

# *Welcome to the Goodwin Academy of Irish Dance!*

It is vital to the success of our dancers, to the spirit of camaraderie and teamwork that we work hard to cultivate, and to our reputation as an organization that all parents and students agree to policies detailed below in the Goodwin Academy Code of Conduct.

Please read this document in full prior to registering your dancer for classes at the Goodwin Academy of Irish Dance. All parents and dancers are expected to know and abide by the expectations outlined here.

## **Class Etiquette:**

- ★ Arrive in uniform, with a positive mindset, ready to work hard.
- ★ Treat your classmates with encouragement and respect.

## **Dancers at the Goodwin Academy will:**

- ★ Speak with respect to their parents at all times during shows and at feisanna.
- ★ Avoid any negative discussion/commentary about other dancers or other schools.
- ★ Demonstrate good sportsmanship and support classmates at competitions by watching them perform and receive awards when possible.
- ★ Will accept the decision of the judges without question, and look for opportunities to improve as a dancer after each feis.
- ★ Exhibit appreciation for ANY award earned at feisanna, especially during formal awards presentations...Remember that 50% of the dancers in your competition did not place and are going home empty handed.
- ★ Dress appropriately when not in costume; NO attire that exposes the midriff, no tight or extremely short shorts.

## **Parents at the Goodwin Academy will:**

- ★ Ensure that dancers are present to class on time, in uniform, and with adequate nutrition/hygiene prior to class. (deodorant and sports bra mandatory for all age 10+)
- ★ If competing, prepare their dancers for feisanna with: hair neatly styled, costume clean, hard and soft shoes FRESHLY polished. White laces on softshoes, bright white SHORT length poodle socks, white tape around top edge of hardshoes and softshoes at all times. Makeup at all feisanna when age appropriate by An Comisiun and NAIDC regulation.
- ★ Show by EXAMPLE how to manage any disappointing result with grace by parent congratulating other classmates' successes, NEVER disparaging the judge's decisions in competition, and ALWAYS asking "what are you proud of today? what can we do better next time?"

Parents, YOU are the key to whether or not your child will succeed in the challenging, demanding, and often frustrating world of dance (as all competitive sports). Dancers who learn to approach frustration and disappointment with a positive attitude and a desire to identify “what they can do better next time” WILL ALWAYS improve the fastest. This is true in life as well as in dance. A dancer’s natural ability is useless without the proper attitude and discipline, which is taught to them by YOU. If you struggle personally with the ability to approach challenges, obstacles, or disappointment with optimism and accountability, your child will struggle as well. Questioning why a classmate or friend was moved into a higher level class or placed higher at a feis than your dancer, questioning a teacher or judge’s decision for class or feis placements, or telling your dancer that their feis results were a “mistake” does more to undermine your dancer’s success than technical issues such as turned in feet or dancing off time. It robs your dancer of the chance to learn that hard work with perseverance and patience will ALWAYS lead to better results than blaming/frustration/negativity. Each dancer is different, with their own strengths, weaknesses, and physical developmental rate. Putting undue pressure on them (more than they put on themselves) to move to a certain class, expecting them to produce certain results, or making unfair comparisons between your dancer and other classmates is not only destructive to their competitive spirit and personal confidence, it is strictly forbidden at the Goodwin Academy.

**Penalty Policy:**

Dancers and parents of the Goodwin Academy understand that when in public; at shows or competitions, they are acting as representatives of our school, our region, and (when at international events) our nation, and will conduct themselves in a manner that displays good sportsmanship through courtesy, kindness, patience, and humility.

Displays of poor sportsmanship (specifically; failing to congratulate classmates/friends, negative commentary about other schools/dancers, questioning a judge’s decision, failing to remain onstage for the entirety of your dances and/or awards ceremony except in the event of injury) will result in a warning. Second offense will result in the suspension of dancer from competition for six months. If there is ANY further display of poor sportsmanship following suspension, the family will regretfully be asked to leave the Goodwin Academy.