



LONDON VOCATIONAL
BALLET SCHOOL

Competition and Coaching Policy
24/25

Competition Participation for Students at LVBS

London Vocational Ballet School recognises the growing demand for student participation in national and international competitions and the support needed from the school in allowing this to happen in a safe and enriching way. Competitions may in some cases have a negative impact on students and participation in competition may not be recommended for several reasons, including a child's welfare, injury, health, family circumstance and is dependent on a level of maturity and certainty in the students technique, both for health and safety reasons but also for those of ensuring the child is in the best position to be in a highly competitive environment where psychological and physical attributes are heavily challenged.

The professional guidance and opinion of the school and its experienced team will put the child at the forefront of all decisions around competing in a competition and whether or not participation is advised. Priority must be given to the students' expectations within the school's curriculum: both vocationally and academically and these take precedence over external commitments including competitions and awards without compromise.

If a student is participating in a competition as a student of LVBS the student must be coached by LVBS staff to ensure the style of the student's presentation is in line with the school's training and expectations. As the student will be representing the school, due care must be taken in choosing performance pieces that suit the student and allow them to showcase their best.

Services Offered

The school will offer to coach and support the student throughout the lead up to any competition on such services being engaged at a chargeable cost to be invoiced to the family. If a family wishes to engage the school in their service, the Artistic Director will approve or disapprove the request. If the request is approved, they will oversee the process and deployment of staff to coach and the hire of the additional studio space and time if outside of school hours.

As the school's studio time is usually fully deployed to lessons as part of the full-time school's curricula, competition coaching sessions may take place outside of regular school hours in order to accommodate the additional studio time required.

A fee of £60 per hour is charged per coaching session and students are required to have a minimum of 4 coaching sessions to ensure consistency of performance and training in preparation for competition. In some instances, coaching sessions may be split across two 30 minute sessions.

LVBS recognises that these costs may pose a barrier to lower income families and those students on bursaries and in this instance the school may choose to support the student's additional costs to ensure equity across the student body around applying for competitions. This would be entirely based on the student's suitability for the competition and the belief that the experience would directly benefit their training and development. The decision would be at the discretion of the Senior Management Team, and any decisions on participation or in-kind support for bursaries students would be subject to equitable, fair and impartial decision making. All coaching and competition sessions are subject to the same policies and protocols within the full-time school.

Policy written by Kerry Williams, Louise Bennett and Gavin McCaig
Approval body: LVBS Trustees
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Next review date: September 2025