

Jive4All Safe Spaces Policy

Dancing is fantastic – you will have a lot of fun, make new friends and keep fit all at the same time! These guidelines are here to make sure everyone has a great experience.

You come to Jive4All to dance and to have fun in a friendly, relaxed and safe environment, and we are committed to ensuring you have a great time. This Safe Spaces Policy outlines the behaviour we expect from everyone who attends our events, and what to do if you feel unsafe or uncomfortable during one of our events. This list is not exhaustive and obviously doesn't cover every possible situation. As with any social event, you have a responsibility to treat others with respect and consideration and you can expect others to treat you in the same way. There may be consequences for your actions should you fail to behave in an acceptable manner.

Jive4All explicitly promotes an inclusive culture, and we expect our members to make everyone feel welcome. Equally, we believe that a dancer's gender is not relevant to their choice of dance role. We encourage everyone to try different dance roles.

1. Harassment in any form will not be tolerated, including but not limited to, deliberate intimidation, bullying, stalking, inappropriate physical contact, unwanted sexual attention and discriminatory language, including offensive comments or gestures related to gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, physical appearance, race and religion.

2. Demeaning, objectifying or sexual language is not appropriate even when intended in jest.

3. Everyone comes to Jive4All for different reasons and many are just here to dance. It's a great way to meet people and make new friends, but don't treat it like a pick-up joint. **Treat everyone with respect and don't make romantic advances on the dancefloor.**

4. Respect your partner's boundaries – and remember that they have a right to change these boundaries on a dance by dance basis. Just because you have seen your partner dancing in a certain way with someone else does not mean they are obligated to dance in that way with you. If your partner seems uncomfortable, consider whether you are respecting their boundaries. Not everyone has the confidence to speak up, so be mindful of your partner's body language.

5. Modern Jive is a social dance and the culture is to accept any dance as long as you feel comfortable. However, **you are not obligated to dance with anyone**, and no one is obligated to dance with you. If you are refused a dance, please accept this graciously and politely.

6. If someone treats you in an unacceptable and inappropriate manner on the dance floor, please feel able to **walk away from them**, even if you are in the middle of a dance.

Know that you can and should set your own boundaries – physically and verbally – in a dance, and no one should make you do anything you are not comfortable with. Please speak to a teacher or mentor if you want advice on how to assert your boundaries while dancing.

If you experience behaviour that does not live up to the spirit of these standards or makes you feel uncomfortable in any way, please speak to a member of the crew. Any issues that are reported will be treated with discretion and confidentiality. If, for whatever reason, you don't feel comfortable talking to a particular individual, then please speak to a different member of the crew. If you don't want to raise it with the crew, please make sure you find a friend to talk to and support you.

We will treat any issues you raise seriously and make sure you are aware of all your options, including reporting to the police if you wish to do so.

Jive4All reserves the right to deal with any inappropriate behaviour at their discretion – actions we may take include issuing a warning, expulsion from the event or even an indefinite bar from all events.