

Blackburn Festival of Speech, Music and Dance

Dance Syllabus 2026



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Blackburn Festival is affiliated to
**The British and International Federation of Festivals
for Music, Dance and Speech**



Our thanks to Westholme School for
their support and venue



www.blackburnfestival.com



Blackburn Festival of Speech Music and Dance

Registered Charity No: 222789



Festival Dates and Venue 2026

Dates

Saturday 25th April and Sunday 26th April

Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th May

Closing date for entries 20th February

The Age of Dance is 31st August 2025

Venue

The Croston Theatre at Westholme School

Meins Road, Blackburn BB2 6QU

Entries

Entries will be via All England's Festival Connect - full instructions and links are on the website www.blackburnfestival.com/dance

Fees

Solos	£8 per class
Duets	£14 per class
Trios	£18 per class
Quartets	£20 per class
Small Groups	£25 per class
Large Groups	£35 per class

The Dance Secretaries

**Louise Kellington and Kathryn
Chapple**

dance.blackburnfestival@gmail.com

Adjudicator

Jane Wing



Jayne trained at the Drusilla Duffill School of Theatre dance in Sussex, and has been the Principal of the Pirouette Academy of Dance in Leicester since 1987, teaching both children and adults in all genres of stage dance. Jayne's students have been Janet Cram finalists and class prize winners and also finalists at the Imperial Classical Ballet awards.

Jayne is an examiner and committee member with the ISTD national faculty and is an approved tutor for Modern Tap and National, teaching all units of DDE to students, both at her own school and further education colleges in the East Midlands.

Jayne has been the recipient of the Helen Wingrave award and used this to further her knowledge and qualifications in national dance.

Jayne has performed professionally in both the west end alongside Sheila Hancock in Annie and around the UK and is an adjudicator for The British and International Federation of Festivals and All England Dance.

Festival Regulations

All entries must be sent to the relevant Secretary on or before the closing date.

The committee reserves the right to refuse any entry, to combine or withdraw any class deemed to have insufficient entries, or to divide any class with a large number of entries.

The Festival is open to amateurs only, and the following definitions apply:

Amateur: any person whose livelihood is derived from services other than teaching and performing music, speech and dance.

Novice: any competitor who has never achieved 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in any recognised Festival.

Student Teacher: any competitor who does not derive their sole income from teaching.

Any protest must be in writing, duly signed, stating the cause, and must be delivered to the Secretary on the day of the competition together with a fee of £5 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

The order of competing in all classes will be decided by ballot and performers will be informed of class timings.

The starting times of the classes are approximate and classes may start before or after the times stated. Performers should arrive in good time for their classes.

In classes where special conditions are laid down, failure to observe said conditions will lead to disqualification.

Entry fees include the Adjudicator's remarks which will be available at the end of each class or session. No entry fee will be returnable.

The Festival Committee shall have the power to decide all other matters connected with the conduct of the Festival not provided for in these regulations.

All communications must be addressed to the relevant Secretary.

Communications with the Adjudicator concerning any matter relating to the Festival by competitors, teachers or other interested parties prior to or during the competitions is prohibited.

Video recording, photography and audio recording during any performance is prohibited.

Dance Specific Regulations

The Age of Dance for competitors is as on 31st August 2025, in line with AED.

No re-dancing is permitted except for Prejuniors and Novices

No pointe work is allowed in classes under 13 years.

No dancing out of section is allowed.

Vocal backing is permitted except in Musical Theatre (Song and Dance)

Dancers will be rung off if they exceed the time limits.

Props are limited to hand props only. Setting up time must not exceed 20 seconds.

Competitors may enter only once in

each solo class. In duets and trios competitors may enter twice. The second entry must be with a different partner/s and/or a different genre of dance.

For duets, trios and groups, the class entered should be determined by the age of the eldest competitor.

Competitors may only perform as a novice if they have not attained 1st, 2nd or 3rd at any similar competition

Where entries fail to meet a suitable class size we reserve the right to merge classes. Competitors will be adjudicated according to their own class.

Open Classes: Solos

Prejunior Class 6 years and under
Time limit 1½ mins. No pointe work
Classical Ballet
Narrative/Character
Global
Greek
Musical Theatre (time limit 2 mins)
Tap
Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)

Class A 7 and 8 years
Time limit 1½ mins. No pointe work
Classical Ballet
Narrative/Character
Global
Greek
Musical Theatre (time limit 2 mins)
Tap
Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)

Class B 9 and 10 years
Time limit 1½ mins. No pointe work
Classical Ballet
Narrative/Character
Global
Greek
Musical Theatre (time limit 2 mins)
Tap
Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)

Class C 11 and 12 years
Time limit 2 mins. No pointe work
Classical Ballet
Narrative/Character
Global
Greek
Contemporary
Musical Theatre (time limit 2.5 mins)
Tap
Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)
Lyrical

Class D 13 and 14 years
Time limit 2 mins
Classical Ballet
Narrative/Character
Global
Greek
Contemporary
Musical Theatre (time limit 2.5 mins)
Tap
Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)
Lyrical

Class E 15 and 16 years
Time limit 2 mins
Classical Ballet
Narrative/Character
Global
Greek
Contemporary
Musical Theatre (time limit 2.5 mins)
Tap
Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)
Lyrical

Class F 17 and over
Time limit 2 mins
Classical Ballet
Narrative/Character
Global
Greek
Contemporary
Musical Theatre (time limit 2.5 mins)
Tap
Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)
Lyrical

Open Classes: Duets

Cabaret

Time limits Modern and Tap 2½ mins;
Musical Theatre 3 mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

Non-Cabaret

Time limit 2½ mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

Open Classes: Trios and Quartets

Cabaret

Time limits Modern and Tap 2½ mins;
Musical Theatre 3 mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

Non-Cabaret

Time limit 2½ mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

No Modern Ballet, Contemporary or Lyrical in Junior Duets, Trios or Quartets

Open Classes: Small Groups

Cabaret

Time limits Modern and Tap 4 mins;
Musical Theatre 4½ mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

Non-Cabaret

Time limit 4 mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

Open Classes: Groups

Cabaret

Time limits Modern and Tap 4 mins;
Musical Theatre 4½ mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

Non-Cabaret

Time limit 4 mins

Junior 10 years and under
Intermediate 14 years and under
Senior 15 years and over

No Modern Ballet, Contemporary or Lyrical in Junior Groups and Small Groups

Novice Classes

Ten years and under

Time limit 1½ mins. No pointe work

Classical Ballet

Narrative/Character

Global

Greek

Musical Theatre (time limit 2 mins)

Tap

Jazz/Modern (no tap or song)

Adjudicator's Choice Prizes

Christian Watkinson Incentive Trophy

Classical in Junior, Intermediate and Senior

Cabaret in Junior, Intermediate and Senior

Choreography - Solo

Choreography - Group

These prizes will be awarded at the Finals.

Use of Recorded Music

We are affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festival (BIFF) and participate in its group licence to cover payment of fees for the use of recorded music at its events. Performers using music from commercial recordings are advised they should seek permission to re-record from the record companies concerned as the Festival cannot take responsibility for this.

Music and songs from the shows sung, danced, or both, may require a licence under copyright law if the show is in current production. Teachers are advised to look into this before preparing Festival work. Queries on this topic should be addressed to

British and International Federation of Festivals, Festivals House, 198 Park Lane, Macclesfield SK11 6UD

01625 428297

info@federationoffestivals.org.uk

The Committee and Contacts

President	Margaret Wilson
Vice President	Lorna Slinger

The Trustees

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The Discipline Secretaries

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