

LeAF Studio Specialisms (Performing Arts/Sport) Contact Work/Intimacy Safeguarding Statement

Students always have freedom to '*opt out*' of contact work / intimacy scenarios / demonstrations.

Contact work in Performing Arts is used through lift work, balances and body to body contact and is an essential part of developing a well-rounded performing arts student.

Contact work in Sport is used through lift support, body to body contact and is an essential part of developing a skilled athlete.

Whilst it would be unrealistic and undesirable to preclude all physical contact between adults and children, staff are expected to exercise caution and avoid placing themselves in a position where their actions might be open to criticism or misinterpretation.

Where contact work in Sport and Performing Arts is demonstrated by staff with students, appropriate verbal consent is obtained from the student prior to the activity taking place.

Further to this, staff to student contact/touch is likely to occur when correcting alignment, posture, technique.

In Performing Arts and Sport, when students are required to perform or create contact work together, any concerns reported by students are dealt with through change of teaching tasks.

Performing Arts Specific

Performing Arts students may also be exposed to or create work that explores themes of a sexual / explicit nature (always age appropriate) – this will always be discussed, and professional judgements made. Where not a part of compulsory education, students have freedom to '*opt out*'.

Further information / concerns

Should staff, students or parents have any queries or concerns regarding contact work please discuss them with the Assistant Vice Principal (Geoff Lake), Principal (Nadine Lapskas) or a member of the Safeguarding Team. The Designated Safeguard Lead can also be contacted at any time.

Principles

1. Contact by the staff is made with particular awareness to the needs of each individual/to assist the student.
2. All staff will treat physical contact with due sensitivity and care and with due regard for the wishes of the student.
3. Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument.
4. Staff will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student – all classes should be held in studios / sports centres and performance areas whereby doors remain unlocked.
5. Students are encouraged to discuss any worries with any member of staff.