



## Dance Assessment Policy

Young Dancers Academy carries out an annual formal appraisal of all students. A prepared class enables students to demonstrate a full range of their work, highlighting his or her progress against the school's assessment criteria. All appraisal classes will show appropriate exercises relating to the age and ability of each student. Each class will be observed by the Ballet faculty and an invited guest who specialises in Classical Ballet. Notes on each child are made throughout the appraisal class plus general notes on the dancers and their training as a whole. This process also provides the teachers with invaluable feedback so that they may constantly refine their respective teaching practices and discuss, as a body, the school's established teaching methodology.

Prior to the yearly formal appraisal, each class is filmed, allowing each student the opportunity to look objectively at their work under the supervision of their respective teacher. Emphasis is made, not only on the corrections needed, but on the good work demonstrated. This process allows the students to view their work in an accurate and balanced manner and understand their level of progress.

During the appraisal, attention is paid to the following criteria:

### 1. General Appearance

- Hair
- Uniform
- Shoes

### 2. Classical Technique

- Correct Posture and Weight Placement
- Coordination
- Control and Stability
- Classical Line
- Spatial Awareness (Peripheral and Performance)
- Dynamics

### 3. Musicality

- Timing Rhythm
- Responsiveness to Music
- Phrasing and Musical Dynamics

### 4 Performance

- Expression
  - Interpretation
  - Lyricism
  - Communication
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Following the appraisal, each student will have a meeting with the head of dance, dance teacher and school directors to discuss how best the student can be supported going forward. A subsequent letter is sent to all parents or guardians informing them of the meeting and advise given.

Continuous assessment is made in all classes throughout the academic year. Particular attention is made to the health and general well-being of every student and that all potential injuries are dealt with in an efficient and appropriate manner by the teacher under the guidance of the school's physiotherapist. There are times, where sadly it may not be in the student's best interest to continue with the intense vocational training offered at YDA. Where this is deemed to be the case, parents and the student are invited to meetings to discuss how best the student can be supported whether that is still by studying at YDA or in a different setting.

Young Dancers Academy operates an 'open door policy'. Parents and students are actively encouraged to communicate with the dance faculty whenever the need arises so as to ensure a clear and accurate understanding any given circumstance.

#### Assessment Criteria

- 0 Work was not shown
- 1 Standard not attained (Very Limited)
- 2 Standard not attained (Limited)
- 3 Standard not attained (Weak)
- 4 Some (ability to demonstrate required criteria)
- 5 Fair
- 6 Fairly Good
- 7 Good
- 8 Very Good
- 9 Excellent
- 10 Exceptional

Policy written by	Kerry Williams
Approval Body	Head of Dance
Date revised	September 2022
Review Schedule	1 year
Next review date	September 2023