

Bristol Academy of Drama (BAD) was founded on the belief that drama education can profoundly improve the lives of people of all ages and from all backgrounds. In recognition that attending drama classes can have a significant and positive impact on the lives of children, young people and adults, this aspect of our service provision is highly valued by BAD, and it is our aim to continue a practice of inclusivity across our school. It is our aim to give each student the best possible experience and to always strive to improve our offering.

Bristol Academy of Drama is an inclusive organisation with an equal opportunities recruitment policy that also applies to the enrolment of all its students. Beyond the ability to have fees paid for them; students of all ages and from all backgrounds are offered the same opportunity and support needed to attend and participate whether for education, personal development, pleasure or vocation/career. All prospective students should be welcomed to apply regardless of social, political, religious and cultural background, sexual orientation or gender and likewise the BAD opportunity should be open to all abilities through effective marketing initiatives. To this end we do not hold auditions for places and all students will be treated equally.

Bristol Academy of Drama commits to giving their students a high quality artistic and professional experience of the performing arts using a diverse range of teaching techniques. Some students and young people can have a range of individual needs including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) or more complex behaviours that our teachers may be able to integrate into a BAD class effectively. We welcome a number of neurodivergent children in our sessions. We acknowledge that all neurodivergent children are different and not all environments suit them. We are aware that sometimes it can take neurodivergent students a little more time to settle into a new environment with new faces.

Facilitators will be supported to give feedback to parents (where possible) and managerial staff members any issues that may arise in sessions and will always look to review ways in which students can be supported to continue to attend. However, it must also be recognised that such students and young people can be vulnerable and not all children will be able to cope with the ensemble style used in our best practice teaching methods. When booking, you should be clear that the taster session works from both sides and it may not be possible to include members who, although enjoying the experience, are either disruptive to the learning of the main body of the group in which they are placed or who are not able to access learning or participate and engage in the learning activity.

Bristol Academy of Drama will, where possible and where resources are available, make reasonable adjustments to accommodate the physical, behavioural and learning needs of the child be that in our weekly classes or Holiday Workshops.

Holiday Workshops

Please be aware that when attending our workshops they will have a faster pace than our classes and offer a more intensive creative process as we work towards a performance on the final day. They are also more intensive for our facilitators, as they often have just a short amount of time to get to know students they may not have worked with before.

When booking a taster or a workshop with us please ensure you have considered that the environment will be suitable and please do ask us any questions that you may have. If there is any additional information you can provide us with to support the student we will pass this on to our facilitators to make their time with us enjoyable as possible.

Please note that we are not a specialist SEND provision and any students who attend Bristol Academy of Drama classes or workshops should be comfortable learning in an energetic group environment. We regret that we cannot offer 121 support in group classes or holiday workshops as we do not receive specialist funding and as a small independent business we are unable to organise the support of additional staffing.

This statement is delivered in conjunction with all of our policies which can be found on our website policies page: <https://www.bristolacademyofdrama.co.uk/policies>.