

FIT TO DANCE SPACE CHARTER

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Audition and rehearsal venues which have signed up as Fit to Dance Spaces demonstrate a commitment to environmental conditions which are suitable for dance work.

Those who adopt this Charter recognise that spaces, designed to be suitable for dance, are vital for short and long term health and safety of dancers.

This Charter is designed to be achievable by the largest and smallest dance rehearsal venues. Its purpose is to celebrate good practice, encourage better practice and inform dancers, choreographers teachers and producers.

1. Clear guidance is available to hirers on the maximum capacity of rehearsal rooms.

Enough space should be provided so that when limbs are outstretched (standing or when floorwork is used) each dancer has enough personal space not to come into contact with an obstruction (e.g. pillars) or a fellow dancer. There should be a high enough ceiling to allow jumping, leaping and lifting without obstruction.

2. There is adequate buildings, contents, fixtures & fittings and public liability insurance in place.

Your policy must be with an authorised insurer and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has a list of these. You can check their register at <http://www.fca.org.uk>

3. Fresh and free drinking water is available.

Through a mains water supply or water dispenser.

4. Suitable, sufficient and clean bathroom facilities are available.

The Health and Safety Executive's Approved Code of Practice stipulates:

<i>Number of people at work</i>	<i>No. of toilets</i>	<i>No. of washbasins</i>
1-5	1	1
6-25	2	2
26-50	3	3
51-75	4	4
76-100	5	5

5. There are an appropriate number of sufficiently stocked First Aid boxes on the premises, and the designated First Aiders are clearly identifiable.

Guidance can be found at:

www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/what-employers-need-to-do.htm

One Dance UK have produced guidance on what to include in First Aid boxes tailored to the needs of dancers:

<http://www.equity.org.uk/documents/dancers-first-aid-box>

6. Fire exits and escapes are unobstructed and clearly marked. A fire safety risk assessment must be carried out and kept up to date.

Guidance can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/fire

7. The audition/rehearsal room is kept sufficiently clean.

8. There is an ability to control the temperature in rehearsal rooms, so that temperature does not drop below 18.3°C or rise above 24°C. The audition/rehearsal room has effective and suitable ventilation to supply a sufficient quantity of fresh or purified air.

It is essential in a dance studio that there is local, accessible and quickly responsive control of ventilation and heating. Ideally the space will be maintained at a comfortable 21°C.

9. Dance floors are sprung, clean, evenly surfaced and without a rake. Equipment and fixtures such as barres and mirrors, where provided, are secure, stable, safe and fit for purpose.

The ideal floor is fully sprung and permanently laid (or securely laid portable floor if necessary), exclusively used for the purpose of dancing. The floor should be suitable for the specific style of dance being undertaken/footwear being worn, with an appropriate level of traction or slip-resistance.

10. The rehearsal room can be secured.

The company have exclusive use of the rehearsal room during booked hours unless otherwise agreed and belongings can be secured during breaks.

**To sign up to the Charter email:
fittodancespace@equity.org.uk
Your venue will then be listed on
www.equity.org.uk/fit-to-dance-space**



RCS/KK Dundas.

“The quality of dance spaces and the environment created within and around them is incredibly important to the well-being of dancers at every age and stage of their development and training. Here at RCS we value the importance of investing in and maintaining dance spaces which create the supportive, safe and inspiring learning and teaching environment for our next generation of world-class dancers so we welcome the Fit to Dance Space Charter as a valuable step in setting standards which prioritise the well-being and safety of all dancers wherever they practice, rehearse or perform.”

Kerry Livingstone

Head of Modern Ballet

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland



“Creation Box London believes in the Fit to Dance Space Charter. It is vital in providing the right spaces for artists and dancers to train and rehearse. Creation Box is about maintaining a space that enables a healthy practise for dancers.”

Rachel Kay

Creation Box

