



ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

The mission of The Royal Ballet School is to train and educate outstanding classical ballet dancers for the Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and other top international dance companies, and in doing so to set the standards in dance training, nationally and internationally.

The Royal Ballet School admits students on the basis of talent, or potential talent, in classical ballet. Students are admitted to the School following an audition process which usually takes place in the Spring Term for admission in the September of that year. The decision of the audition panel is final and there is no opportunity for an appeal to be made. Students who attend White Lodge are required to audition for Upper School in Year 11. Due to the very large number of applicants to the School it is not possible to provide individual feedback to applicants.

The School is a member of, and abides by the admission conventions of the DfE's **Music and Dance Schools** and many UK applicants will be eligible (under means testing) for up to 100% support with school fees under this scheme. You are advised to visit their website at www.musicanddanceschools.com or The Royal Ballet School website for further details. Details of the Admissions process with application forms and relevant dates are published on the Outreach & Access pages of the School website.

It is not possible to give preference to siblings, or the children of former students or members of staff, in admitting students to the School.

A number of scholarships are provided for students entering the School and details of these are usually discussed with relevant applicants during the Admissions process.

Equality Legislation

The Royal Ballet School is allowed lawfully to operate a "permitted form of selection". This exception to the usual anti-discrimination rules is found in Schedule 11, Part 3, Paragraph 8 of the Equality Act 2010: Part 3: Disability discrimination: Permitted form of selection:

8 (1) A person does not contravene section 85(1), so far as relating to disability, only by applying a permitted form of selection.

(2) In relation to England and Wales, a permitted form of selection is—

(c) in the case of an independent educational institution, arrangements which provide for some or all of its pupils to be selected by reference to general or special ability or aptitude, with a view to admitting only pupils of high ability or aptitude.

Applicants to White Lodge write an academic task and take part in an interview; for applicants to Upper School any predicted or actual results (for instance at GCSE or qualifications from their home country) are looked at. This is only to ensure that the School can adequately provide for each student's academic and pastoral needs.

The School asks that parents disclose any disability and/or Special Educational Need (SEN) that their child has, and is committed to deal appropriately and supportively with these in the admissions assessment process. The Royal Ballet School accepts students who are dyslexic, have specific learning difficulties or for whom English is not their first language. No applicant or student will be discriminated against because of their individual needs in these areas. Students for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL) will be asked to undertake suitable

preparation in the English Language before they begin attendance at the School to prepare them for the required academic study when they become students. Specialist support is available to EAL students at White Lodge and Upper School.

The Royal Ballet School aims to promote diversity, tolerance and respect for individual students irrespective of their social, racial or cultural background. Every reasonable adjustment will be made to accommodate specific dietary, religious or cultural needs.

Audition routes for The Royal Ballet School

Full details for each academic year are provided on the School website but, typically:

- 1) Students for White Lodge or Upper School apply at the end of the Autumn Term. Preliminary auditions are held at locations throughout the UK in early spring. Final auditions are held at White Lodge and Upper School towards the end of the Spring Term.
- 2) Students at either the White Lodge or Upper School Summer Schools may be invited to audition.
- 3) Overseas applicants may be assessed by the Artistic Director, and/or other members of the artistic team by arrangement.
- 4) Applicants seen at the Youth America Grand Prix, the Prix de Lausanne or recommended via other routes may be invited to send in additional recorded material or to attend audition at Upper School.

Responsibility and review

The Artistic Director will ensure that students are admitted only in accordance with this policy, and that all statutory requirements are met. All members of staff are expected to follow this policy when advising prospective parents. The number of students on roll and the results of the auditions processes will be reported to the governing body and the information will also be incorporated into the School's annual report. The School will complete and hold an Admissions Register.