

Health & Safety Policy

Jupiter Dance & Performing Arts (JDPA)

Purpose:

JDPA is committed to providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment for all students, staff, visitors, and parents/carers. This policy outlines the measures we take to prevent accidents, manage risks, and ensure all activities are conducted safely.

1. Staff Responsibilities

- All staff, volunteers, and contractors must ensure the safety of students at all times.
- Staff leading classes or workshops must have specific training and qualifications relevant to the subject they are teaching (e.g., dance, drama, singing, acrobatics).
- Staff must complete any additional safety training required for specific activities, including first aid and safeguarding awareness.
- Staff are responsible for inspecting equipment before use and reporting any hazards.
- Staff must adhere to JDPA's policies including Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying, and Uniform Policy.

2. Class & Activity Safety

- Physical classes (dance, acrobatics, physical theatre, etc.) will always begin with a warm-up and end with a cool-down.
- Class content will be age-appropriate and tailored to students' physical abilities.
- Maximum class sizes will be adhered to, ensuring safe teacher-to-student ratios.
- Staff will actively supervise students during all activities.
- Students will be instructed on safe use of equipment and movement techniques.
- Emergency procedures, including evacuation routes and first aid provision, will be clearly communicated to staff and students.

3. Equipment & Facilities

- All equipment (mats, mirrors, props, costumes) will be regularly inspected and maintained.
- Any damaged or unsafe equipment will be removed from use immediately.
- Floors and activity spaces will be kept clear, clean, and free from hazards.
- Adequate ventilation, lighting, and space will be ensured in all classrooms and rehearsal areas.

4. First Aid & Accident Reporting

- A qualified first aider will be available during all sessions, rehearsals, and performances.
- All accidents, incidents, or near misses will be recorded in the JDPA accident log.
- Parents/carers will be informed promptly of any injury or medical incident involving their child.
- Staff are trained in emergency procedures, including fire drills, medical emergencies, and evacuation.

5. Student Safety

- Students must follow all instructions and safety guidance from staff.
- Students must wear appropriate footwear and clothing, following JDPA's Uniform Policy.
- Personal belongings should be stored safely and not create a hazard in the classroom.
- Staff will encourage students to take responsibility for their own safety while supporting others' wellbeing.

6. Risk Assessment

- All classes, workshops, and events will undergo a risk assessment prior to commencement.
- Staff will review and adapt activities to account for:
 - Environmental conditions (flooring, lighting, temperature)
 - Equipment safety and suitability
 - Student age, ability, and health conditions
- Any identified hazards will be mitigated before the activity begins.

7. Emergency Procedures

- Evacuation routes and exits will be clearly displayed in all venues.
- Fire alarms, first aid kits, and emergency contacts will be readily accessible.
- Staff will conduct regular safety drills and review emergency procedures.
- In case of serious incidents, parents/carers will be contacted immediately.

8. Review

- This Health & Safety Policy will be reviewed annually or following any incident that suggests updates are required.
- Staff training, risk assessments, and equipment checks will be regularly monitored and documented to ensure ongoing compliance.

JDPA Statement:

We are committed to maintaining the highest standard of health and safety for all members of our community. Everyone attending JDPA sessions, events, or performances has a shared responsibility to follow guidance, report hazards, and contribute to a safe environment.