

Subject	Dance
Unit/Topic	Choreography

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Elements of Dance	
Actions	What a dancer does eg travelling, turning, elevation, gesture, stillness, floor-work and the transference of weight.
Dynamics	The qualities of movement based upon variations in speed, strength and flow
Space	The “where” of movement such as levels, directions, pathways, shapes, designs and patterns.
Relationships	The ways in which dancers interact; the connections between dancers.
Choreographic Devices	
Motif	A movement phrase encapsulating an idea that is repeated and developed throughout the dance.
Motif Development	Ways in which a movement phrase can be varied.
Repetition	Performing the same action or phrase again.
Contrast	Movements or shapes that have nothing in common.
Highlights	Important moments of a dance.
Climax	The most significant moment of the dance.
Manipulation of Number	How the number of dancers in a group is used.
Unison	Two or more dancers performing the same movement at the same time.
Canon	When the same movements overlap in time.

Relationship Devices	
Lead and Follow	When one or more dancers manipulate the actions or pathway of the other dancers.
Mirroring	Reflecting the movements of another person as if they are a mirror image.
Action and Reaction	When one dancer moves and the other responds as if they are having a conversation in movement.
Accumulation	When a dancer performs a series of movements and others join in at different times until all perform in unison.
Complement	Perform actions or shapes that are similar to but not exactly the same as another dancer's.
Contrast	Movements or shapes that have nothing in common.
Counterpoint	When dancers perform different phrases simultaneously.
Contact	The state of physical touching e.g. holding, lifting, weight bearing etc.
Formations	Shapes or patterns created in space by dancers.
Constituent Features	
Stimulus/Stimuli	Inspiration for an idea or movement.
Structure/Form	The way in which material is organised to create the whole e.g. binary (AB), ternary (ABC), rondo, narrative etc.
Performance Environments	Different settings for dance such as in-the-round, proscenium and site sensitive.
Aural Setting	An audible accompaniment to the dance such as music, words, song and natural sound (or silence).