



Joining The Dance Mill Academy

The Dance Mill offers all new students a four-week trial. This is to ensure your child is happy in a new environment with new children and teachers.

We do not charge a registration fee.

There is a registration form to be filled in which complies with current GDPR Compliance.

We highly recommend during this trial that you **do not** purchase any uniform. Once the trial is over you will be asked if you wish to continue. At this point you may set up a direct debit for the monthly fees.

Any other form of payment (Card, Cheque, Cash) incurs a 10% fee.

How the fees are worked out?

We are open for classes for 43 weeks of the year.

We take the weekly cost of a class and times by 43.

Divide the annual cost by 12.

1 hour example. £17:10 per month X 12 months = £205.20

£205.20 divided by 43 weeks = £4.77 per week.

The fees will be paid every month including August when we are closed.

Once your child has finished the four-week trial a full month's paid notice needs to be given should they wish to no longer continue with classes.

Uniform is compulsory and can be purchased from reception. As we use a large Dance supply specialist company we can offer very favourable rates plus it ensures all the children look the same.

The Dance Mill has comprehensive policies and procedures covering:

Quality – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Equal Opportunities – Health & Safety – GDPR data protection – Information Advice & Guidance – Protection of Vulnerable Adults – Safeguarding and protecting Children plus Fire Evacuation procedure

All these policies may be viewed by asking Protection Officer Peter Coenen.



Annual Show

The Dance Mill hires the Victoria Theatre Halifax annually, usually in November. This we feel is extremely important for all our children to experience and is an opportunity for family and friends to see the progression.

The learning of the dances for the show will take place in class time. Once we get closer to the show extra rehearsals will be scheduled with a fee of £3:00 per rehearsal payable on the day. The week before the show there is a full dress rehearsal at THE DANCE MILL (£3:00) not the Theatre.

As of 2018 we will be performing once at 18:30 on a Saturday. The children will get to run the show on the day in the Theatre prior to the evening performance.

It is vital on the run up to the show that all parents check emails or the notice boards in reception for information about rehearsals, time to be at the Theatre, pick up times etc.

We as an organisation have to register every child performing with Calderdale MBC and gain a performance licence. As part of this process we require chaperones to look after the children back stage for the whole day of the show.

We are always struggling for enough chaperones to fulfil the required quota and therefore ask anyone willing to inform Toni (reception) and she will explain the process. The process for this is free with Calderdale MBC.

As part of the legal requirement NO parents without a chaperone licence are allowed backstage at any point on performance day.

The Dance Mill **does not** charge any fees at all to perform in our shows.

We provide all costumes other than dance uniform.

The task of producing and running these shows is extremely complicated and time consuming so all we ask is you read emails and communicate any problems via email back to us.

Tickets for our show can only be purchased from the Victoria Theatre Box Office



Exams

Rosette exams are taken progressively through Pre Juvenile and Preparatory classes. The rosette's are a series of exams that include performing 2 short dances for the examiner. For all rosette exams they go in with the teacher or an assistant. This is to assist the children if necessary with the routines.

During pre juvenile exam we would expect that the teacher/assistant with them will need to prompt the children at every point of the exam and on occasion also dance with them if they are particularly nervous.

Once they get into Preparatory grade we would expect the assistant to only help the children to get into the start positions for the dances and where possible one or two verbal prompts but other than that they are there for support only to stop the children from being too nervous.

In Preparatory we then start to introduce the Juvenile medal tests. This is a single dance, considerably longer than the rosette dances. The children must know 100% by themselves, as there isn't an adult in the exam with them except for the examiner. The teacher sets this dance and therefore the examiner could not prompt them even if they needed it. This is the first step towards taking grade exams where the children must know the work and be able to perform it to a set standard.

We follow a progressive scheme of examinations building up the level of expectation for the children so that they can enjoy the examination process as much as they enjoy dance class. We are very careful to increase the level of pressure on the children, due to the volume of work they must know, very slowly.

From Grade 1 upwards a child is only ready to take the examination when they can perform each of the set exercises by themselves. If they can do this without any help or prompting then we would work on the performance qualities of the work. We would then make sure that their technical vocabulary from Prep, Primary and Grade 1 is sound enough to be able to do the exercises that are set by the examiner whilst in the examination.

Whilst we like to push our learners to be the best that they can be it is not a race and the higher up a graded system you get the harder it becomes. It is important to us that they enjoy the entire process of learning the work, as well as working towards the examination.