

# Association of Russian Ballet & Theatre Arts



ASSOCIATION OF RUSSIAN BALLET  
AND THEATRE ARTS

(non-profit making organisation)

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## Health and Safety

### **A word on Health and Safety regarding part-time schools in hired halls...**

The BDQT is concerned that Awarding Bodies and dance related Councils require teachers to agree to Health and Safety policies, which are sometimes not attainable.

Most dancing schools operate on a part-time basis in rented halls etc. around the country and this makes up the vast majority of Awarding Bodies' business in terms of examinations and medal tests.

It is clearly not always possible to offer for instance a sprung floor or separate facilities for disabled pupils and it is the Boards view that teachers taking once-a-week children for dancing classes (mainly as a hobby) in such environments should not be asked or coerced into complying with policies that they cannot deliver.

To agree to such policies (when you cannot deliver them) can be misleading or downright dishonest and actually protect no one. In fact, public liability insurances could become null and void if a claim was made and such assurances were not met.

It is far better to be honest, realistic and upfront about these issues than to simply tick the boxes and hope for the best. It has to be acknowledged that the vast majority of excellent work that goes on into teaching dance and subsequently feeding our vocational colleges has originated from one-a-week schools, sometimes in rural settings where to insist on such policies would deprive thousands of children the chance to learn to dance.

Fortunately, this is where this new government has recognised that the over-regulation currently imposed on all aspects of our lives has got out of hand and common sense needs to be factored back in otherwise we will end up not being able to do many things that bring great enjoyment and pleasure into our lives...dance lessons included.

Therefore, the Board is keen to offer a separate Health & Safety document, which enables a teacher to clearly show which Health & Safety issues can be met and which cannot.

Bearing the above in mind, full-time and vocational colleges should absolutely be offering every amenity to protect their students where Health & Safety issues are concerned. A teacher should:

- Ensure that classes are of a size appropriate to the levels and techniques being taught and the space being used. Students in each class should be of compatible age and/or standard.
- Be aware of developments in Child Protection legislation and undertake enhanced disclosure as required.
- Ensure that teaching facilities are adequately maintained and provide:
  1. Suitable flooring appropriate to the technique taught, with a clean, safe surface; to minimise the risk of injury (where possible).
  2. Adequate heating levels and ventilation (where possible).
  3. Suitable, secure and safe area for changing.
  4. Abide by Health & Safety statutory legislation requirements, understand his or her responsibility in case of a medical emergency and keep records in an accident book.
  5. Ensure that all fire regulations are displayed and adhered to.

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