



# *The Manor School of Ballet*

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Dear Parents / Guardians / Students,

Following the announcements from HM Government yesterday in relation to their advice on immediate social distancing measures, we are now contacting you to let you know that we have had to make the extraordinary and difficult decision to close the school with immediate effect.

This decision has not been taken lightly or in line with any blanket closures of the state schools as we had indicated that we would do under instruction from the Scottish Government. We have had to take this decision because of the conflicting advice issued by HM Government in relation to safe guarding those who are vulnerable and shielding them for their safety.

In order for us to protect our pupils, their families, our staff and their families who may have vulnerable people at home we feel this is the only safest route forward at this time. In 48 years of operation we have never had to make a decision such as this, especially regarding a public health crisis at this level of importance, which hasn't been in tandem with the state schools.

We do know that other independent dance schools are also toiling with this decision but we strongly feel that we must put the health and wellbeing of our customers and staff first. We are sure that it won't be much longer before the state schools are asked to close; thankfully the small grace in all of this appears to be that children are largely unaffected.

At this moment in time, we are simply shutting operations and putting everything on hold. Once we have clearer guidance for small businesses and know more than we do today we will be in touch.

We hope you understand our decisions at this difficult time and we sincerely appreciate all your support.

Please keep safe and we'll look forward to seeing you all when it is safe to dance.

With best wishes,

Claire Smith & Jacqueline Casey  
Directors