

## How to identify high quality dance provision in schools

### High quality dance provision provides the following outcomes for children in primary schools:

- Have confidence in their own dance abilities and demonstrate increased skills in dance
- Create and perform dances which communicate an artistic intention using a range of dance styles
- Think critically about dance and communicate effectively about their own and others' work
- Appreciate the benefits of dance as part of a healthy active life style
- Show a desire to improve in dance and celebrate their dance experiences through a range of activities including performances
- Enjoy dance and are engaged and motivated while dancing

### Dance artists and practitioners should offer the following to schools:

- Provide additional capacity to help schools deliver a greater range and frequency of dance opportunities for their children
- Assist teachers in improving their knowledge of dance teaching such as: developing children's physical dance skills (control and co-ordinate their bodies to perform basic actions including travelling, jumping, turning, gesture, transference of weight and stillness) and compositional tools to make dances on their own, with a partner and in small groups
- Help to ensure the PE and Sport premium as a sustainable legacy by directly up-skilling teachers in skills and knowledge in dance
- Promote lifelong participation in dance activity to pupils
- Contribute to the raising of standards of dance in schools
- Support the transition between school and outside school dance provision through helping to organise and deliver clubs and developing links with local dance activities and organisations.

### What you need to look for:

Dance artists and practitioners have different training, experience and qualifications. Their skills and experience are often accredited in one or more of the following ways:

- Degree in dance, or dance and another subject
- Vocational training at a dance school
- Certified courses for working in schools and other community settings
- Links with regional and national dance organisations
- Registration with an awarding body that offer graded examinations (in specific dance styles such as ballet, Tap, Stage Dance etc.) such as the Royal Academy of Dance, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance, British Ballet Organisation
- Dance artists/practitioners should have a Disclosure and Barring Service certificate
- Their own public liability insurance up to £5million.

### **Selecting dance artists/practitioners:**

You should ask a dance artist to send in their CV that includes the following information:

- Training and qualifications in dance
- Qualification in teaching dance
- Experience of working in schools
- Testimonials from schools
- School referees

If you are satisfied with the training, skills and experience evidenced in their CV invite them to teach a session. You might find the following check list a useful tool to assess their suitability to work with your pupils:

Artists/practitioners who are the most effective in delivering high quality dance are those who:

- Believe in the value of dance and have a passion for sharing dance with children
- Understand and meet the different needs of participants of varied abilities, ages, backgrounds and stages of development
- Have a good understanding of dance in the school curriculum and the way in which dance can support learning across the curriculum
- Use a range of teaching and learning strategies to meet the pupils' individual learning needs and enable them to reach their potential
- Communicate all aspects of safe dance practice through their own practice
- Deliver appropriate and challenging dance activities safely and effectively
- Refresh their practice by taking part in continuing professional development
- Have knowledge of relevant legislation for working with children

Artists and practitioners with these attributes and skills are most likely to enable children to fulfill their potential in dance and be able to support the development of classroom teachers' knowledge and dance teaching skills.

**Click [here](#) to return to the NDTA's Advice and Information page where you can download a list of Dance Organisations that can help you find a dance artist/practitioner.**