



Stefano Pozzi
EBacc and Arts Unit
Curriculum Policy Division

03 November 2020

Dear Mr Pozzi,

As the Chief Executives of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) and the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) – two of the leading membership and examination boards offering *Ofqual* recognised qualifications - we appeal for clarity on arrangements for educational dance activities during the new lockdown in England from 5 November 2020, and implore you to consider the continuation of dance examinations.

The latest government guidance on the new national restrictions state that '*Government will continue to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people*' and that the '*Prime Minister and Education Secretary have been clear that exams will go ahead next summer, as they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil's attainment.*' We support the announcement that schools and colleges will remain open so that children are able to progress towards exams and the next stage of education or employment. However, we request that regulated dance qualifications and the related examinations are treated as part of the educational provision under the new restrictions and thereby allowed to continue in-line with government guidance for schools. Both organisations have already successfully put in place arrangements for upwards of 10,000 online examinations meaning that students can continue to be examined in a safe and socially distanced way.

Together we represent over 7,500 qualified dance teachers in the UK who deliver out-of-school hours educational dance classes for children and young people. These classes prepare children for Ofqual-regulated examinations, with the qualifications serving as an entry route for vocational dance training and higher education; some of which also carry UCAS points. As evidence of the educational value of our qualifications, both organisations participated in Ofqual's Extraordinary Regulatory Framework (ERF) this summer. To put our work in context, in 2019 more than 100,000 learners successfully completed a regulated dance qualification with either the Society or the RAD, in comparison to 9,418 certifications for GCSE danceⁱ.

I hope you will agree that regulated dance qualifications constitute an important element of children's cultural education and that these will be allowed to continue during lockdown, in line with other educational provision.

We look forward to hearing from you urgently with a positive outcome for young people training today.

Yours sincerely

Ginny Brown
Chief Executive, ISTD

Luke Rittner
Chief Executive, RAD

Notes

1. Awarding organisations offering graded examinations in dance make an enormous contribution to the sustainability and international profile of the UK creative industries. These dance awarding organisations, which are recognised by Ofqual and validated by the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre (CDMT), have a combined:
 - turnover of more than £45M each year.
 - annual examination entries in the UK of 500,000 and 225,000 overseas.
 - membership of 15,000 teachers in the UK and 10,000 overseas.

2. Not only do cultural and creative activities make a unique contribution to children’s education and wellbeing, the creative industries are also one of the UK’s fastest growing sectors, contributing £111bn to the UK economy in 2018.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/vocational-and-other-qualifications-quarterly-october-to-december-2019>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-creative-industries-contributes-almost-13-million-to-the-uk-economy-every-hour>