

Design & Access Statement

From Central Infinity Allstars (CIA Cheer, Dance & Gymnastics)

We are Central Infinity Allstars, a not-for-profit community cheerleading, dance and gymnastics club, and we have been running for seven years. Over that time, we have worked tirelessly to create opportunities for children, young people and adults within our local community.

Operating from this new premises is a huge milestone for us, and something we have worked towards for the best part of seven years. Our biggest ambition has always been to provide our athletes with a safe, welcoming space where they can train, develop, build friendships, feel at home and, most importantly, feel safe. These premises will give us a permanent home.

A little about what we do

We are incredibly passionate about providing young people with positive opportunities. Our staff give so much of their own time and energy to help get children away from the streets, away from spending endless hours on social media and involved in something active, positive and rewarding.

Sport plays such an important role in both physical and mental wellbeing. Our club provides much more than just cheerleading and dance. It gives children somewhere to belong, friendships to build, confidence to develop and something to work towards.

We have also recently introduced adult classes, creating opportunities for adults to improve their health, tackle loneliness, build friendships and feel included within a welcoming community.

We are particularly proud that five of our competitive teams have secured bids this year to compete internationally, representing Ripley and Derbyshire on an international stage.

Three teams will be travelling to Disneyland Paris, while two teams will be travelling to Orlando, Florida, to compete at the prestigious Allstar World Championships in April 2027.

This will be a huge milestone for our programme and an incredible opportunity to put Ripley and Derbyshire on the map internationally.

Our Achievements & The Difference We Make

Over the last seven years, we have achieved things that we could only have dreamed of when we first started Central Infinity Allstars. We now teach children from as young as three years old right through to adults, with our oldest competitive adult athlete aged 56! We regularly travel across the country to compete in both cheerleading and dance, bringing home 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies, Grand Champion titles and choreography awards for our programme.

This year, we have reached two particularly significant milestones. Two of our teams, consisting of young athletes aged 8–16, have secured bids to compete at the **Allstar World Championships in Orlando, Florida, in April 2027**. These are the first teams in our programme's history to achieve this and, to our knowledge, the first teams from the Amber Valley area of Derbyshire to qualify for this prestigious international competition. Alongside this, we have three teams, with athletes aged just 4–13, travelling to Disneyland Paris to represent our club and community internationally.

We are incredibly grateful that local businesses have recognised the opportunities we are creating and have stepped forward to sponsor our international teams. Their generosity is helping us purchase the necessary team kits and contribute towards essential travel costs, making these once-in-a-lifetime experiences possible for our young athletes. We are currently working tirelessly to raise **£24,600** to take our two World Championship teams, comprising 24 children, to Orlando, Florida. This fundraising target covers their training and competition costs only, with additional travel and accommodation expenses being the responsibility of the families attending. These opportunities require an enormous amount of fundraising, community support and commitment from everyone involved, and we are incredibly proud to be able to offer our athletes the chance to represent Ripley and Derbyshire on an international stage.

However, while we are incredibly proud of our competitive achievements, our greatest successes cannot always be measured in trophies. We welcome many children and young people with additional needs, SEND requirements and social anxiety. For some, attending CIA is about much more than learning a sport; it is about finding confidence, friendship, routine, belonging and a safe place where they feel accepted for who they are.

One particularly special example is a young athlete from Ripley who has been part of our club for five years. At one point, her autism and anxiety had become so overwhelming that she was unable to attend school. Through working closely with her, her family and her school, we have been able to support her journey back into education. Today, she is attending school every single day on a reduced timetable as she continues to build her confidence and progress. Stories like this are why we do what we do. They demonstrate the genuine difference a welcoming, inclusive sporting environment can make to a young person's life.

Our ambition has never simply been to create successful competitive teams. It has always been to create somewhere that people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can belong,

achieve something they are proud of and feel part of a community. That is what we have spent seven years building, and that is what we hope to continue providing from our new home in Ripley.

We appreciate that having a new facility operating in this area may take some getting used to, and we genuinely want to establish positive relationships with everyone living nearby.

We are aware that some concerns have been raised regarding noise and vehicles travelling along the street.

Noise

Our activities naturally involve coaches counting, giving instructions and using music during training. We appreciate that some of this may occasionally be audible outside the building.

We have already taken steps to be considerate, including reducing our music volume further from 8pm. We will continue to monitor this.

We are actively exploring additional ways to minimise any noise escaping from our facility. One of our plans is to invest in a specialist soundproofing event curtain, which will cover our particularly large roller shutter door. The aim is to help absorb and contain sound within the gym, rather than allowing it to travel outwards through the large shutter opening. Alongside this, we have been researching options for improving the sound insulation of our internal walls, looking at specialist acoustic treatments similar to those used in recording studios and home music studios. We recognise that these improvements come at a financial cost, particularly having only just invested significantly in renovating our new home, but we are committed to exploring practical and effective solutions that will allow us to operate responsibly. We want to find a balance that protects the training environment our athletes need while respecting the people who live around us.

Parking and traffic

We are also aware of concerns regarding vehicles travelling along the street to drop off and collect athletes.

We have instructed all parents and carers not to use the street for routine drop-offs and collections. Instead, families have been directed to local parking facilities, including the Co-op car park, which is approximately a two-minute walk away.

Our staff have designated parking arrangements, and we are accommodating individual families who may have additional accessibility requirements or difficulties walking in the dark.

We are committed to managing arrivals and departures responsibly and minimising unnecessary vehicle movements along the street.

ACCESS

Access into the premises for staff and members of the public will be either via the existing personnel door on the south-facing elevation or more commonly through the large roller shutter door on the frontage.

Both accesses are to remain unaltered.

There is a nominal slope up into the building through the shutter door from the pavement and this will also remain unaltered. A slight step of no more than 100mm exists using the personnel door.

From the parking spaces, should you use the shutter door there will be no steps thereby providing level access into the building.

Internally, the majority of the floor area is on a single level which provides ease of access to the main practice space, offices, break-out area and toilet & kitchen facilities.

There is an area of mezzanine floor but for the moment this will be used for storage purposes only.

An invitation to our neighbours

We have invited our new neighbours to come inside and see what we have created over the last week and voice any concerns or ask any questions they may have either in person or via email.

In fact, we have extended a completely FREE trial of any of our classes to anyone living on the street.

Moving forward

We are not looking to cause disruption to anyone living locally. We are a community organisation that has worked incredibly hard for seven years to create something positive for local families.

Securing this permanent home is something we have fought hard for, and we want it to become a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for generations of children, young people and adults to come.

We recognise that we are joining an established residential community, and we want to respect that. Equally, we hope there can be an understanding that running a sports facility naturally involves some noise and activity.

We are committed to listening, making reasonable adjustments where possible and working with our neighbours to find a balance that allows everyone to enjoy their surroundings.

Summary

Central Infinity Allstars is a locally established, voluntary, community-focused organisation providing sporting opportunities for children and young people, particularly girls, within the

local area. We work hard to ensure that financial circumstances are never a barrier to participation, offering scholarships and working closely with lower-income families to make our activities as affordable and accessible as possible. Our purpose is to improve health, wellbeing, confidence and inclusion through sport. We are also working towards securing this change of use for our premises to a use that is more compatible with the surrounding residential community and better reflects the sporting and recreational activities we provide. Unfortunately, there were no other suitable premises available within the local area that could accommodate our facilities and the needs of our programme. Securing this building has therefore provided an important opportunity to establish a permanent home for a long-standing local organisation, allowing us to continue supporting children, families and adults within Ripley and the wider Amber Valley community.

Rebecca Scothern (Programme Director) & The CIA Team

Central Infinity Allstars

Ciacheerleaders@gmail.com