

YEARS  
9–10

V 8.3

DANCE

**RATIONALE: DANCE**

This rationale complements and extends the rationale for The Arts learning area. Dance is expressive movement with purpose and form. Through Dance, students represent, question and celebrate human experience, using the body as the instrument and movement as the medium for personal, social, emotional, spiritual and physical communication. Like all art forms, dance has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging students to reach their creative and expressive potential. Dance enables students to develop a movement vocabulary with which to explore and refine imaginative ways of moving both individually and collaboratively. They choreograph, rehearse, perform and respond as they engage with dance practice and practitioners in their own and others' cultures and communities. Students use the elements of dance to explore choreography and performance and to practise choreographic, technical and expressive skills. Students respond to their own and others' dances using physical and verbal communication. Active participation as dancers, choreographers and audiences promotes wellbeing and social inclusion. Learning in and through Dance enhances students' knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures and contexts and develops their personal, social and cultural identity.

**Dance: Years 9 and 10 Achievement Standard**

By the end of Year 10, students analyse the choreographer's use of the elements of dance, choreographic devices, form and production elements to communicate choreographic intent in dances they make, perform and view. They evaluate the impact of dance from different cultures, places and times on Australian dance.

Students choreograph dances by manipulating and combining the elements of dance, choreographic devices, form and production elements to communicate their choreographic intent. They choreograph, rehearse and perform dances, demonstrating technical and expressive skills appropriate to the genre and style.

**AIMS**

In addition to the overarching aims of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts, Dance knowledge, understanding and skills ensure that, individually and collaboratively, students develop:

- body awareness and technical and expressive skills to communicate through movement confidently, creatively and intelligently
- choreographic and performance skills and appreciation of their own and others' dances
- aesthetic, artistic and cultural understanding of dance in past and contemporary contexts as choreographers, performers and audiences
- respect for and knowledge of the diverse purposes, traditions, histories and cultures of dance by making and responding as active participants and informed audiences.

**Organisation and Content Structure**

In the Australian Curriculum, the Arts is a learning area that draws together related but distinct art forms. While these art forms have close relationships and are often used in interrelated ways, each involves different approaches to arts practices and critical and creative thinking that reflect distinct bodies of knowledge, understanding and skills. The curriculum examines past, current and emerging arts practices in each art form across a range of cultures and places. The Australian Curriculum: The Arts Foundation to Year 10 enables exploration of the dynamic relationships between Arts subjects. This can involve students making and responding to artworks in traditional, contemporary and emerging forms, using materials, techniques and technologies from one Arts subject to support learning in another. In this twenty-first century Arts curriculum, students explore innovative and hybrid art forms which extend and challenge art making and combine practices of two or more art forms. Within all Arts subjects, design facilitates the creative and practical realisation of ideas. Design thinking is a fundamental strategy in the experimentation, refinement and resolution of an artwork and takes into account logical, critical and aesthetic considerations. Many different words describe design within the Arts such as choreographing, narrating, devising, constructing, composing and sculpting. Design connects the different art forms so that they inform each other, providing possibilities for students to create innovative and hybrid forms of art.

**Strands** - Content descriptions in each Arts subject reflect the interrelated strands of *Making* and *Responding*.

- *Making* includes learning about and using knowledge, skills, techniques, processes, materials and technologies to explore arts practices and make artworks that communicate ideas and intentions.
- *Responding* includes exploring, responding to, analysing and interpreting artworks.

**Relationship between the strands:** *Making* and *Responding* are intrinsically connected. Together they provide students with knowledge, understanding and skills as artists, performers and audience and develop students' skills in critical and creative thinking. As students make artworks they actively respond to their developing artwork and the artworks of others; as students respond to artworks they draw on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired through their experiences in making artworks.

**Viewpoints** - In both making and responding to artworks, students consider a range of viewpoints or perspectives through which artworks can be explored and interpreted. These include the contexts in which the artworks are made by artists and experienced by audiences. The world can be interpreted through different contexts, including social, cultural and historical contexts. Based on this curriculum, key questions are provided as a framework for developing students' knowledge, understanding and inquiry skills.

In **Dance**, students use the body to communicate and express meaning through purposeful movement. Dance practice integrates choreography, performance, and appreciation of and responses to dance and dance making.

**Knowledge and skills of Dance**

In Dance, students develop kinaesthetic knowledge through the development of dance knowledge and skills and their engagement with the materials of dance. Early sensory experience using the body as the instrument of expression and movement as the medium is fundamental to the development of this kinaesthetic knowledge in dance and contributes to students' overall aesthetic understanding.

Dances may have a particular 'look', 'sound' and 'feel' that students respond to positively, negatively or with indifference according to the engagement of their senses, emotions and cognition. They consider their perceptions of different dances and their notions of what is appealing or not appealing in the bodies, movement, sounds, aural and visual settings of dances they participate in or view.

Through Dance, students learn to reflect critically on their own aesthetic preferences by considering social, historical and cultural influences, and the effects of local and global cultures upon their tastes and decision making. From early family experiences, students' aesthetic preferences are nurtured by an increasing range of cultural influences. The wider social, historical and cultural contexts for dance present students with differing aesthetic preferences, tastes and viewpoints determined by people and their cultures.

**The Arts across Foundation to Year 10: Years 7–10**

As students move into adolescence, they undergo a range of important physical, cognitive, emotional and social changes. Students often begin to question established conventions, practices and values. Their interests extend well beyond their own communities and they begin to develop concerns about wider issues. Students in this age range increasingly look for and value learning that is perceived to be relevant, is consistent with personal goals, and/or leads to important outcomes. Increasingly they are able to work with more abstract concepts and consider increasingly complex ideas. They are keen to explore the nature of evidence and the contestability of ideas, debating alternative answers and interpretations.

In these years, learning in the Arts enables students to explore and question their own immediate experience and their understanding of the wider world. Learning through and about the Arts enables students to build on their own experiences and dispositions. Students explore and engage with artworks made by others. They make their own artworks drawing on their developing knowledge, understanding and skills.

Students' understanding of sustainability is progressively developed. They explore how the Arts are used to communicate about sustainability and also learn about sustainability of practices in the Arts.

Students learn that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have converted oral records to other technologies. As they explore forms, students learn that over time there has been development of different traditional and contemporary styles. Students explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art forms that are publicly available for broader participation in their community. Students may also extend their cultural expression with appropriate community consultation and endorsement. They identify and explore the social relationships that have developed between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other cultures in Australia, reflected in developments of forms and styles in the Arts.

Through the Australian Curriculum: The Arts, students in Years 7 to 10 pursue broad questions such as: What meaning is intended in an artwork? What does the audience understand from this artwork? What is the cultural context of the artwork and of the audience engaging with it? What key beliefs and values are reflected in artworks and how did artists influence societies of their time? How do audiences perceive and understand artworks? What does the advancement of technology mean to the presentation of, and audience engagement with, different artworks? This curriculum also provides opportunities to engage students through contexts that are meaningful and relevant to them and through exploration of past and present debates.

**Content descriptions in each Arts subject focus on similar concepts and skills that, across the bands, present a developmental sequence of knowledge, understanding and skills.** The focus of each content description in Foundation to Year 6 expands into more specific content descriptions for Years 7 to 10 as presented in the table below. For transition purposes from primary to secondary in Years 7–8 and consistency state-wide, generalist primary teachers at Year 7 could focus on the four initial similar concepts and skills eg, the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th Content Descriptions, with the deeper and expanded concepts being the focus in year 8, eg, the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 7th Content Descriptions. E.g. The focus in Year 7 could then be on: 8.1, 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6, and in Year 8: 8.2, 8.4, 8.5 and 8.7.

Content description	Foundation–Yr 6	Content description	Yrs 7–10
1 <sup>st</sup>	Exploring ideas and improvising with ways to represent ideas	1 <sup>st</sup>	Exploring ideas and improvising with ways to represent ideas
		2 <sup>nd</sup>	Manipulating and applying the elements/concepts with intent
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Developing understanding of practices	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Developing and refining understanding of skills and techniques
		4 <sup>th</sup>	Structuring and organising ideas into form
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display	5 <sup>th</sup>	Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display
4 <sup>th</sup>	Responding to and interpreting artworks	6 <sup>th</sup>	Analysing and reflecting upon intentions
		7 <sup>th</sup>	Responding to and interpreting artworks

**Years 9–10: Level Description: Dance**

In Years 9 and 10, learning in Dance builds on the experience of the previous band. It involves students making and responding to dance, independently and in small groups, and with their teachers and communities. They explore dance as an art form through choreography, performance and appreciation. Students build on their awareness of the body and how it is used in particular dance styles. They extend their understanding and use space, time, dynamics and relationships to expand their choreographic intentions. They extend the combinations of fundamental movement skills to include dance style-specific movement skills. They extend technical skills from the previous band increasing their confidence, accuracy, clarity of movement and projection. As they experience dance, students draw on dances from a range of cultures, times and locations. They explore the dance and influences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and those of the Asia region. Students reflect on the development of traditional and contemporary styles of dance and how choreographers can be identified through the style of their choreography. Students learn about sustainability through The Arts and sustainability of practices in The Arts. As they make and respond to dance, students explore meaning and interpretation, forms and elements and social, cultural and historical contexts of dance. They evaluate dancers' success in expressing the choreographers' intentions and the use of expressive skills in dances they view and perform. Students understand that safe dance practices underlie all experiences in the study of dance. They perform within their own body capabilities and work safely in groups.

**Years 9–10: Examples of knowledge and skills in Dance**

Students choreograph, perform and appreciate dances from a range of contexts, demonstrating an increasing range of movement skills and style-specific techniques. Through *Making and Responding*, students develop skills in and understanding of their dance making by becoming increasingly proficient in using choreographic, performance and appreciating practices.

**Examples of knowledge and skills in Dance**

The following information serves to articulate the main parts of the broader conceptual areas of Knowledge and Skills. These are not an exclusive, exhaustive list, but an indication of the breadth of study within dance. In this band students develop their knowledge of how ideas and intentions are communicated in and through dance. They build on and refine their knowledge, understanding and skills through dance practices focusing on:

<b>Body</b>	- body part articulations, weight transfer, body awareness, body bases, body parts and body zones particular to specific dance styles
<b>Elements of dance</b>	
<i>Space</i>	- level, direction, dimension, shape, active space, positive space, negative space, planes, pathways, general space and personal space, and performance space applied to specific dance styles and used with increasing complexity/combinations and contexts
<i>Time</i>	- time (metre, tempo, momentum, accent, duration, phrasing, rhythmic patterns, stillness and beat) applied to specific dance styles and contexts
<i>Dynamics</i>	- weight, force, energy and movement qualities applied to specific dance styles and contexts
<i>Relationships</i>	- groupings, spatial relationships and interaction applied to specific dance styles and contexts - style-specific movement skills - dance techniques from different genres and styles
<b>Technical skills</b>	- extending technical competence in control, accuracy, alignment, strength, balance, coordination, placement, flexibility, endurance and articulation
<b>Expressive skills</b>	- extending confidence, clarity of movement and intention, projection, focus and musicality
<b>Safe dance practices</b>	- knowledge of the structure and function of the musculoskeletal system - explaining the cause and prevention of common dance injuries - identifying potential safety hazards in a dance studio or venue
<b>Choreographic devices</b>	- abstraction - motif - as appropriate to choreographic intent
<b>Choreographic forms</b>	- as appropriate to structure movement ideas to communicate choreographic intent

**Years 9–10: Considering Viewpoints in Dance**

In both *Making and Responding*, students learn that meanings can be generated from different viewpoints and that these shift according to different world encounters. As students make, investigate or critique dances as choreographers, dancers and audiences, they may ask and answer questions to consider the choreographers' and dancers' meanings and the audiences' interpretations. Meanings and interpretations are informed by an understanding of how the elements of dance, materials, skills and processes are used in differing social, cultural and historical contexts. These questions provide the basis for making informed critical judgments about their own dance and the dance they see as audiences. The complexity and sophistication of such questions will develop across Foundation to Year 10. In the later years, students will consider the interests and concerns of choreographers, dancers and audiences regarding philosophies and ideologies, critical theories, institutions and psychology.

**Examples of viewpoints and questions within the Dance Content Elaborations Years 9–10**

Considering viewpoints:

- *Meanings and interpretations*: For example – What meanings are intended by the choreographer?
- *Forms and elements*: For example – How have the elements of space and dynamics been manipulated in your work to convey your ideas?
- *Evaluations*: For example – How successful were the dancers in conveying the choreographer's stated intent?
- *Psychology*: For example – What emotion did you feel most strongly as you viewed the dance?
- *Cultures*: For example – What culturally symbolic movements are evident in this dance?
- *Societies*: For example – How does the dance relate to the social context in which it was created?
- *Histories*: For example – What historical influences have impacted on this dance?
- *Critical theories*: For example – How are global trends in street dance influencing Australian dance? How effectively have ballet conventions been manipulated in this work to communicate meaning?
- *Philosophies and ideologies*: For example – What political statement is this dance work making?

**Years 9-10: Content Descriptions: Dance**

- 10.1 Improvise to find new movement possibilities and explore personal style by combining elements of dance
- 10.2 Manipulate combinations of the elements of dance and choreographic devices to communicate their choreographic
- 10.3 Practise and refine technical skills to develop proficiency in genre- and style-specific techniques
- 10.4 Structure dances using movement motifs, choreographic devices and form
- 10.5 Perform dances using genre- and style-specific techniques and expressive skills to communicate a choreographer's intent
- 10.6 Evaluate their own choreography and performance, and that of others to inform and refine future work
- 10.7 Analyse a range of dance from contemporary and past times to explore differing viewpoints and enrich their dance making, starting with dance from Australia and including dance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and consider dance in international contexts

NB: It is advised that the 'Learning in Dance' two page introduction (subject, structure) is used along with this 'explorer' paper. Download it from the Australian Curriculum website.

Source: [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au) accessed 22/02/2017