



Further Information

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Cambridgeshire Culture

Dance – Cambridgeshire

Including Vision for Dance

**A commitment to cultural
entitlements and
partnerships
for children and
young people**



Cambridgeshire Culture
for children and young people



PRODUCED BY

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Foreword



Cambridgeshire Culture is an important element of the provision for Cambridgeshire children and young people, and it has become successful in ensuring children have access to, and participate in, a wide range of cultural experiences, broadening their horizons and aspirations.

This booklet focuses on the importance and the role of dance in developing both children's culture and expertise together with their health and wellbeing. I hope that you use this booklet to support and drive the area of dance in your school or setting, and look forward to seeing the impact it has on children and young people.

Gayle Gorman

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Classroom 2 Ballroom

Classroom 2 Ballroom is a programme that introduces young people to ballroom as a way of having fun, keeping fit and gaining confidence through the discipline of dance. It's also a really valuable way to teach pre-teen boys and girls about mutual respect, teaching the children innumerable things – not just dance steps.

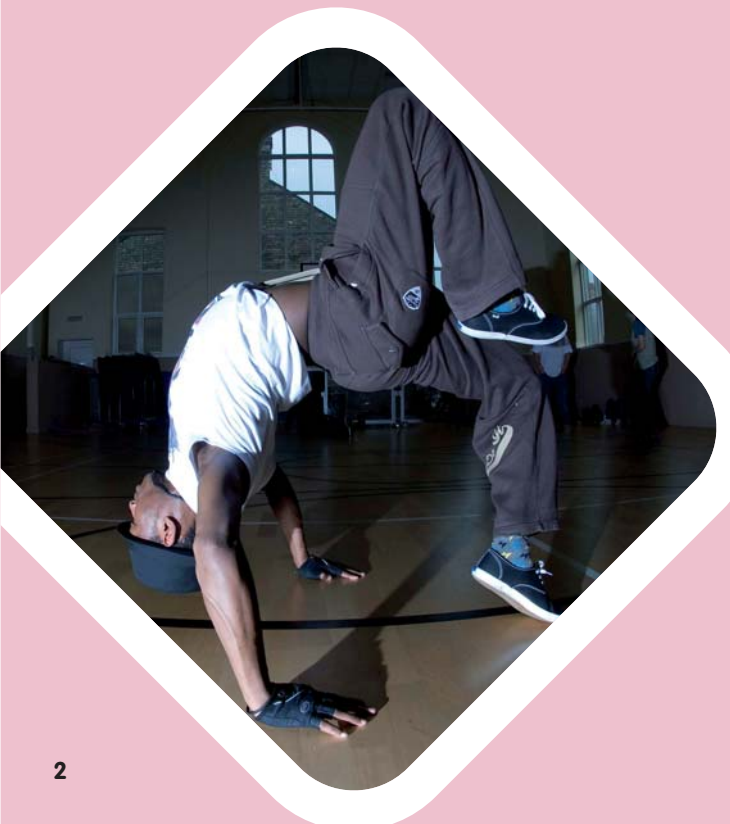
The programme runs over 12-weeks for schoolchildren which teaches them waltz, jive and cha, cha, cha- culminating in a strictly come dancing-style competition.

Anastasia Castiglione, founder of the Castellano School of Spanish Dance, has developed the programme to bring all the benefits of classical dance directly into schools. She has spent two years developing the concept, which was piloted at Milton Road Primary School in January 2009. The aim is to help change global thinking about who can dance and making dance more available for everyone.

The children that took part in the programme at the primary school last year, made it to the final of Chesterton Community colleges talent competition after only a few weeks of training. The group that performed a salsa formation had only been dancing for a year, the group that made the transition from primary school to secondary school showed no fear in the face of their older competition. The group performed their routine so impressively they were granted the runner-up position in the competition.

Anastasia says " Its built their confidence, taught them to respect each other, helped them focus and learn about goal-setting," she says "And most of all, I hope its shown them that anything really is possible – and inspired them to follow their own dreams."

For more information about **Classroom 2 Ballroom** contact **Anastasia** on **07718538588** or **info@castellanodance.co.uk** or visit the website, **www.castellanodance.co.uk**





May Day Celebrations 2010



Upwood Primary School celebrated 'May Day' on Friday 30 April 2010.

The whole school, including children from Reception right up to Year 6, performed their class dance and parents/carers, grandparents and friends were invited to watch and celebrate. All the children and staff wore their best summer clothes for the occasion.

The children and class teachers worked very hard to put the dances together. There was a variety of dances including the sword dance and the 'May Pole Dance'. At the end of the morning the whole school performed the 'Pat-a-Cake Polka' together.

I would like to thank all teachers, teaching assistants, adult helpers and the children who made the morning such a success with their commitment to the celebration. The morning was a huge success and we look forward to the performance for next year!



A Chance to Dance at The Spinney School

"Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education" – **Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche**

"Dancing is just discovery, discovery, discovery." – **Martha Graham**

Robotic dancing, modern jazz dance, traditional English folk dances, Indian dance and the Macarena at lunchtime play on a Friday afternoon. There's a style of dance to suit everybody.

Dance in all its forms is a key component of the creative curriculum that we offer children at The Spinney School. Throughout the course of their primary years here our pupils have the opportunity to try a range of different styles and techniques. We recognise the significant benefits dance offers our children. The chance to dance is a chance to move freely, spontaneously, and uninhibited. It's a chance to explore, to discover and to respond. Dance is liberating, uplifting and empowering.

Children respond very intuitively when they are moved by the music they hear and whilst it is important to give children the

opportunity for unrestricted creative expression, pupils also need to understand that dance is a precise and disciplined art form. For this reason The Spinney also makes a point of working in partnership with professional dancers. In recent years the children have learnt African dances, Latin American dances and Bollywood Dance.

"It is really nice to have special dance teachers and it's nice to try out different styles of dancing and anyone can learn how to do them." – **Sophie**

Last term the Year 4s worked with Heemali Inamdar of Explosion Arts Dance Company

"I liked the scarves that we wore around our waists because they were all sorts of patterns and colours. It was not like other dances we have tried because we really had to use our hips." – **Dylan**

A chance to dance is a wonderful gift we can give our youngsters and one that will sustain them for the rest of their lives.

"Any problem in the world can be solved by dancing." – **James Brown**

Vision for Dance

Welcome to Vision for Dance: Cambridgeshire

We want to promote the many dance opportunities available to young people and the huge variety of styles of dance on offer. We want young people to watch, take part and delve deeper in dance.

Our vision is that each child and young person growing up in Cambridgeshire, wherever they live and whatever their circumstances will have opportunities to experience a range of high quality dance activities both as participant and as audience. The local authority supports such provision by ensuring that children and young people can find out what is available.

There are many opportunities for children and young people, such as in schools and youth settings, youth dance companies, early year's settings and colleges, as well as a range of external providers and partners. Cambridgeshire County Council will work with a range of partners to ensure equitable provision of positive dance activities.

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Vision for Dance – Cambridgeshire

Why Dance?

The sense of achievement and enjoyment provided by good quality dance experiences can have a lasting influence on children and young people. These experiences can develop an understanding of cultures and provide opportunities for individuals to work with other people in their community. They offer the benefits of healthy regular exercise, social and community involvement and enable young people to develop new skills, leadership qualities and engage in challenges, which in turn can develop confident and successful individuals. Dance has the potential to engage across the family, across the age ranges and dance is often used as a celebration. Dance will play a central role in the celebration of the Cultural Olympiad as both a forerunner and lasting legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games.



We believe that Dance in Cambridgeshire will have a positive impact on children and young people's lives. **Our aim is that young people;**

Watch – we want to

- Introduce young people to quality dance performances
- Experience a range of performance formats and venues
- Learn about putting on high quality performances and celebrate performances in schools

Take part – we want to

- Create a school environment where all staff value and support dance activity
- Work in safe, clean dance environments
- Teach young people about healthy dance practice
- Explore young peoples' creativity through dance
- Encourage teachers and leaders to participate in CPD to update their skills and knowledge and ensure they are appropriately skilled when delivering in schools
- Make links with other schools, out of school dance providers and organisations
- Provide support for all who want to dance and progressive pathways, where appropriate, for talented dancers
- Encourage young people to take part socially as well as take on a variety of roles, including that of leader

Delve deeper – we want to

- Encourage ambition and aspiration in dance
- Encourage young people to continue to explore dance outside the curriculum
- Encourage young people to understand the many connections in dance forms and explore the cultural heritage of dance
- Where appropriate, provide information about dance organisations and companies that can offer routes into dance careers including performing, management and other roles.



Vision for Dance – Cambridgeshire

Where can I find out more?

Working with Partners

Working collaboratively with a range of external local, regional and national partners is essential to securing the breadth and richness of provision to which we are committed. The County Council is keen to develop closer working relationships with cultural providers in order that children and young people have access to high quality and safe, dance activities.

The five District Councils, offer a broad range of dance activities in conjunction with schools, youth settings and voluntary groups, as well as independent activities.



Further information...

There are many high quality professional, voluntary and community dance organisations in Cambridgeshire, who work with children and young people and offer opportunities for participation in dance activities. This document has been produced by the Cambridgeshire Dance Development group. We believe that young people should be able to access as much information as possible to discover what opportunities are available. We have compiled a list of information about CPD for school staff, celebrations of Dance, signposts to places to dance and how to get involved and this can be found at, www.pe.ccceducation.net

Training and advice is available through, Cambridgeshire Advisory Service, School Sport Partnerships, Sports Colleges, DanceEast and other Providers.

Further information can be found at;
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/arts/specific/Dance.htm
and www.cambridgeshire.net and www.youthoria.org/home/

Photos by Adrien Crasnault

Dance and Movement The Holocaust – Castle School

Thoughts from the Castle Students who performed and put the dance together:

“We talked about War and how the Jews and people were treated. We learnt a lot about the concentration camps and how people suffered.

We first developed the dance in small groups. Then we joined the groups together to form the finished dance. We also looked at photographs from the Internet and that gave us ideas. The theme music from Schindler's List was very emotional and helped us express our feelings during our performance. We can not wait to perform this dance again.”



Dance Offensive

Established in 2006 with support from Cambridgeshire County Council, Romsey Mill and the Arts Council, Dance Offensive offers regular, FREE, training in a variety of forms to young people throughout the county.

With a reputation for a level of skill and professionalism rarely seen in Youth Dance, the company are regularly invited to perform their unique brand of dance and Hip Hop theatre throughout the UK.

In 2010 they performed at The Tate Modern and appeared on the main stage (to critical acclaim) at Sadler's Wells International convention of Hip Hop dance theatre, 'Breakin Convention'.

The company also engages in an extensive outreach programme, working with schools and colleges throughout Cambridgeshire and beyond.

www.danceoffensive.co.uk, mobile 07880787706
email paul.sadot@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



DanceEast Academy

Part time professional training for young dancers with talent.



DanceEast Academy
01473 295230
www.danceeast.co.uk/academy
academy@danceeast.co.uk

The DanceEast Academy is one of nine Government-funded Centres for Advanced Training (CAT) nationally, providing high level dance training for young people aged 10 – 18 with the talent, enthusiasm and commitment to go on to dance careers.

'Now I feel that I have something to properly aim for and I know that it's possible to achieve my dream of becoming a professional dancer' **DanceEast Academy Student, age 12.**

Based at the purpose-built Jerwood DanceHouse on the Ipswich waterfront, the DanceEast Academy is the Eastern regional CAT for dance. Currently with 50 students from across the region, students travel to work together in Ipswich at weekends and take mid-week classes in one of three centres – Ipswich, Norwich and Cambridge.

The course has a broad approach which encourages the dancers to be versatile. The current cohort are looking to progress to a range of schools and careers from contemporary to commercial to hip hop and some to more classical routes. The content is based around an intensive programme of technical training (Ballet, Contemporary and other dance styles e.g. Jazz) developing Creativity and Choreography skills, and Health Education which includes fitness and conditioning and Pilates. The final element of the course is focussed on performance skills and projects and allows the students regular and ongoing contact with choreographers and companies, making constant links to the profession.

Lucy Hegarty, DanceEast Academy Manager says 'The course is designed with the current needs of the profession in mind. We talk to companies, choreographers and artists and look at the latest dance science research and then plan our programme backwards; knowing what we want them to achieve and then figuring out what we need to provide in order to support the development of those skills.'

The commitment of the Academy staff to offering personal development and advice means that the pressure is taken off parents to find the right school and course for their child's skills and aspirations: 'When you have a child who is determined to have a professional dance career it can be daunting and confusing, especially if you do not come from a dance background yourself. Early training is so vital for dancers but, as a parent, it is not always easy to know the best way forward for your child. Becoming part of the DanceEast Academy means that the training is mapped out in the right way for each student and this, together with all the support they receive, enables them to be free to concentrate on their dancing.' **Parent.**

As part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Music and Dance Scheme (MDS), one of the unique factors of the course is that for many, fees are partially or fully paid by grant funding, which can cover up to 100% of costs, including travel and dancewear: 'For us, the fact that we are currently able to get a full MDS grant is wonderful: it means that my daughter can have the best possible training without having to worry about the fees. Without the MDS grant she would not have been able to attend this level of training.' **Parent.**

The provision of grant funding for each eligible family, means that the Academy recruitment can be based on finding the most talented young dancers, regardless of their family background. Young dancers with little or no experience are also accepted as the ethos of the audition process is focussed on giving each applicant the opportunity to shine. The team looks at what each student could achieve given the right training and support, not necessarily what they have already achieved, basing their choices on potential rather than previous experience. This gives the tutors quite a challenge in levelling the students to work in appropriate groups but the approach has enabled the discovery of some of the most exciting dancers from the current cohort who had never had the opportunity to flourish before. The DanceEast Academy staff maintain that the key to developing the potential in the students is the quality and experience of the teaching staff, who need to know each individual student and what they are working on.

'It is so refreshing that the DanceEast Academy ethos is to put the students first, to look at their skills, strengths and weaknesses as individual dancers rather than simply one of many. This is a supportive and holistic approach and I'm sure will result in happy, healthy dancers who are able to fulfil their potential.' **Parent.**

This approach is developed through the use of Individual Training Plans (ITPs) which are agreed between Academy teaching staff and management, students and their families. This encourages a constant dialogue and honesty between parties for students to know exactly what stage they are at and what they are working to improve.

Being part of the National Dance CAT network means that the DanceEast Academy students are constantly given opportunities above and beyond any other group of young people this age. They collaborate with other similarly talented dancers for projects and performances and are encouraged to always see where our regional piece of the jigsaw fits in with the national picture. The aim of the programme is that they are independent and broad minded enough to make informed choices, growing to be self-motivated and robust professionals.



Histon and Impington Junior School, we love to dance!



The children in every year group are hugely enthusiastic and are encouraged to explore the exciting and varied world of movement and dance in lessons, performances and clubs.

Modern, contemporary and street jazz are the favourites and we often have dance companies visiting the school, demonstrating their talents and teaching the children.

Open days are held around the region in spring and auditions are held each summer. Talented children and young people are encouraged to contact the Academy at any point in the year for information.

The DanceEast Academy is now entering its third year and, together with Youth Dance England who are based at The Junction, the team are looking to make links with existing youth dance provision, dance teachers and networks in order to open up the pathways for the region's most talented young dancers to take advantage of the opportunities that the DanceEast Academy presents.

Teachers who are interested in finding out more for students, would like to recommend a student or who would like to receive training in identifying Gifted & Talented and exceptionally talented students should contact the Academy team.

8 students from Cambridgeshire are currently part of the DanceEast Academy.

Parents love to watch their children at the many performances that we have. The applause and cheers never fail to raise the roof.

The dance club also performs at community events to support the Friends of the Recreation Ground. It's great seeing how dance helps to boost confidence and fitness. We believe that dance contributes to physical education and the arts; a powerful cross-curricular medium and a social passport.

Listen to the music, tap your feet and move your body... it will always put a smile on your face!

Lesley Birch, Headteacher