

# Disney princess launches school for dancers

A DISNEY princess from North Somerset is launching a new summer school for young children who love to dance.

Stephanie Duncan, 38, owns Steppingstones School of Dance and this summer she is running a summer school in Portishead.

The dance teacher, who had the fairytale job of entertaining holiday-makers as a princess at Disneyland, Paris, and has performed all over the world, is running the week-long school for youngsters aged four to eight.



The summer school will offer a variety of dance genres throughout the week for children of all abilities, where they can dance, have fun, grow in confidence and make new friends.

Stephanie said: "It's going to be a fun-filled week and I'm looking forward to meeting and teaching everyone."

The school runs from August 13 to August 17 the team of teachers all have full dance training, DBS certificates and are first aid qualified.

Stephanie said: "I've done one-day

ballet workshops before, which have always been a great success, but this time I wanted to offer more variety, so we're offering a week full of ballet, tap, street dance and acro."

Parents can book for the full week, or day or half-day sessions.

Steppingstones Summer School takes place at the Methodist Church, High Street, Portishead, BS20 6EN.

Tickets cost £15 for a half-day, £25 for a full day, and £100 for the full five days.

Visit [www.facebook.com/steppingstoneschoolofdance](http://www.facebook.com/steppingstoneschoolofdance) or <https://tinyurl.com/yd2442zo>



Steppingstones School of Dance, right, and, inset above left, Stephanie Duncan in her role as a Disney princess

## Amusement arcade approved despite concerns

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**F**EARS for vulnerable people living nearby were not enough to prevent the approval of plans to convert a Yate jewellery shop into an amusement arcade.

Civic leaders said 12 North Walk "could not be closer" to the town's biggest community care scheme and called for the proposals to be refused.

Town councillors objected to high stakes games being brought in, arguing they were "particularly attractive and particularly dangerous" to the demographics in the area.

A previous application to change the site's use was approved by South Gloucestershire Council in December.

In amended plans, applicants said the development, which would replace the recessed jewellers shop-front with one of a more traditional design, will enhance the appearance of the premises. There will be a statutory duty to exclude under-18s.

In their original proposals, the applicants said: "Amusement centres of this kind are harmless to nearby traders.

"It is a use which is an established part of shopping centres and is usually to be found on primary shopping frontages.

"The proposal has in its favour investment in the premises and the town centre, reoccupation by a per-

manent occupier, the introduction of a new vital and busy use, and a new leisure use in the centre."

Opposing the revised application, Yate Town Council said the application "makes no reference" to the proximity of the multi-million-pound Armadillo centre, which was designed to bring in vulnerable young people, or of homes for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Town councillors said: "It could not be closer to the town's biggest community care scheme.

"Fixed odds gaming machines are particularly attractive and particularly dangerous in terms of addiction to this particular cohort of vulnerable teenagers and young adults.

"We cannot overstate this concern."

The councillors said the change of use would have a "significant" impact on all shoppers and would make parents less willing to leave their children unattended in the town centre.

Councillors said, if approved, there should be conditions to limit the highest stake of bets, opening hours, and to protect children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited.

Council officers said the alternative use would add to the offer of the town centre. They said the opening hours were down to the tenant and conditions on the operation of the site were outside the remit of the planning department.

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