

BRITISH ACCREDITATION COUNCIL INSPECTION REPORT

INTERIM INSPECTION (College)

INSTITUTION:	KS Dance
ADDRESS:	Unit 9a Centre 21 Bridge Lane Warrington WA1 4AW
HEAD OF INSTITUTION:	Ms Kate Simmons
ACCREDITATION STATUS:	Accredited
DATE OF INSPECTION:	3 July 2019
ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE DECISION AND DATE:	Continued accreditation 26 September 2019

PART A – INTRODUCTION

1. Background to the institution

KS Dance Limited (KS Dance/the Institution) is a privately-owned organisation, founded in 1988 by its current Director. It offers accredited certificates and diplomas, at Levels 3 to 6, in professional dance. The Institution has three dance studios on a single site in Warrington, Cheshire, and has operated from there since 2004.

The Institution aims to train dancers and teachers of dance to the highest level and standards and provide students with the necessary skills and qualifications to pursue a professional career in dance or the teaching of dance. Courses are delivered by teachers who have been professional dancers in their own right.

The sole Director is supported by an Academic Director, and reports to two other private shareholders and a Board of Advisors. The Director is in the process of appointing two additional members to the Board of Advisors, but there have otherwise been no significant changes at the Institution since the last inspection visit.

2. Brief description of the current provision

KS Dance offers a range of full-time accredited training courses at Levels 3, 4 and 6, in subjects such as Classical Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Dance Education and Professional Dance, as well as a range of dance classes for children. The children's classes do not form part of BAC's accreditation. The qualifications are accredited by Trinity College, London (TCL) or the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD), and the Institution itself is accredited by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT).

All courses are delivered face-to-face and on a full-time basis. The Institution has a maximum capacity of 50 students. A small number of students are recruited from overseas, and since the last inspection, one student from the Ivory Coast and one from South Africa have successfully completed short certificate courses before returning home. The number of students enrolled onto courses at the time of this inspection was 36, all from the United Kingdom (UK).

The majority of students at the Institution are over the age of 18, and most are female. At the time of the inspection, 21 students were over the age of 18, and 15 students were aged 16 and 17. The Institution operates on an academic year basis, and all students are enrolled onto programmes in September. Enrolment is conditional on previous learning and subject experience and all prospective students undertake a performance audition and face-to-face interview.

3. Inspection process

The inspection was carried out by one inspector over one day. Discussions took place with the Director of the Institution as well as teachers, administrators and students. A tour of the premises was conducted, and a sample of teaching sessions was observed. Documentation was also reviewed. The availability of the information provided to the inspector was good, and the Institution cooperated well with the inspector throughout the process.

4. Inspection History

Inspection Type	Date
Full Accreditation	25 June 2018

PART B – JUDGMENTS AND EVIDENCE

The following judgments and comments are based upon evidence seen by the inspector during the inspection and from documentation provided by the institution.

1. Significant changes since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the Director has taken steps to appoint two additional members to the Board of Advisors, to broaden the range of skills and expertise at the senior management team's disposal, and these are now in post. There have been no other significant changes concerning ownership, senior personnel, programmes or premises.

2. Response to actions points in last report

There were no action points highlighted in the last report.

3. Response to recommended areas for improvement in last report

The Institution is recommended to include the board of advisors on the organisation chart to ensure that the entire organisation and management hierarchy is clearly represented.

Since the last inspection the Director has undertaken a detailed review of the role, purpose and experience of the Board of Advisors and has recently appointed two additional members to the Board. The Director is currently drawing up formal terms of reference and a calendar of meetings, to ensure the Board has a more formal role in the oversight of the Institution's direction and performance. The organisation chart will be revised to reflect this.

The Institution should clearly state the entry requirements for each course within the application packs and on the website.

The application and enrolment packs have been revised to show the entry requirements for each course. There are currently plans to develop the website further to enable prospective students to apply and register for courses online, and to access course-related materials and assignments once they have started their programme of study. As a result, detailed entry requirements will also be added to the website as part of this ongoing development.

4. Compliance with BAC accreditation requirements

4.1 Management, Staffing and Administration (spot check)

The standards are judged to be:

Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

The Institution has a clearly defined and well-understood management structure, and an accurate organisation chart. The role, purpose and terms of reference of the voluntary Board of Advisors (the Board) have been clarified, and two recent new appointments have been made. However, the Board currently lacks sufficient formal oversight of the Institution's activities.

Managers and administrative staff are well qualified and experienced and are highly committed to ensuring a high quality experience for the students. All policies and procedures are up-to-date, and data collection and storage systems are effective.

The Institution has excellent publicity material for all its courses, and staff are careful to ensure that students are enrolled onto the right courses which match their prior learning experience and their future career aspirations.

The Institution obtains regular feedback from students, their parents, staff and partner institutions. There are effective systems for monitoring and reviewing all aspects of performance, for example, via annual reports, self-evaluation reports and action plans.

4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment (spot check)

The standards are judged to be:

Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

Academic management is highly effective. All staff are well qualified, with significant experience of working in the dance industry, either as professional dance teachers or as professional dancers at international level. All courses are skillfully designed and delivered to enable students to develop the appropriate skills to pursue a professional career in dance or dance teaching.

Training courses are planned and delivered in ways that enable students to succeed and comply with the awarding organisations' requirements. The academic backgrounds and learning needs of students are taken into account, and staff are responsive to students with additional support needs.

Teachers use their own professional background and experience to develop the practical dance skills and levels of discipline necessary to be a successful dancer or dance teacher. All the students demonstrate high levels of enthusiasm and outstanding levels of achievement.

The Institution makes very good use of choreography competitions and outside events to promote the students' dance skills and artistic development. Three students have been chosen to compete in the BBC Young Dancer 2019 competition, and the Director set up the Allegrodance Touring Company, which provides an opportunity for current students to stage local dance workshops and dance productions.

The Institution does not currently offer short courses and the range of options in contemporary dance and musical performance is currently quite narrow.

4.3 Student Welfare (spot check)

The standards are judged to be:

Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

All students continue to receive appropriate information, advice and guidance before, during and after their arrival at KS Dance.

There is a clear and well-documented application process and a clearly documented complaints policy, which is published in the staff and student handbooks. The BAC's own complaints procedure is not currently on the Institution's website or referred to in the staff and student handbooks.

Effective safeguarding arrangements are in place and are regularly reviewed to ensure all students are kept safe. Effective arrangements are in place to protect students from the risks associated with radicalisation and extremism, for example, clearly documented and disseminated policies and procedures.

4.4 Premises and Facilities (spot check)

The standards are judged to be:

Met Partially Met Not Met

Comments

The Institution has secure tenure on its premises and it has access to suitable external premises for occasional purposes, for example, to put on a show or demonstration in Liverpool or Warrington.

The premises are safe, secure and clean, and there are clearly documented health and safety procedures. The dance studios provide a pleasant and conducive working, teaching and learning environment for staff and students, and they effectively accommodate both practical and theory-based lessons and assessments.

Staff have access to additional facilities for preparing lessons, marking assessments or relaxation, and students have access to a common room for refreshment and lunch breaks. The Institution also has a small communal cafeteria for the use of staff, students and visitors. There are private storage lockers for both staff and students.

4.5 Compliance Declaration

Declaration of compliance has been signed and dated.

Yes No

PART C – SUMMARY OF STRENGTHS AND ACTION POINTS

STRENGTHS

The Institution has a highly qualified and experienced senior management team and all staff show a high level of commitment to the Institution and its students.

Teachers are highly skilled and effective in planning and delivering courses that enable students to develop the relevant skills to pursue a professional career in dance or the teaching of dance.

The Institution makes outstanding use of in-house choreographic competitions and external events, such as dance competitions, workshops and productions, to promote students' dance skills and artistic development.

The management team and teaching staff demonstrate a caring and professional approach to students' welfare before, during and after their programmes of study, and effective safeguarding arrangements are in place.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

The Institution must add the BAC complaints procedure to its website.

High Medium Low

RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT *(to be reviewed at the next inspection)*

It is recommended that the Board of Advisors takes a more formal role in oversight of the Institution's academic progress and performance, future course development and aspects of students' welfare, to enable the senior management team to benefit from the Board's skills and experience.

The Institution should consider how it might broaden its range of courses to appeal to a wider profile of prospective students.

COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS - FURTHER COMMENTS, IF APPLICABLE

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