

Kew Woods Primary School

Dance and Performance Policy



Basic Curriculum Principles:

1. Learning is a change to long-term memory

2. Our aims are to ensure that our pupils experience a wide breadth of study and have, by the end of each key stage, long-term memory of an ambitious body of knowledge

We are proud to have achieved our silver 'Artsmark' awarded by the Arts Council, England, showing our commitment to embed creativity across the whole curriculum.

At Kew Woods we provide a breadth of high quality learning and performance opportunities that engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of performance, and over time increase self-confidence and creativity.

At Kew Woods, we follow the national curriculum, promoting dance, which is a compulsory activity, in the PE curriculum. In key-stage one, pupils should perform dances using simple movement patterns and in key-stage two pupils should continue to apply and develop a broader range of skills, progressing to the use of using a range of movement patterns. Our strong promotion of dance sparks creativity, allowing pupils to be inquisitive, disciplined and determined. We also teach dance through a performing arts provision.

Our inclusive practice provides pupils with opportunities to engage practically with both creating and performing dance, and use observation, oracy and literacy to communicate about what they do and see during their learning experiences. Our learning experiences allow pupils to take on the role of creator, performer, audience, critic and leader.

Implementation:

All dance lessons, as part of the PE curriculum, are taught by a qualified teacher in half-termly blocks twice a year to ensure progression. Dance schemes of work are carefully planned by class teachers, and often link with a topic relevant to their year group, providing pupils with the opportunity to further develop their knowledge. The planned schemes of work will allow pupils to learn skills at a basic level initially and to repeat them. Allowing children to revisit them regularly and extend and apply their knowledge as they progress, leads to a greater depth of learning and refining of skills. This will guarantee skills and content are revisited, allowing pupils to retrieve previous learning and promote their long-term learning.

To support the delivery of dance, the dance and performance subject leader will ensure teachers have access to high quality continuing professional development that will enhance their skills in dance and performance, and provide them with the confidence and knowledge they require. Teachers will access sessions with specialist dance practitioners, observing workshops that will enhance their professional development.

Kew Woods Primary School

Dance and Performance Policy



In addition to structured dance lessons, Kew Woods provides pupils with a variety of opportunities throughout the school year, which promote a love of dance and performing arts. During their time in school pupils have the opportunity to take part in concerts, assemblies and shows. These include reception and key-stage one individual class assemblies, reception nativity, separate key-stage nativities/carol concert, a separate key-stage two carol concert and a key-stage two summer performance where each class performs as well as individual and small group performances. Year 6 annually perform a musical, and each pupil is given a role in the production. Prior to this, when visiting London in Year 5, pupils have the opportunity to watch a live professional production in a theatre. At Kew Woods we have dance facilities that are fit for purpose, to follow this residential trip. We have an open, clean dance space in which pupils learn. This then transforms into a production space with a stage, and professional lighting.

On numerous occasions throughout the academic year, we welcome The So Talented Academy of Theatre Arts to our school to deliver timetabled sessions to our Year 6 pupils and key-stage two pupils for their summer concert. This provides our qualified teachers further continuing professional development, with specialist teachers, trained in specific areas such as singing, visiting the school to teach elements of our musical productions.

Further to this, pupils have the opportunity to take part in dance festivals in the wider community. The festivals include Christ the King Dance festival, Meols Cop Dance Festival and Wally Cain Dance Festival. Here pupils help devise an original piece of choreography, facilitated by our dance and performance subject leader, further embedding the leadership role we strive to provide as part of PE curriculum.

Pupils also have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities such as dance, acting and drama and theatre studies all contributing to well-being and healthy life-style of pupils.

Impact:

Pupils' dance progress is monitored and assessed within lessons by the teaching team initially. This is in the observation of children during activities, discussions, and questioning. Due to the fact that physical learning is a change to long-term physical memory, it is difficult to see short-term impact. Misconceptions can be addressed immediately.

Skills based processes are often 'ongoing' and our carefully planned coverage allows for assessment based on deliberate practise over a phase/milestone – reception, year 1/2, year 3/4, and year 5/6. Pupils are given the opportunity to revisit prior learning, lesson-to-lesson and unit to unit, and retrieve their skills knowledge.

Kew Woods Primary School

Dance and Performance Policy



Class teacher observations and assessments of children at the end of each unit of work, linked with pupil interviews at key phases also provide useful evidence of the impact. Additionally, we hold learning walks, lesson observations, scrutiny of planning and we build good relationships with staff to promote honest discussion, ensures the high level of teaching is maintained, and ensures pupils make progress.

Policy Implementation and Review

This policy was reviewed by SLT, shared with staff and approved by governors. It will be reviewed annually as per the policy review cycle.