

DTA Academy Frequently asked Questions

- How many performances are there?

We do two shows Saturday evening 6.30pm and Sunday Matinee 12.30pm

- How long is each show?

Each show has 2 acts and the show usually runs for 2 hours in total with a 15/20 minute interval. So usually students are collected by 9pm.

- Does my child need to perform in both shows?

Yes, all students of all ages who sign up to take part take part in both shows. This is really important as all routines are choreographed.

- If my child is only performing in one dance do they need to stay for the whole show and attend all rehearsals?

Yes the commitment to the show is the same regardless of how many numbers your child performs in. This is due to health and safety and smooth running of the event.

- Does my child have to take part in the show?

The show isn't compulsory but we encourage all students to take part as performance skills are part of the learning experience. If you choose not to take part, that is not a problem. They can join classes as normal and learn the choreography but will have their subscriptions paused when we get to full rehearsals as we don't run normal classes in this period.

- Costumes do we have to pay for any additional costumes after the deposits?

We strive to keep costs down on costumes but obviously wish for the children to all look smart and professional. We aim for parents to not pay on top after they have paid their deposits but may ask you to provide additional items that are likely to be found in your child's wardrobe or that can be worn again to help keep costume costs to a minimum. Shoes, socks and underwear are not included in the deposit payments. These will be an additional cost.

- Will each costume be at the value of the deposit?

We charge a set price per costume for the deposit but this does not mean each individual costume is that set price. Some costumes are more expensive than others so we budget the money paid across the costume requirements.

- Can we keep the costumes after the show?

The majority of the costumes are for you to keep, however, we do sometimes hire costumes and you will be informed if this is the case.

- Can my child wear underwear under leotards?

We do prefer the children not to have knickers and underwear on underneath the leotard to ensure cleaner lines, however, flesh colour knickers can be worn if you are not comfortable with this. We ask older students to purchase flesh colour bras and flesh colour knickers.

- Who will be looking after my child?

We ask for parent volunteers to help us backstage to enable the show to proceed. All parents who help are required to get a chaperone licence which includes a DBS from their local council all costs are covered by the school. Parents without a licence will not be allowed backstage.

- Theatre security and child safety

All students and chaperones need to be signed in and out of the theatre. All doors are secure and the stage door is managed by the Towngate staff. I am happy to say the Theatre is very strict on security and safety levels are extremely high.

- Can my child leave half way through the show?

For security reasons all children stay backstage with their chaperones for the entire show.

- What does the show fee cover?

The show fee covers the costs of chaperones, props and rehearsals for the show.

- Is there parking at the Theatre?

There are numerous car parks around the theatre and in Basildon town

- Can I chaperone and watch my child perform at the same time?

No if you chaperone you will be in the dressing room with the children, chaperones are not allowed in the wings for safety reasons. We recommend helping one show and watching the other.

- Can we record the show on our phones?

The show will be filmed by a professional videographer and you can buy a DVD afterwards. Personal filming of the show is strictly prohibited and the Theatre staff will remove anyone who attempts to film.

- My child is very young and goes to bed early. I don't think they will stay up?

In the 14 years we have run shows we have never had a Mini Starz student fall asleep; they are far too excited and caught up in all the excitement backstage. We understand it can be a worry for parents but please speak to us before making final decisions on participation as we have a lot of experience with younger students.

- Does my child need to commit to all rehearsals as well as the show?

Yes we highly recommend that students attend all rehearsals for their safety and for the success of the show. Regular absences will follow evaluation of students being able to take part in the final performances.

- If circumstances change and we have to pull out of the show will we be refunded?

Unfortunately not, if a student withdraws from the show after the deposit and costume fees are paid these cannot be refunded. Expenses are paid out for this event very early on.

- What time should we arrive?

Please refer to the show weekend schedule for times but generally arrival time is 1 hour before.

- What do they need to bring to the theatre?

A full costume list and information sheet will be sent but as a guide They will need snacks (nothing that will stain or mark costumes, water, something for entertainment. , NO electrical items such as tablets etc. If they are brought to the theatre, we cannot be responsible for them.

- Hair and makeup

Children and students should arrive with hair and make up ready for their first number. Makeup is required only so the students don't look washed out in the strong theatre lights not to glamorise. Red lipstick should be worn, blusher and light eye make up. Highlighting features is the key.

Lastly I would like to reinforce that we understand these events can be daunting for first time parents. We have an open door policy and invite parents to come and talk to us so we can run through the experience with you. The shows are our school's yearly highlight and we would love as many of our pupils to experience it as possible.