

Centre's for Advanced Training The Department for Education (DfE) Music and Dance Scheme

THE COLLECTIVE AIM OF THE SCHEME IS:

Supported by the Department for Education Music and Dance Scheme, Centre's for Advanced Training (CAT) exist to help identify, and assist, children with exceptional potential, regardless of their personal circumstances, to benefit from world-class specialist training as part of a broad and balanced education. This will enable them, if they choose to proceed towards self-sustaining careers in music and dance.

NATIONAL CENTRES FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN DANCE

Since its inception in 2004 the National Centre's for Advanced Training in Dance (also known as CAT schemes) have been engaging young dancers across the country. The schemes provide young people aged 10 – 18 years with accessible and inspirational dance training. Successful applicants are able to access highly specialist dance training in their locality, whilst continuing to live at home. This allows students to benefit from a broad and balanced education.

Centres are pioneers in prevocational training and research, promoting best practice and providing exceptional and innovative tuition to young people, regardless of their personal circumstances (please see Music and Dance Scheme Funding below).

They operate from host organisations recognised for their excellence and commitment to the arts and vocational training. Each partner is unique in their delivery of the scheme some embracing Contemporary Dance whilst others focus on Ballet, Circus Arts, South Asian Dance and Urban Dance as their main technique.

The CATs are:

- Academy of Northern Ballet
- DanceEast
- DanceXchange
- Dance4
- Dance City
- London Youth Circus
- The Lowry
- Northern School of Contemporary Dance
- The Place
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
- Swindon Dance (Swindon and Exeter)

The scheme is devised to prepare young dance artists for full-time professional dance training, university or to go straight into the dance profession and includes tuition in five key areas:

- Dance Technique
- Creative dance and choreography
- Performance
- Dancers' health and wellbeing
- Cultural activities such as theatre and gallery trips, workshops and volunteering opportunities

The curriculum is intended to give students a strong basic grounding in technical and creative skills, as well as an introduction to the wider dance profession.

Classes take place at the host organisation; some schemes also offer satellite classes within their regions especially the South Asian and Circus strands.

All students also take part in intensive projects which may take place over a weekend, Easter and summer holiday workshops, often with leading British and international dance artists.

All students receive an Individual Training Plan (ITP) to aid their development and highlight personal goals and needs. The scheme is delivered outside of school time and every effort is made to encourage a healthy balance between academic work, dance training and normal life. In certain circumstances it is possible to tailor a more individualised programme for those who may have difficulty travelling to one of the Dance CAT classes during the week.

The Dance CAT's are supported by the Department for Education's (DfE) Music and Dance Scheme (MDS). This scheme currently enables around 2,000 exceptionally talented children to have access to the best specialist music and dance training available alongside a good academic education.

THE DFE, MUSIC AND DANCE SCHEME

The Music and Dance Scheme (MDS) is a small and highly specialised scheme that provides means-tested fee support and grants to designated centres of excellence for the education and vocational training of exceptionally talented young musicians and dancers aged 8 to 19. It represents the "top of the pyramid" for performing arts education and training and is the Government's main vehicle for funding the training needs of such children. Although small, the scheme, its beneficiaries, its participating organisations and its patrons have a huge impact on the performing arts world.

The DfE offer grants which are means-tested based on family's annual earnings per tax year, with deductions and allowances made for dependents in accordance with their guidelines.

Families' financial circumstances are reviewed annually and support is available to families whose income falls below £65,840 per annum (2016/2017). Students who are eligible and who make sufficient progress will be entitled to receive financial assistance until they graduate or exit from the programme.

SWINDON DANCE CAT

The Swindon Dance CAT offers a pre-vocational training programme for young dancers demonstrating exceptional potential and the commitment and passion for a career in dance.

The CAT is non-residential and covers the south west of the country. It is based at Swindon Dance and began in Sept 2005. It was one of the early Government initiated Centres for Advanced Training (CAT), and was designed to meet the training needs of gifted and talented young dancers in the South West. From its inception, it has upheld the principles long established by Swindon Dance; *'to offer young people the opportunity to watch and participate in quality dance activities and performances through working with dance professionals of the highest caliber'*.

The CAT has developed from 25 students in 2005 to its current cohort of 115 students, offering a national level training programme of the highest quality based on individual need. From September 2008 the CAT implemented its current format of three programmes; Swindon Contemporary and Swindon Street Dance programme based at Swindon Dance, and Exeter Contemporary Programme.

SWINDON DANCE

Enriching people's lives through the art of dance. Swindon dance's belief in the power of dance, along with its ethos in support and nurturing the art form for its community, the young talented dancer and the professional artist has stood it apart and established its regional, national and international reputation for excellence in dance since 1979.

Swindon Dance is an independent charitable trust.