

Guidance for Parents and Carers

As professionals we all have a safeguarding duty to our students and sometimes that duty extends to physical contact with them, be that through administering first aid, through comforting a distressed child or by making important technical corrections to support safe dance practice. Appropriate professional touch is often an essential part of teaching and can be beneficial as a kinaesthetic teaching strategy. It is essential therefore as dance teachers that we have a clear and legitimate purpose in physical contact at class so as not to cause distress and to always adhere to safeguarding policy and guidance.

As professional teachers here at D-Railed Dance Ltd we agree with the following statements:

Do:	Don't:	Always:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask for consent - except in emergency situations do not touch anyone else without their permission ● Ensure that all touch in explained, professional and unambiguous ● Physical contact should be necessary and proportionate to the presenting need, with regard to age, development, gender and ability ● Avoid touch in private situations ● Use the student's name: make a connection with them: we are correcting an individual not just their body ● Always consider 'how' you touch not just 'what you touch' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Become involved with physical 'play' with your students ● Touch people who are not comfortable with touch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get to know your pupils ● Communicate with pupils, parents and staff ● Be open, honest and keep no secrets ● Know who to contact if you have concerns ● Have full regard for the Safeguarding agenda with an understanding that unwarranted and unwelcome physical touch may be abusive ● Use your professional judgement ● Remember as teachers we are role models to our students, our use of touch in dance class will be mirrored by them and understood as acceptable