

The LEAP Pilot

A mix of 27x teachers across 6x BCP schools took part in the pilot training days in November 2024 and February 2025, with 12 teachers going on to explore use of the resource with their students across two terms. The pilot was externally evaluated including baselines and feedback from key staff involved, plans were gathered and lessons observed.



“The staff absolutely loved it. It’s created a real buzz amongst teachers. They haven’t stopped raving about it”

Adam Biddle, Deputy Head, Pokesdown Primary



The findings helped to confirm the aims above and the efficacy of the training day and resource, and we are delighted to confirm it’s readiness to roll out to more BCP schools from Spring 2026.

Case Study

Participant Focus – Natasha Wilder, Teacher, Pokesdown Community Primary

Natasha Wilder, PA Cover Teacher at Pokesdown Primary took part in the training and took much inspiration from it.



“I found the structure of the lessons to work really well. The outcomes of their group work looked good, and progression was seen from the first initial sessions. All the children loved the warm up and expressive movement tracks especially the jungle and rock band ones.”

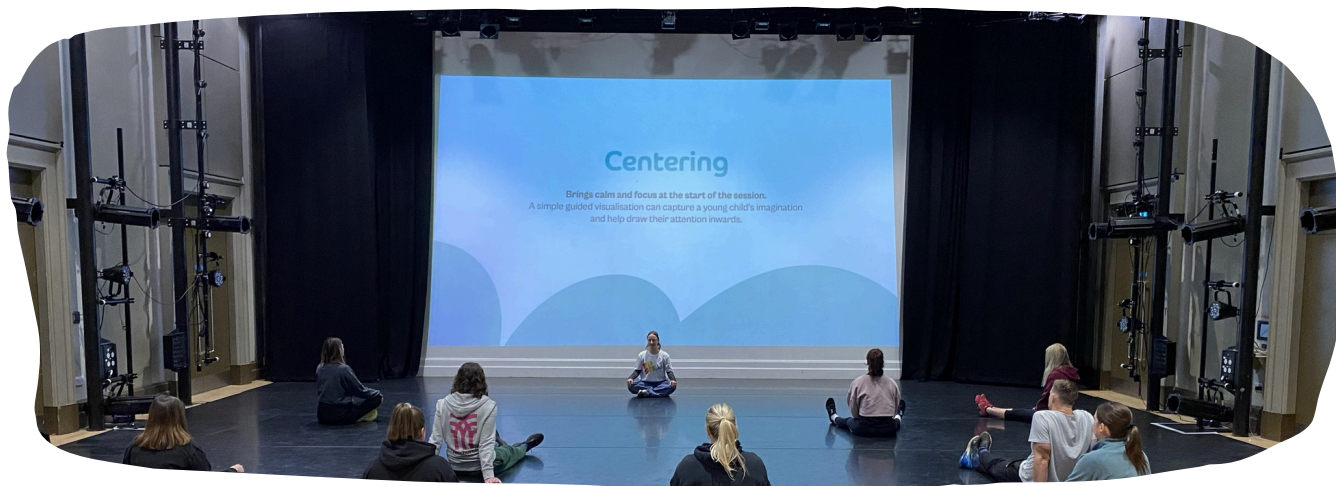
Speaking of the overall lesson flow and the accompanying resource that guides you in your lesson planning, Natasha commented it was “clear and easy to follow without an overwhelming amount of information.”



During the 3-month pilot period Natasha planned and delivered dance for four different year groups; a stand-alone dance lesson for Year 2 focused on general skills and confidence building, a stand-alone Space themed session for Year 6, a 3-week Boudicca Year 4 unit, and a 6-week Charlie and the Chocolate Factory unit for Year 3 with a live performance outcome.

In March 2025 Young People's Producer, Amy Reynolds, observed Natasha delivering a 40min session, lesson 5 out of a 6-week Charlie & the Chocolate Factory dance unit with Year 3. It was delivered using the LEAP format as intended and it was inspiring to see how Natasha had adapted the exercises to create choreography and pieced it all together for their performance piece; the piece began with a Wonka Welcome (co-created by Natasha and the children), an Umpah-lumpah movement sequence created by Natasha, followed by the children's group choreographies (5 groups of 5, with a different character each: Mike TV, Augustas Gloup, Charlie Bucket, Violet, and Stacey. They then finished the dance by coming together to repeat the Wonka Welcome and end in a final position.

25x students took part, and Natasha delivered confidently and clearly used the toolkit format and lesson templates. The children were very excited to be working towards having an 'audience' and clearly enjoyed their dance lessons.



Outcome of Unit: the children were performing this in costume for their adults the following week in their final session as part of their half term project that also included a song, art inspired by Quentin Blake illustrations, and chocolates/ chocolate boxes the children had created themselves.

Following their final performance in week 6, Natasha commented "Lots of the children had changed their opinions of dance by the end of our 6-week unit, and all were confident enough to perform in front of their adults which I did not expect at the beginning"

Natasha also expressed how the resource had "made delivering dance less intimidating" because it gave her a starting point and the confidence to co-create with the children as the sessions went along.

"The training was amazing and I really enjoyed putting it into practice in my lessons. I would love to teach more dance units going forward using the LEAP toolkit as my guide."

External Evaluation Summary

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“...teachers and children alike wrote and spoke with real enthusiasm about their experience of the Leap dance toolkit. Their words contain an intangible measure of joy and energy which communicated a genuine enjoyment of teaching and learning the discipline and art of dance during the pilot. This positivity should not be underestimated in times when teaching can be experienced as ‘hard’, ‘unrewarding’ or even ‘crushing’ and the Leap Dance team should proudly acknowledge that their work has inspired a renewed passion for dance in schools.”

Rachel Dickinson, External Evaluator, June 2025

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To book or discuss LEAP dance toolkit training for your staff please contact Young People's Producer, Amy Reynolds, amy.reynolds@pds.org.uk