



Dance Assessment Policy

London Vocational Ballet School carries out an informal dance appraisal in the Autumn Term, and a formal appraisal in the Spring Term.

Informal Appraisals: Observation Week

Towards the end of the Autumn Term, the Artistic Director will carry out an 'observation week', whereby normal classes are observed and any concerns are noted. Students and teachers do not prepare anything differently to their normal classes, and the week is designed to give the Artistic Director an overview of the students' progress in a low-pressure setting. Observations and concerns are addressed with the teacher, student and family if necessary, but no formal report is provided.

Formal Appraisals

In the Spring Term, students take part in formal, prepared and graded assessments across all different dance techniques studied. A prepared class enables students to demonstrate a full range of their work, highlighting their 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 Artistic Director, members of the Ballet faculty, and an invited guest who specialises in Classical Ballet and diverse dance techniques. 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.

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 and Rhythm
- Responsiveness to Music
- Phrasing and Musical Dynamics

4 Performance

- Expression

- Interpretation
- Lyricism
- Communication

Following the appraisal, each student's family will receive an assessment report, during the Easter holiday. This report will be graded on different criteria for different dance techniques, with the benchmarks of:

- Does not meet expectations
- Satisfactory
- Good
- Excellent

There will also be a comment portion of the report which is filled out by the Artistic Director and the Guest Assessor.

If deemed necessary, the student will have a meeting with the dance faculty and school directors to discuss ways in which the school can support the student moving forward. Students are not 'assessed out' of LVBS and the assessments take place solely to support the child's progress in the school, prepare them for performances and auditions, and to assess and refine our teaching methods.

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.

LVBS 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 of any given situation or circumstance.

Policy written by Kerry Williams and Louise Bennett
Approval body: LVBS Trustees
Revised date: September 2026
Review Schedule: 1 year
Next review date: September 2027