



Waverley School – Enfield

‘The Step into Dance programme has given students and staff an incredible experience’.

Assistant headteacher, Beverley Kafka told us about the programme at Waverley.

Waverley School caters for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties and Paulette Irving has been involved with the school since 2007. Each term she works with a different group of children of mixed ability, including students in wheelchairs.

Dance is an option as part of our Friday morning leisure options and at the end of each term the group performs their dance to the rest of the school.

Over the years the students have learned many different kinds of dances, twice going on to perform their pieces at the Enfield Dance Festival. All students enjoy the process of learning the dances and often rise to the occasion and perform the dances better than at any of the rehearsals. Their self esteem is boosted so much by the applause and praise at the end of the performance.

Beverley credits Paulette Irving, the Step teacher with helping students and staff to grow as dancers.

Paulette works well with all the students and staff, being sensitive to everyone’s individual needs. Students who find it difficult to focus for a whole session can have time out as required and often take part in the whole performance.

Many staff are nervous about doing the dance as they can feel self conscious about performing, but by the end of the term they complete the dance enjoying themselves throughout the whole performance.

The Step into Dance programme has given students and staff an incredible experience and Paulette works extremely hard to accommodate all the children, adjusting dances as necessary. The rest of the school really look forward to seeing the dances. I look forward to working with Paulette in the future and would like to thank her for all her hard work.



Waverley students perform at their Christmas show.

Step into Dance is a partnership project between The Jack Petchey Foundation and the Royal Academy of Dance.

www.stepintodance.org

email: mpeake@rad.org.uk

tel: 0207 3268036

Royal Academy of Dance is a charity in England registered 312826