

BrosnaCan Academy of Irish Dance
APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT IN DANCE
May 2020

Physical Contact

Teaching Irish dancing is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and teachers in class is essential to dance training. Teachers can make physical contact with a student to illustrate a concept or to adjust a student's alignment (especially with the younger students). Irish dancing posture often requires adjustment of the rib-cage and the buttock area simultaneously and it is sometimes necessary to touch the inner thigh, especially with younger students.

When teaching jumps, teachers will be demonstrating with students in ways which will involve supporting and lifting. In choreographic teaching, teachers demonstrate positions and movements to the students by moving parts of the students' bodies and by moving dancers in relation to each other: this often involves a considerable amount of physical contact with students.

BrosnaCan Academy recognises that such physical contact is a potentially complex area; and the Academy also fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding students and teachers and for protecting their welfare.

The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil the Academy's obligations:

- i) Contact by the teacher is made with particular awareness of the needs of each individual, to assist the dancer in correcting placement.
- ii) All teachers will treat any physical contact with relevant sensitivity and care, and with due regard for the wishes of the student.
- iii) Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument.
- iiii) Teachers will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student; all classes are held in studios and dance areas with windows.
- iiiii) Students are encouraged to discuss any worries with any teacher or parents.
- iiiiii) Both students and teachers are encouraged to report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.