

SANDFORD

— school of —

DANCE

Dance Festivals

Festivals

Sandford School of Dance enter three festivals every year. These are:

Welwyn & Hatfield Festival of Dance (16/17, 23/24, 30/31 Jan and 6/7 Feb)

Milton Keynes Festival of Dance (15-20 Feb, **12-13 March** 2016)

Northampton Festival of Dance (**Mon 4th - Sat 9th April 2016** to be confirmed)

Pupils should **arrive** at Dance Festivals **two hours before the published time** of their section as festivals can run up to an hour early and pupils are responsible for warming up before a planned rehearsal/performance. All parents are responsible for reading relevant information such as festival dates and times as published by *Sandford School of Dance* on their website or noticeboards.

Group Dances

Group dances in festivals (competitions) are a great way of building strong friendships, encouraging camaraderie as well as a healthy competitive spirit. It does require commitment on behalf of pupils and parents but the benefits of taking part far outweigh this.

All dances (including groups) run for 2 years and in their second year if they are lucky enough to qualify, we enter the All England Regional Finals in half term May and then the Finals (usually end of July).

Rehearsals/Classes

Private lessons can be scheduled by arrangement with individual teachers for solo's, duet's, trio's and quartet's. Group Rehearsals are usually on Sundays as this seems to suit most people. Schedules are drawn up in advance and posted on noticeboards and the school website. When a NEW group is being choreographed/taught there are usually rehearsals most Sundays of the term, however, after the first performance of a group they are generally only practised a couple of times before each festival. Most rehearsals are held at Brickhill Community Centre. Pupils are expected to attend all rehearsals but we do realise that on occasions illness etc may prevent this. **Pupils are expected to attend Sandford School of Dance classes in the genre of the dance (solo, duet, trio, quartet, group) that they are participating in.**

School show

All Festival Group Dances are included in the bi-annual school show. The next show is in November 2016.

Performance of Dances

If you have learnt or had a dance choreographed for you for dance festivals/examinations and you would like to perform it at another event such as a school performance, please seek permission from the individual teacher whose dance it is.

Cost of rehearsals

Private lessons are £30 an hour. Rehearsals for groups work out at £4.00 for a one hour class (less than the normal price of a lesson) and these are included on the termly invoice sent out to parents.

Costumes

Costumes are hired out at a charge of £20-£25 a year. Costume (& rehearsal fees) are not refunded should a pupil stop participating in a group dance.

Uniform

We have a festival uniform which is a Sapphire Blue Sandford School of Dance Zoodie. This can be purchased from the Dance Stall which is open on Saturdays at Mark Rutherford Upper School. There are other items T-shirts, Jogging bottoms and bags which are available to order. Pupils can have their names printed on these items.

Festival Etiquette

Parents, please remember that Photography and video recording at dance festivals is strictly prohibited as laid out in the child protection and festival rules. This is a general rule at all live performances. Any parent who breaks this rule will risk their child being removed from all dance festivals as it jeopardises our place as a school at these competitions.

Please be respectful of all children performing from our own school and from other schools. Watch quietly and ensure any young children are seated at all times and are quietly watching. Please applaud all dancers as you would at any performance (no cheering or whistling). All pupils must be reminded that should they be lucky enough to be chosen to return to the stage for adjudication they must stay still, smile, not wave to anyone in the audience and applaud any dancers who are awarded a medal.

Pupils - please remember that you are representing our school at Dance Festivals and we expect excellent manners and behaviour. There are always pupils, parents, teachers from other schools in earshot, so please do not give negative comments about another school or their work whilst you are at any dance festival.

If you have any other questions regarding festivals please do not hesitate to contact me. You can email me at sian.sandford@sandfordschoolofdance.co.uk or text/call 07989 205872.

Sian Sandford