

Young Dancers Academy

Code of Conduct

Following from these statements of policy and principle, it is possible to summarise the Code of Conduct that the Young Dancers Academy requires all students to follow at all times:

- Students must always treat others, including their fellow students, all members of the school staff and visitors with tolerance, courtesy and respect.
- Deliberate cruelty, teasing, abuse, bullying or intolerance is always unacceptable within the community of the Young Dancers Academy.
- All members of the Young Dancers Academy community must always respect the school's ethos and, in particular, its emphasis upon complete tolerance over differences of race, creed, gender, sexual orientation and learning disability.
- We should accept responsibility for our actions and behaviour, as we are also ambassadors of the school.

Student Behaviour

General principles underlying the school's behaviour policy.

1. The school should aim to set, communicate and carry out policies conducive of good discipline. Courteous and considerate behaviour is expected to be shown by all pupils at the Young Dancers Academy, to both staff and to each other, and those outside the school community in line with the school's behaviour policy
2. The school's behaviour policy should promote this and be subject to regular review by the school and re-approval by the Director of Academics.
3. No student should be allowed to hinder the development of another, by obtrusive behaviour, by ill-disciplined attitudes to work or by direct harassment. The aim should be to sustain high standards of behaviour and appearance through which students can develop self-respect and respect for others.
4. An environment should be created in which students' individual self-discipline is an end product of well-understood and clearly enforced policies. Staff, who should be knowledgeable about school policy, should use it to inform the way in which they commend, monitor and enforce high standards of behaviour and discipline among pupils, with fairness and firmness, and within the full co-operation of parents.
5. It will therefore be essential that the writing of the school policy on behaviour will take place within a framework of other policies, addressing bullying of all natures, the partnership between the school and parents and the place of the school in the wider community. The school's overall portfolio of policies should have in mind not only the intrinsic considerations, but also about the way the school is perceived in Shepherd's Bush and beyond.
6. The school's policy on discipline should contain an indication of sanctions to be used in the event of breaches of discipline or of anti-social behaviour, whilst exhorting staff to encourage achievement and good discipline through praise; and staff should constantly assess what methods are available to them for rewarding and praising students.
7. The behaviour policy should also underline the necessity for good communication of policy between pupils, parents and staff.

8. This policy should be accompanied by clearly framed and well-communicated school rules, to which students and parents sign their assent when they join the school. This should be the start of the student's clear understanding of the sense in which this contract underlines his/her participation in school life-clear personal and educational benefits being gained by all, as a result of an agreement by all not to harm the positive, disciplined ethos of the school. The Parent Contract, also signed by students and parents, should be kept in mind in the framing of school policy on discipline, since it too encourages this sense of contract. Not only should the individual rights of pupils be recognised, but also the needs, ethos and rightful demands – (frequently under-written by law) – of the school. Policies should be engendering the school ethos requirements by the principal and head of vocational studies, within the individual's right to be philosophy, race and religion respected, is protected.
9. Fundamental principles are thus to be the balancing of rights and responsibilities and the school's duty of care through firmness and fairness.
10. YDA does not anticipate the use of force to restrain any students. In extreme circumstances this may need to be used but only as a very last resort and parents and careers will be kept fully informed at all stages.'

Expectations of Parents

Parents are expected, at all times, to behave in a reasonable and appropriate manner in their dealings with the school. Rude, aggressive or threatening behaviour, whether in person, by telephone or by any electronic means, is not acceptable.

The Directors may, at their discretion, require a parent or parents to remove, temporarily or permanently a student, if the behaviour of one or both parents, in the opinion of the Directors is unreasonable.

Unreasonable behaviour would be that which adversely effects, or likely to adversely effect, a child or other children's welfare or progress at the School, the wellbeing of School staff, or bring the school into disrepute.

This list should be seen as illustrative, rather than exhaustive.

Our Expectations of Students

Consistent with the principles upon which the Young Dancers Academy was founded, every effort is made to offer students as much scope for individual expression as is consistent with high standards of achievement and with proper standards of behaviour.

Such particular rules as are necessary to support this are communicated to students (and, if necessary, to their parents) as circumstances demand.

The general standards that we expect and that we strive to maintain are briefly summarised here:

- Correct uniform must be worn for academic and vocational lessons.
- Students must ensure their appearance is smart and clean at all times.

- Mobile phones are not to be used in school hours, without the express permission of a senior member of staff. Mobiles are to be switched off and not placed in silent mode.
- Chewing gum is not allowed in the school or in the dance studio.
- Pupils must arrive for lessons on time and in a manner such that lessons can start on time.
- Students must treat one another and, of course, all members of the school staff and all other adults, with civility and respect.
- Students must respect the property of others and of the school.
- Smoking is forbidden at all times during the school day, including the journeys to and from school.
- Students must not leave the school site without permission.
- Students must never behave, either inside or outside the school, in a manner that might bring disrepute upon themselves, their families or the school.

Behaviour in the Classroom

- Students must attend all classes punctually.
- Students must complete homework reliably and on time.
- Students must not behave in class in a way that might distract others or disrupt the learning environment.
- If students have permission to miss a lesson - for a rehearsal, for example - they must still inform the teachers affected.
- To attend all lessons with the correct equipment.
- To look after all school property.

Sanctions and Rewards

Our approach at the Young Dancers Academy is to gauge our response to students' behaviour as nearly as possible to the pastoral needs of each student. The emphasis in our pastoral system on strong relationships between students and staff helps to achieve this.

Academic and behavioural shortcomings in particular subjects are dealt with by the individual teachers concerned. Students may be detained if it is deemed necessary.

More general academic or behavioural concerns may lead to a student being placed 'On Report'. Their progress is monitored by their teachers in each class and is reported back to the Directors who will discuss developments with the student concerned. Parents will be informed before a student is placed 'On Report' and of their progress while the sanction is in place. Our aim is to limit the period of the sanction as far as possible, in order to encourage students to develop reliable habits of study.

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