



ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

The Royal Ballet School admits students on the basis of talent or potential talent in classical dance. Students are admitted to the School following an audition process. The decision of the audition panel is final: there is no opportunity for an appeal to be made. Students at Lower School are required to audition for Upper School. The School abides by the admission conventions of the DfE Music and Dance Scheme.

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 is provided for students entering the School; details of these are available from the Director's office.

Equality Legislation

The Royal Ballet School is allowed lawfully to operate a "permitted forms 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 Lower School write an academic task and take part in an interview; for applicants to Upper School any predicted or actual results (for instance at GCSE) are looked at. The only question being addressed is whether 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 student should be discriminated against on entry into the School because of their individual needs in these areas.

Audition routes for Lower School

- 1) Students 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 Lower School in March.
- 2) Students at the Summer School may be invited to audition
- 3) Overseas applicants are assessed by the Director and the Ballet Principal by arrangement

Audition routes for Upper School

- 1) Students 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 Upper School in March
- 2) Applicants seen at the Youth America Grand Prix and other competitions are invited to send in additional video material or to attend auditions at Upper School.
- 3) Students at the Summer School may be invited to audition at the end of Summer School.

In addition to these, some students (for instance at the Prix de Lausanne or the City of Sydney Eisteddfod) win scholarships to study at the School for a specified time.

Responsibilities and review

The Director will ensure that students are admitted only in accordance with this policy, and that DfE requirements and quotas 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. This information will be incorporated into the School's annual report. The School will complete and hold an Admissions Register.