

# Yiddish Dance at The Great Charitable Trust

Date: March 2026



The Great Club Charitable Trust is an organisation dedicated to empowering youth, offering tailored programs that foster personal growth, leadership skills, and a strong sense of community. Their mission is to provide a supportive environment where children can thrive, build confidence, and form meaningful connections with like-minded peers.

They were funded as part of the Place Partnership programme to run weekly Yiddish dance sessions every Sunday for three age groups (6-9, 10-13, and 14-17) from the 'the insular Yiddish speaking ultra-Orthodox communities in Broughton. As Yiddish speakers who maintain close-knit community ties, these children often have limited opportunities for structured physical activities outside their community.

This activity aims to create a fun, inclusive space where children can build confidence, enjoy movement, and develop skills that they will use at social events. Many of the children frequently attend weddings but feel uncomfortable dancing due to a lack of confidence in the steps. By providing structured guidance in a safe and culturally familiar environment, they are able to feel more self-assured, physically active, and socially engaged.

Mrs G. Sugar from The Great Charitable Trust told us:

“Girls in our community may understand the health benefits of exercise, but it is often not a priority in their daily lives. Many focus on what they see as more important or enjoyable activities, such as helping at home, earning pocket money, socialising, studying, and preparing for exams. As a result, physical activity is often overlooked and does not form part of their routine. Additionally, some do not recognise the broader benefits of movement beyond fitness—such as its positive impact on academic performance, mental wellbeing, and social confidence.

This project overcomes these barriers by offering an activity they genuinely enjoy—dancing. Unlike formal exercise, which may feel like a chore, dance is engaging and culturally relevant. Many girls are highly motivated to learn traditional dance steps for weddings, as it is a skill they value and will use in real-life settings. This natural incentive makes it easier for them to engage in regular movement without viewing it as 'exercise'.

The combination of music and movement allows them to let go of tension, and their faces visibly relaxed as they danced. By the end of the sessions, they were full of energy and enthusiasm.”

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"I have noticed a great improvement in the way the girls are able to move and dance now. They came in quite hesitant and lacking in dance skills and have come such a long way! I can see how it has helped build their self-confidence! They have become a close knit group benefitting from the social aspect as well!" – Mrs Weiss - Dance Teacher

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"I love coming to dance classes, it is the highlight of my week!" – Eight year old participant.

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"I didn't have so many friends. Since joining Yiddish Dance I have made so many new friendships and feel part of a social group! It is such a good feeling!" – 14 year old participant.

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"I was always hesitant to partake in socials/weddings involving dancing. With the new skills I have learned from Yiddish Dance I feel so much more confident in my dance skills and have started enjoying joining in these activities!" – 15 year old participant.

