

## **Physical Contact Policy**

Teaching Performing Arts is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and instructors in class is essential in training. Teachers may need to make physical contact with a student to help them develop the correct technique.

### **This could involve:**

- Posture is an area that often requires adjustment we may need to adjust the ribcage and buttock areas simultaneously. We also may need to adjust the back, waist, inner thigh, shoulders, and neckline.
- Adjusting a student's placement of limbs, bodyline and alignments to help them develop a better technique and understanding.
- To illustrate a concept to help for a better understanding and/or muscle memory.
- In choreographic teaching to demonstrate positions and movement. Also moving the students in relation to another.

All of the above often involves a considerable amount of contact with students. SJ Performing Arts Plymouth recognises that such physical contact is a potentially complex area. The school fully recognises its responsibilities for the safeguarding of students and instructors whilst protecting their welfare. All teaching staff hold a current and up to date DBS.

### **The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil our School's obligations:**

- Contact by the instructor is made with particular awareness of the needs of each individual, to assist the student in correcting placement.
- All instructors will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care.
- Contact will not involve any force.
- Students and parents are encouraged to discuss any worries with their teacher and/or Principals Jodie and Sarah.
- Both students and instructors should feel free to report any concerns to the Principals Jodie & Sarah and/or to the DSL Designated Safeguarding Lead Michelle Burrows.