

Young Dancer Program **Student Code of Conduct**

Mission Statement: At eXit SPACE, our mission is to cultivate a supportive and enriching community where dancers of all ages and backgrounds can discover or rediscover the power of dance. We envision leading the way in equitable education and opportunity by providing a brave space for a diverse range of dancers to learn from one another in an environment free from judgment, intolerance, gossip, and bullying. Community and joy are at the heart of eXit SPACE culture and it is up to all eXit SPACE students and their families to help us maintain the environment of acceptance that makes us who we are.

Rules for dancers

- Be welcoming and respectful of peers and other community members at eXit SPACE. Be open to new friendships and make an effort to build community. While it can be enjoyable to connect with the friends we already know, inclusion is an important part of our school values and making an effort to get to know and collaborate with other peers is part of learning how to be a thoughtful artist.
- Demonstrate integrity by being honest, trustworthy, consistent, and hard-working in and outside of the classroom.
- Be a role model if you are an older dancer in the studio; this means maintaining a positive attitude in front of younger children and engaging in behavior that promotes unity.
- T.H.I.N.K. before you speak to others.
 - T – Is it *true*?
 - H – Is it *helpful*?
 - I – Is it *inspiring*?
 - N – Is it *necessary*?
 - K – Is it *kind*?
- Be kind to *yourself* and use constructive self-talk; if you need help or support, reach out to a trusted adult.

Respectful class etiquette

1. Arrive a few minutes early and be prepared to dance at the start of class. Warm-up begins promptly at the start of every class and prepares the body for physical activity; dancers who are late for class or miss warmup are more prone for injury and will therefore be asked to watch if they are more than 10 minutes late. Excessive tardiness and/or absences will not be tolerated.
2. If you arrive late, be mindful of how you enter class. Enter between exercises and be inconspicuous as you find your place.
3. At eXit SPACE we have a gender-neutral dress code. Be sure to have the proper attire on before for each class.
4. Cell phones and smart watches should be silenced, kept in dance bags, and not used in class. Do not take photos or film in class without instructor permission.
5. Please bring a water bottle into the studio to avoid having to leave during class as we do not have drinking fountains in our spaces. Water bottles must be plastic or metal (no glass) with a lid or cap to prevent spilling. Eating and chewing gum in the classroom are not allowed.
6. Street shoes are not permitted in the studios; only indoor-only dance shoes and tennis shoes may be worn on our wood and marley floors.
7. There is no cursing or inappropriate language allowed anywhere in the studio.
8. Be respectful of instructors and refrain from talking while they are talking or demonstrating. Focus on improving your dance technique and learning the choreography. Our faculty are highly trained and come to the classroom with lived experience as professional working artists. While we encourage dancers to be critical thinkers and ask great questions, it is also important that you come to class with an open mind, ready to learn from your instructor's perspectives.
9. Respect body boundaries. Dancers are not permitted to make physical contact with one another in the classroom without explicit verbal consent from all involved parties and information from an instructor about the nature of safe touch for the exercise. Dancers are never under any obligation to grant consent to fellow students or faculty and that consent may be revoked at any time.

10. When mistakes are made by other dancers, refrain from offering corrections unless you are explicitly asked by the instructor to offer constructive feedback. It is the instructor's responsibility to give corrections. There will be no negative comments made by other students of any kind. All snickering, remarks, eye rolling, sighs, etc. are disrespectful, disruptive to the dance environment, and will not be tolerated.
11. Always be respectful to those around you, including staff, students, instructors, and those waiting in the lobby. This also means remaining quiet outside of the studios so as not to disrupt ongoing classes.
12. Treat the studios, dressing areas, lobbies, and possessions of others with respect, care and consideration. Clean up after yourself, use trash receptacles, and neatly store all belongings in provided areas.

Rules for caregivers

- Drop your student off and pick them up on time. Our faculty teach back-to-back classes and rely on your timeliness to ensure they can stay on schedule.
- Uplift your dancer(s) with positive feedback; remain as involved as you can by asking about their learning and attending Family Watch Weeks and performances.
- Do not interrupt class time or reach out to teachers via social media with studio questions. All questions regarding programming should be directed to the office staff or the Young Dancer Program Director. If you need to speak with your dancer's instructor about your child's needs or to ask questions about curriculum, please send us an email and we can connect you.
- Be a role model for your child by demonstrating constructive behavior, body-positive language, and encouraging self-talk. Uplift all styles of dance offered at eXit SPACE and beyond. Teach your children to take responsibility for their behavior and hold them accountable to their actions.
- Advocate for your student by asking questions, but avoid making assumptions or accusations about dancer placements. Our faculty have made careers out of dance performance and education and are therefore the most equipped to make decisions about dancer placement based on factors including, but not limited to: safety, strength, technical ability, classroom etiquette, age, performance skills, dynamic range, and potential for progress.
- If you have concerns or complaints regarding your experience at eXit SPACE, bring them to our Artistic Director directly and as soon as possible. We are committed to working alongside caregivers to ensure individual children and teens are supported and if we don't know your family has concerns, we won't be able to address them!
- Refrain from all gossip with fellow caregivers, including, but not limited to discussions about other local dance studios and schools. We work very hard to maintain positive relationships with arts organizations across the Greater Seattle Area, all of which have their strengths and importance as a part of the local dance community. We expect caregivers to help us in maintaining these relationships and to model for dancers the importance of diversity in training within the dance field.

eXit SPACE reserves the right to take disciplinary action, suspend, or – in rare cases – dismiss a student or parent/guardian/family member who engages in the following behaviors. Any form of bullying (verbal, written, physical, virtual, etc.), including gossiping and intolerance is NOT acceptable at eXit SPACE. This is a very serious matter and will not be taken lightly. Additionally, eXit SPACE will not tolerate theft, destruction of school property or the property of others; profanity; lewd behavior, sexual harassment or coercion; discrimination based on race, gender identity, or sexual orientation; self-destructive behavior; or any other illegal activities as defined by the City of Seattle and State of Washington. Drugs, alcohol, or any mood altering substance are not permitted anywhere on the premises, and students found in possession of these substances will be asked to leave eXit SPACE; the appropriate authorities will also be contacted if/when appropriate. If you witness any of the above actions, report them immediately to the Artistic Director and in all emergent safety-threatening situations, always call 911 first.

Thank you for helping us to cultivate a safe, accepting, and inclusive community!

Marlo Martin, Artistic Director & Founder
marlo@exitspacedance.com

Miranda Chantelois, Young Dancer Program Director
miranda@exitspacedance.com

Young Dancer Program **Equity & Accessibility Statement**

Commitment to non-discrimination and accountability: eXit SPACE does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, background, sexual orientation, or gender identity in administrative or education policies, admissions/auditions, scholarship programs, classroom teaching, or any other programs/activities. We also acknowledge that racism, systemic prejudice, and discrimination are wielded against marginalized people in a deeply systemic way, and that we are not immune from making missteps. eXit SPACE is committed to taking responsibility, engaging in ongoing anti-racism work, and deconstructing from the racism, fatphobia, and ableism that have always had and continue to have particularly insidious impacts on the field of concert dance.

Supporting LGBTQ+ students: eXit SPACE welcomes dancers of all gender identities and sexual orientations and will always support and protect trans and non-binary community members. Our teachers and staff are committed to respecting dancer pronouns, names, and dress code choices without question, and to holding other community members to the same expectations of respect. Please update your dancer's pronouns in Dance Studio Pro so that all of our faculty and staff know how to address and refer to them.

Accessible instruction and facilities: We work with dancers as individuals, embracing their uniqueness, creativity, and learning style with the understanding that every dancer is different in their needs, interests, and capabilities. No dancer is the same, and we are committed to challenging and uplifting each dancer in ways that best support their personal growth. With that in mind, we encourage dancers of all levels, abilities, neurotypes, and physical modalities to give our classes a try, with the caveat that we do not currently have an offering for high-support needs students. We do our best to accommodate each dancer's unique needs within the limits of our resources, facilities, staff expertise, student/teacher ratio, and other factors. If you or your child has specific learning or accessibility needs, please talk with the Young Dancer Program Director before registering to determine whether our program is a good fit, address which class(es) would be most appropriate, and negotiate specific supports we can help put in place. Please note that all studios aside from theNEST are ADA accessible, and we maintain a scent-free environment.

Financial support: We are strongly committed to making dance opportunities accessible to as many students as possible, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances. Need-based and merit-based scholarships, work-study options, and used dance shoes are available to dancers each season, and eXit SPACE is committed to generous support of students, prioritizing families of color.

All questions or concerns regarding equity and accessibility at eXit SPACE should be directed to:

Marlo Martin, Artistic Director & Founder
marlo@exitspacedance.com

Miranda Chantelois, Young Dancer Program Director
miranda@exitspacedance.com