

## **"HANDS ON" CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STAFF**

During training and teaching for the Performing Arts, some physical contact may occur between staff and pupils. It may be necessary to physically guide a pupil towards becoming aware of correct muscle actions, breathing techniques and postural issues.

The following guidelines apply:

At the start of each term, and for all new pupils, a general question should be asked to check for permission to touch if contact is necessary during classes. Opportunity should be given for any child to refuse permission (some home circumstances may have given the child an unfortunate experience). If contact during a class needs to be detailed and close to the front of the torso, a relaxed "may I" should be asked when approaching a child.

- The intention behind all physical contact is professional and unambiguous
- Any touching that occurs is firm, direct and necessary
- Any pupil has the right to refuse to have 'hands on' feedback at any time
- Teachers should be especially aware of corrections close to the pelvis and should try to keep to the minimum contact in this area
- Consideration will be given to the age of the pupil and the vulnerability of the adolescent years
- If teachers are in close physical proximity of a pupil, it is advised to have several other pupils around, or another adult
- All physical touching is to enhance the training