



DANCE GUIDANCE

Intent

At Ravenbank Primary School, we intend to provide children with high quality dance lessons within the physical education curriculum. We aim to provide children with the skills needed to perform dances confidently using a range of movement patterns. As a school, we follow a dance scheme of work called Creative Steps. The scheme is progressive, appropriately challenging for all children and provides a consistent approach to teaching dance at Ravenbank Primary School.

The scheme of work aims to:

- ensure all children can use actions, space, dynamics and relationships to express themselves.
- provide all children with opportunities to perform dance to an audience.
- develop children's understanding of why dance is good for their fitness, health and wellbeing.
- provide children with skills to evaluate, refine and develop their own and other's work and successes.
- provide all children with the opportunity to develop confidence within the subject of dance.
- give children the opportunity to communicate and collaborate successfully with their peers.

Implementation

All children are required to have dance lessons as part of the PE curriculum and should be taught to:

- Perform dances using simple movements in key stage 1.
- Perform dances using a range of movements patterns in key stage 2.

(Department for Education, 2014)

At Ravenbank, children are taught dance for one term during their PE lessons. Teachers can use their professional judgement to decide whether they teach dance for a whole term or whether they split it up into two half-terms.

All children are provided with many opportunities to perform dances to an audience. The opportunities include performing in class assemblies, nativities, end of year productions, talent shows and productions outside of school, to name a few.

Enquiry-based learning

An enquiry-based approach is used when delivering dance lessons to ensure that we are providing a pupil-centred approach to teaching and learning in dance. When planning dance lessons, teachers focus on the interests of the pupils to enhance their learning experience within the PE curriculum. For example, if children are enjoying a certain aspect of their topic

work teachers may decide to focus learning on this. Or, if children have an interest, such as dinosaurs, teachers will use this as a stimulus for their dance lessons.

Inclusion

When planning and delivering dance lessons, teachers personalise the teaching and learning by setting tasks and activities that meet individual and group needs so that every child is supported, challenged and able to achieve their personal best.

During dance lessons, teachers and teaching assistants help pupils with SEND to overcome any barriers to participating and learning within that lesson. They will make any reasonable adjustments needed to support all pupils within dance activities. For example, teachers may adapt and modify activities that offer an equivalent degree of challenge to enable all pupils to access the objectives or they may provide additional support when certain types of movement are involved in the session.

Within the Creative Steps dance resource, teachers are provided with creative and analysis question prompts to encourage and challenge children's thinking skills. This ensures that more able and exceptionally able pupils are being supported and challenged so that they achieve their full potential.

EYFS

In EYFS, children are encouraged to represent their own thoughts and ideas through dance. They use the Creative Steps resource but also respond to and build upon children's own interests. Children are provided with opportunities to be imaginative and can use dance to explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. The children have opportunities during lessons to return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. The Creative Steps resource teaches children in EYFS to revise and refine the fundamental movement skills and enables them to progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace whilst having lots of opportunities to build their confidence and be imaginative.

Learning Outside the Classroom

At Ravenbank, dance is taught outside of the classroom in many year groups. For example, children have the opportunity to perform a dance alongside Lymm High School in their annual performing arts production, take part in a dance competition and they can also perform a dance at the Parr Hall as part of the Warrington Da Vinci exhibition.

Cross-curricular /real-life links/ local community

Children enjoy being involved within the local community when they perform alongside Lymm High School at their annual performance.

Dance is often taught using a cross-curricular approach as it can be easily connected to a range of subjects. Creative Steps supports teachers in teaching dance through a cross-curricular approach as the planning is clearly linked to a range of subjects such as PSHE, art, English, science and geography.

An extra-curricular after school dance club is offered to all children. This provides children with the opportunity to acquire and develop dance skills, improve their compositional ideas, understand the importance of fitness and health and to be able to evaluate and improve their own and other's performances.

Impact

The exciting and creative dance curriculum that we teach at Ravenbank supports children in becoming confident expressing themselves using movement patterns. This creates confident and creative individuals who have a creative outlet to support their physical and mental wellbeing. Our children understand how to express their own and other's feelings which prepares them for the wider world. Teaching using Creative Steps improves children's attitudes towards dance, enables them to confidently take part in performance opportunities and allows them to work collaboratively and supportively alongside their peers.