



How to choose a dance teacher

Finding the right dance teacher, whether for yourself or for your child is a little like finding the perfect dance partner – there has to be a good fit. No matter where you or your child are on your dance journey, your dance class should always be a safe, creative and nurturing environment.

There are two distinct areas to think about:

- What skills, knowledge and qualifications do they have, to give you confidence in their ability to teach dance, and
- Does their approach and ethos suit your needs and expectations of what you want your experience of dance to be?

We have created this handy checklist to help you choose a dance teacher. Visit the dance school website (if they have one) to find answers to these questions or speak to the teacher when you enquire about enrolling.

Checklist

Skills, knowledge and qualifications

- Does the teacher have a formal dance teaching qualification?
- Are they a member of a professional body?
- Do they have policies on safeguarding and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion?
- Do they have a complaints policy?
- Have they had a recent criminal record check?
- Do they have a published risk assessment?
- Do they attend annual safeguarding training?

Approach and ethos

Everybody is different, we all respond to different learning and teaching styles. Therefore understanding the ethos of the school is important, it has to be right for you or your child. Things to consider:

- Are they exams or competitions focused?
- Are they very focused on performance?
- As a parent/guardian (if applicable) how involved do you want to be?
- How will you be kept abreast of your child's progress?
- Are there opportunities to observe classes?
- Ask for a trial lesson, to check the fit – most dance schools offer that anyway but it is a valuable experience.

Asking these questions will assure you that you or your child are in the best possible place to enjoy dancing.

Photo: David Tett
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