

## DC DANCE & PERFORMING ARTS

### Anti Bullying Policy

Everyone at DC Dance & Performing Arts has the right to feel welcome, secure and happy. Only if this is the case, will all members of the dance school community be able to achieve their potential. Bullying of any sorts prevents the equal opportunity to learn. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent bullying and this policy contains guidance to support this ethos.

#### Definition of Bullying

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour that is repeated over a period of time. It results in the bullied child, or children, feeling afraid or threatened and makes it difficult or impossible for them to defend themselves. Bullying can take the form of name calling, violence, threatened violence, isolation, ridicule, or indirect action, such as spreading unpleasant stories about someone or habitually hiding their belongings.

#### Aims or Purposes

1. To recognise bullying in many forms, including racism, disability, sexism, and homophobia, and act upon them.
2. To challenge attitudes about bullying behaviour
3. To make all pupils aware of the serious nature of bullying.
4. To build an anti-bullying culture.
5. To help and advise victims and bullies, and support the rebuilding and repair of relationships.
6. To foster an open and honest atmosphere where pupils communicate freely.
7. To communicate with parents of victims and bullies and involve them in the solution.

#### Strategies to prevent bullying:

Our aim is to create an environment where bullying cannot thrive. We will use the curriculum whenever possible to reinforce the ethos of the school and help pupils develop strategies to combat bullying type behaviours.

#### This will be achieved through:

- Termly chats with age appropriate classes to discuss issues that surround bullying.
- Pupils will be taught to 'tell someone' and report any incidence of bullying to themselves or others.

#### How the school will deal with bullying:

Once an incidence has been alleged, an investigation will follow. A problem solving approach will be initially followed with strong emphasis on rebuilding relationships and preventing further bullying.

In the case of continuing bullying after the initial problem solving stage, dancers and their parents will be invited into the school to discuss methods of rebuilding relationships. Following any bullying incident a support system within classes will be set up to support victims.

All bullying incidents will be recorded.