



## Dance Spaces

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A space to dance should be safe for dancers to move in without injuring themselves, but also inspire creativity. Audits by YDE's School Dance Coordinators indicated that 25% of dance spaces in schools were rated as Poor and that, along with similar findings from the Youth Sport Trust audit, less than half had sprung floors. There are several different resources available that give guidance on the requirements for safe dance spaces. From these Youth Dance England has compiled these key points to consider:

- Dance should take place in a dedicated space so that other activities do not deteriorate the sprung floor
- The floor should be a sprung (or semi-sprung) floor that complies with European DIN-standard 18032 Part II, giving a shock absorbing coefficient of at least 55%
- Dimensions: the space should be at least 10m wide with a minimum of 14m length (to accommodate classes of 25-30 students). GCE A Level requires a clear floor area of 10m by 10m for dance examinations
- Spaces should be at least 4.5m high
- Diffuse natural light, augmented by fluorescent lighting, is recommended
- The minimum temperature in the studio should be 21 C and preferably 24 C
- Mechanical ventilation of the space should provide between 6 and 10 air changes per hour
- Mirrors should be a minimum of 2.2 m high and barres should be set at 0.9 to 1.2 m high
- The following resources were used to gather this information and may be useful if you would like further information:
- The DfE has produced new technical guidelines for Dance Studios and Activity Studios in schools (January 2013)
- Jeanette Siddall, Dance in and Beyond Schools (Youth Dance England, September 2010)
- Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, Arts Spaces in Schools: Designing for Excellence (Specialist Schools and Academies Trust) [currently out of circulation]

- National Dance Teachers Association website [www.ndta.org.uk](http://www.ndta.org.uk)
- Mark Foley, Dance Spaces (Arts Council England, 1994) [out of print]
- Department for Education and Skills, Facilities for Sports and Performing Arts: building bulletin 97 (DfES, 2002)
- Mark Foley, Handbook for Dance Floors (Dance UK, 1991), which can be purchased from Dance UK [here](#)

Here are some excellent examples of dance space:

- Bonnie Bird Theatre, Laban, London
- Performance Centre, University College Falmouth, Cornwall
- South East Dance Studios