

Year 8 Dance

Unit 1 Topic Title: Capoeira – Developing Technique, Choreography & Performance

Learning Objectives

Students build upon their Year 7 learning by refining their understanding of Capoeira as a Brazilian cultural art form that combines dance, music and martial arts. They develop greater technical accuracy, control, balance, coordination and musicality whilst performing increasingly complex movement vocabulary including Ginga, Esquivá and Au. Students create and refine their own Capoeira-inspired choreography using recognised choreographic devices and develop performance quality through projection, focus, timing and expression. They deepen their understanding of Capoeira's historical and cultural significance, applying subject-specific vocabulary to evaluate performances and provide constructive peer feedback.

What previous knowledge is required?

Students should already be able to:

- Perform fundamental Capoeira movements introduced in Year 7.
- Demonstrate safe dance practice through effective warm-ups and cool downs.
- Count movement phrases in 8s with confidence.
- Perform simple choreography with appropriate timing and coordination.
- Use basic dance vocabulary.
- Evaluate their own and others' performances using simple success criteria.
- Work collaboratively within pairs and small groups.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

This unit develops greater independence and technical competence through:

- Refining performance quality.
- Developing more complex choreography.
- Improving technical accuracy and musicality.
- Increasing confidence in leadership and peer coaching.
- Applying dance terminology independently.
- Developing resilience through rehearsal and refinement.
- Strengthening cultural understanding of dance traditions.

The unit prepares students for Year 8 Street Dance by extending choreography and performance skills and provides strong foundations for Year 9 Hip Hop and GCSE Dance through greater creative independence and evaluative thinking.

Common Misconceptions

Students often believe:

- Technical difficulty is more important than control and accuracy.
- Strong performers do not need rehearsal.
- Choreography is simply copying movements rather than creating original ideas.
- Performance quality only involves facial expression.
- Dance styles from different cultures use identical movement characteristics.

These misconceptions are addressed through teacher modelling, retrieval practice, questioning, rehearsal, peer assessment and practical application.

National Curriculum / Specification

Students continue to meet the KS3 Physical Education National Curriculum by:

- Performing dances with increasing technical accuracy and control.
- Developing competence across a broad range of physical activities.
- Creating and refining movement sequences independently.
- Analysing and improving their own and others' performances.
- Demonstrating teamwork, resilience and confidence.
- Appreciating dance from different cultures and historical contexts.

Unit 2 Topic Title: Diversity – Street Dance Performance and Choreography

Learning Objectives

Students explore Street Dance through the work of the professional dance company Diversity, developing knowledge of Street Dance history, stylistic characteristics and professional performance. Students learn teacher-led choreography before independently creating and performing original movement phrases using Street Dance vocabulary and recognised choreographic devices including canon, unison, call and response, repetition, formations and dynamics. They develop technical performance skills including coordination, control, rhythm, musicality, timing and spatial awareness whilst confidently evaluating performances using subject-specific terminology.

What previous knowledge is required?

Students should already be able to:

- Perform confidently using appropriate timing and musicality.
- Apply basic choreographic devices.
- Demonstrate expressive performance skills.
- Work collaboratively to create and refine choreography.
- Use dance terminology accurately.
- Respond positively to teacher and peer feedback.
- Understand safe dance practice and rehearsal techniques.

How will this term's content help with future learning?

This unit develops students' ability to:

- Apply increasingly sophisticated choreographic devices.
- Perform with greater confidence and stylistic awareness.
- Interpret professional dance works.
- Develop leadership through collaborative choreography.
- Improve performance quality through rehearsal and refinement.
- Analyse movement using technical vocabulary.
- Understand professional dance companies and career pathways.

The unit prepares students for Year 9 studies of Michael Jackson's *Beat It* and ZooNation Hip Hop by introducing more complex choreography, advanced performance skills, characterisation and independent creative decision-making. It also provides an excellent foundation for GCSE Dance performance, choreography and appreciation components.

Common Misconceptions

Students often believe:

- Street Dance is freestyle with no technical foundations.
- Professional choreography is completely improvised.
- Synchronisation is more important than performance quality.
- Choreographic devices only apply to professional dancers.
- Street Dance is only one dance style rather than a collection of styles and influences.

These misconceptions are challenged through professional performance analysis, teacher modelling, retrieval activities, choreography tasks and structured reflection.

- Developing healthy, active lifestyles through sustained physical activity.

National Curriculum / Specification

Students continue to fulfil the KS3 National Curriculum by:

- Performing dances using increasingly advanced techniques.
- Developing competence and confidence across a broad range of physical activities.
- Creating original choreography using recognised choreographic devices.
- Analysing, evaluating and improving performances.
- Working collaboratively and demonstrating leadership.
- Appreciating contemporary dance through the study of a professional dance company.