

Dance



Whole school curriculum principles

1. The core, foundation knowledge in each discipline				
2. Opportunities for reading and development of Tier 2/3 vocabulary, writing styles and text types				
3 The numerical concepts used within each discipline.	4 The practical and cognitive skills inherent to each discipline.	5 The key timelines, theories and figures within each discipline	6 Exposure to and consideration of diverse perspectives	7 Knowledge of how each discipline has impact on the modern and future world.

8. learning to be responsible for ourselves and our future	9. learning to be responsible for our community	10. Learning to consider our global and environmental responsibilities
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Key Stage 3 (years 7-9)

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Do you want a subject rationale to sit above this, or would you rather incorporate it into the start of your KS3 statement?

The curriculum we offer provides opportunity for young people to experience the varied and experimental world of dance, in a setting, which values and promotes students to develop their own creative identity. Through practical study students will be improving their confidence and develop self-awareness, both of which will support other areas of the curriculum and life beyond Gordano. Essential to the Dance curriculum is choreography, and students are introduced to a range of stimuli to create their own group dances. In addition to this, pupils will learn of key figures within the history of dance who have shaped the world of dance to become inclusive of all cultures, styles and ability. Students will have the opportunity to view professional dance works and the chance to engage in open discussion on their thoughts and feelings after seeing the work. Some of these works reference dances from different cultures, which will provide a chance for our young people to experience the wider world. In almost all cases students will be choreographing a short group dance in time for a performance in front of their peers; therefore, they will be developing more than just creative skills. For example, their ability to work successfully in a group, time management and independence. We feel strongly that these additional skills are invaluable and pride ourselves to know that we are supporting our pupils in the wider curriculum. We appreciate that some students will come to us with little experience of Dance, and our passion is to provide an opportunity for every young person to develop their understanding of the capabilities and power of nonverbal communication, in a supportive and non-judgemental environment.

The extracurricular provision for Dance at Gordano is excellent and provides our young people with many opportunities to continue to develop their interest in the subject. There is a dance club on every day of the week, which are inclusive of experience and ability. Students will have the chance to perform in our annual Dance Showcase, and some to perform at local dance festivals. We are incredibly proud of the provision we offer for our students and feel this can offer a wide range of experiences, which are not just centred on performing. We have many students lead dance groups and become inspirational to our younger pupils.

Dance

Key Stage 4 (years 10-11)

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Students who wish to study dance at KS4 (GCSE) will follow the AQA specification for Dance, which is 60% practical, and 40% theory. The practical elements have a variety of opportunities for students with a range of ability to succeed. Students will build on the foundation skills explored in KS3 and to continue to develop their own artistic identity through choreography and performing tasks. AQA have selected six professional dance works for our students to study both practically and theoretically and we feel these are inspirational, current, and allow plenty of scope for personal interpretation. The written element has rigor and provides opportunities for students to develop their analytical skills helping students to prepare for future learning. The course can be accessible for students who enjoy a variety of styles, and they have the chance to choreograph and perform in their preferred genre of dance.

All GCSE dance students are encouraged to become part of the extracurricular provision, every KS4 student will perform in the Dance Showcase, and some may even help lead clubs for younger year groups. The involvement in our extracurricular provision benefits our students massively in terms of developing leadership skills and may stimulate future career choices. We are proud to offer many chances for our students to visit theatres to watch dance that are not always on the specification, I want to inspire them and introduce them to the ever-expanding world of dance. In addition to viewing professional works, we have been able to invite artists into school to lead workshops, this provides our students insight into the dance industry, and further extend their skills in choreography and performance.

Key Stage 5 (years 12-13)

We have chosen the AQA A Level Dance specification as we feel it follows on successfully from the GCSE specification. The course is 50% practical and 50% theory, and students will be well equipped to study this course as it still follows the three strands, choreography, performance and appreciation. We also feel that this course opens wider opportunities for students to engage in cross-curricular learning. For example, there is a strong focus on the development of modern dance; students will learn how social change has shaped dance in Britain, and the wider world. At A Level, students are exposed to a wider variety of practitioners, and have the chance to experiment more with style within solo performance pieces. Choreography is still an essential part of the A Level course, and here students are asked to answer a question through a group choreography. This challenges students to research in more depth and provides further opportunity to develop creative independence. We feel that this course prepares students very well for HE courses.