 and 8 students are introduced to Dance using topics that ripen students' understanding of health and fitness, cultural/historical dance styles such as Bollywood and Capoeira dance, social dance form such as Sixties, Lindy Hop, Street Dance and topics that develop students' knowledge of GCSE/A Level choreography and Dance analysis skills. We feel that these topics leave students with a good foundation to study GCSE Dance. The GCSE Dance curriculum is also broad and is divided into performance, choreography and analysis. The three-year GCSE allows knowledge and basic skills to be developed in year 9, students are provided performance opportunities to showcase these new skills. Students are drip-fed GCSE content in year 9 to develop their knowledge and skills early but not in a way to exhaust the subject content.

The Dance department is staffed well, all lessons are taught by one of two experienced and qualified Dance teachers. Teachers are knowledgeable of the specifications and enjoy developing students' curiosity of the subject. Our department has formed strong links with Dance staff from the St Thomas Aquinas Multi Academy Trust; this has allowed us to share best practice and continue to develop our thriving department.