

Advocating for dance at your school or college

Along with other art forms, dance is at risk of being decreased or cut in schools and colleges. We've put together a list of suggested actions you can take to help keep dance on the curriculum.

Galvanise student, alumni and parental support by asking them to write letters in support of your dance provision and testimonials to the Head and board of governors/trustees.

Write to your MP (about the issue and encourage the students to do the same).

Arrange a meeting with the Head, with one or two alumni who can share the impact the course or dance provision has had on them.

Use our Governors Guide and the Cultural Learning Alliance's ImagineNation Report to back up your argument.

If appropriate alert the press, bearing in mind this can have negative as well as positive consequences.

Involve the relevant teaching union. ASCL and The National Education Union are both vocal about keeping the arts in school.

A social media campaign/petition is also another potentially useful way of making your views heard and gaining support. Like going directly to the press, this can potentially create negative as well as positive messages around the school and increased attention for those coordinating the campaign.

For those who are specifically affected by the EBacc, ensure you have joined the Bacc for the Future Campaign and keep them informed of your situation.

Inform One Dance UK of your situation – As the Subject Association for Dance in Schools we will look at the options to see how we can support your campaign.

Gather data about how many shows you put on, including the range of students performing and how many audience members attend. This data may show the worthwhile effect you have in the school. Include audience feedback in your letters to the Head/Governors.

Collect quotes from students (and their parents) who may be struggling in other subjects but excel in dance and use these in your letters etc.

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JOIN One Dance UK as a Teacher/School or Student Member and benefit from our resources, advice and Continuing Professional Development opportunity

As with any campaign, the actions you take should be appropriate to your circumstances.
These suggestions are only given as ideas to help you consider the options available.