

September 2014

To whom it may concern:

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is an awarding organisation recognised in England by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual), in Wales by the Welsh Government, in Northern Ireland by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and in Scotland by SQA Accreditation, part of the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

The RAD offers examinations in dance for young children starting out in dance classes through to older students aspiring to become professional dancers. Each year, approximately 230,000 candidates worldwide take our examinations, Class Awards and Solo Performance Awards, as well as non-assessed Presentation and Demonstration Classes.

Achievement in dance contributes to the learner's all round achievement, as it helps to develop competencies such as motor control, health and safety awareness, self-expression, physical fitness and stamina, discipline, mental ability, confidence and self-esteem.

The RAD is recognised by Ofqual and the Welsh Government to operate on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The RAD's Graded Examinations (Grades 1 to 8) and Vocational Graded Examinations (Intermediate Foundation – Advanced 2) are placed on the QCF. The Primary in Dance qualification is a Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) on the NQF.

The QCF includes qualifications of many types and in all fields of study, placing dance examinations in a wider context of learning and achievement, and recognising equivalence in levels of knowledge, skills and understanding. It also provides candidates with opportunities for credit accumulation and transfer on the Framework.

RAD Examinations at QCF Level 3 are included in the UK Universities and Admissions Service (UCAS) points tariff for entry into Higher Education.

Due to the substantial numbers of entries (approx. 60,000 in the UK each year), it is regrettably not possible for us to organise all our examinations out of school hours. We fully appreciate the impact and interruption caused to the school day but would be most grateful if you would authorise the student's absence for the purpose of taking an RAD examination(s). We recommend that where necessary, absence should be recorded on the school register as Code C (Leave of absence authorised by the school) – see *School Attendance: Statutory guidance and departmental advice* (Department for Education, August 2013)¹.

I do hope that you believe, as we do, that taking RAD examinations is a valuable experience for students, which contributes to their well-being and overall education.

If you would like further information or have any questions, then please do contact me either at the above address or by email: amcbirnie@rad.org.uk

With thanks,



Dr Andrew McBirnie
Director of Examinations

¹ <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f00221879/advice-on-school-attendance>

