**ROWAN ACADEMY OF DANCE**

**PHYSICAL CONTACT IN DANCE POLICY**

Teaching dance is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and instructors in class is essential to ballet training.

Instructors can make physical contact with a student to illustrate a concept or to adjust a student’s alignment. Posture often requires adjusting of the rib-cage and the buttock area simultaneously and it is sometimes necessary to touch the inner thigh, hips, back and waist especially with younger students.

During Acrobatic classes, the teacher will spot all tricks and combo’s until the student is capable to execute the trick safely on their own.

In choreographic teaching, instructors 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 contact with students.

Rowan Academy of Dance recognises that such physical contact is a potentially complex area; and the school also fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding students and instructors and for protecting their welfare.

**The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil the School’s obligations:**

* Contact by the teacher is made with particular awareness of the needs of each individual, to assist the dancer in correcting placement
* All teachers will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care, and with due regard for the wishes of the student
* Contact will not involve force or the use of any instrument
* Teachers will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student; all private classes should be held in studios and dance areas with windows or with the parent/carer present

Students and parents are encouraged to discuss any worries with any instructor or an independent listener.

Both students and instructors should feel free to report any concerns to the Emma Cochrane, the DSL Designated Safeguarding Lead.