

## Eden Dance Charter

The Charter is intended to help parents, students and staff understand the principles and approaches that we follow to ensure that Eden Dance maintains its reputation for high standards and continues to be successful artistically and as a business.

Children and adults choose to come to dance classes voluntarily and will only continue if they enjoy the experience and are inspired and encouraged. They all need to gain a sense of achievement and satisfaction without feeling pressured or inadequate. Our aim is to stimulate artistic and physical achievement without any limitations of age, physique or previous experience.

Eden Dance should be a sanctuary from the stresses and constraints of the outside world. It should be a place to unwind and to express oneself physically and mentally through music, exercise and movement.

### A Personal Approach to Teaching

It is the role of the teacher to be the catalyst that sparks the child's imagination. Only then can dance techniques and disciplines be successfully communicated to a willing and expectant student.

There are some important teaching approaches that help to develop the skills and confidence of pupils in a way that remains enjoyable.

- ❖ Teaching as a dancer by setting artistic and imaginative work. It is better to do less rather than more and to always finish on a high.
- ❖ Developing a relationship with each pupil based on friendship, respect, consideration and understanding.
- ❖ Being spontaneous and responding to the immediate situation and atmosphere of the class.
- ❖ Having time for listening and observing. Teachers should be dealing with the whole child with all their talents and their problems.
- ❖ Some children can be very sensitive to public criticism. Comment and correction should be at a general level so that pupils do not feel embarrassed in front of the class. Having a quiet word after a class is much kinder and more productive.

### Involving Parents

Our aim is to involve parents and to give them frequent updates on their child's progress or problems. We are always available to discuss issues with parents.

Teachers and staff should be friends and mentors to the pupils and must be respected by the parents as being in full command of the situation.

However, teachers must maintain a degree of independence and authority to be in a position to give guidance to parents as well as their children.

### Class Disciplines

Each child should feel welcome, needed and respected as an important member of the class.

Discipline and good manners are largely achieved by the teachers and staff setting an example. It is important that we present a positive but firm attitude in class.

We insist that at the beginning and the end of classes the pupils are still, quiet and attentive. Casual conversations between pupils during class-work are discouraged.

But smiling as often as possible is definitely allowed!

### The Youngest Pupils – Nursery Play-dance

Our aim is to encourage sociability, co-operation, listening skills and friendliness while introducing the children to music and the class environment.

The class uses free movement, conversation & mime to explore ideas and imagination through topical, traditional and spontaneous stories.

Good manners and awareness of others are an extremely important part of the class – for example holding hands, getting ready and waiting your turn.

### Grade Classes

As pupils progress the classes combine the technical necessities in equal proportions with other exercises and creative work that are exhilarating and achievable. Although technical skills are important teachers aim to suggest, demonstrate and inspire rather than instruct.

### Performances

All students apart from the very youngest are given the opportunity to take part in our theatre performances.

We aim to make the best use of all the talents of our students whether for acting, comedy, improvisation or technical dancing ability.

## Eden Dance :- Much more than just dance

It has always been a central belief of Eden Dance that its classes are about a lot more than just dance.

We are always aware that the outside world may have an impact on a child's performance and conduct in class.

We take note of any physical, psychological or family conditions that may impact on behaviour or technical ability.

We provide support, sympathy and encouragement where we can.

Over more than 35 years Eden Dance has made a lasting impression on the lives of its pupils.