

Northern School of Contemporary Dance

Safe Contact Principles

Teaching dance is a physical activity and appropriate physical contact between students and tutor in class will be useful at certain points in dance training as a means of deepening physical understanding through sensory input.

Tutors will sometimes use touch to illustrate a concept to a student or adjust body parts in support of learning. They will also sometimes demonstrate with students in ways that involve supporting a student/s' weight and/or lifting them from the ground. NSCD recognises that such physical contact is a potentially complex area; and the School also fully recognises its responsibilities for safeguarding students and teachers, and for protecting their welfare.

The following principles and procedures are in place to fulfil the school's obligations:

- a) All contact will be consensual between tutors and students, and/or between student peers.
- b) Contact by the tutors is made with awareness of the needs of each individual.
- c) Students are entitled to express that they are not willing to receive touch.
- d) All tutors will treat any physical contact with due sensitivity and care and will emphasise the same in peer-to-peer tasks which involve contact.
- e) Contact will not involve force in any circumstances.
- f) Tutors will be mindful of location and avoid situations where they are isolated with a student.
- g) Tutors may note discomfort with a students' attire for class, if they feel it precludes working safely and effectively with contact.
- h) Tutors and students should feel free to report any concerns to the Head of Undergraduate or Postgraduate Studies, Student Support Manager, Vice Principal, or any member of staff they feel comfortable with.
- i) NSCD will consult with students to ensure this policy remains appropriate and relevant.