FIREFLIES DANCE SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/26





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ABOUT US

Fireflies Dance was established in Queen's Park in 2010 by the school's principal Natalie Hall. Since then, Fireflies has grown to become part of the local community, and has a fantastic team of teachers. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to learn to dance and our aim has always remained the same: to provide a warm, safe environment where children of all abilities enjoy reaching their full potential. We want to share our love of dance in a fun and creative way as well as teaching excellent technique and discipline. We are proud of the family-friendly and non-competitive atmosphere we have at Fireflies.

We offer classes in ballet and street dance. Our ballet classes follow the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus and we offer the opportunity to participate in formal examinations from the age of 5 years old.

Our work in education covers a broad range of institutions including nurseries, primary and secondary schools, further education and youth centres. We can offer one-off workshops or schemes of work delivered over a set number of weeks.

In the summer of 2023, having taught at the school since 2019, Miss Poppy became a co-director of Fireflies Dance, working alongside Natalie to help make the school the best it possibly can be! Poppy still teaches our older dancers, and please contact her for most queries.



WELCOME

Dear Fireflies students,

Welcome to Fireflies Dance and thank you for being a vital part of our wonderful community.

At Fireflies Dance, our team works together to provide the best teaching and learning experiences that we can. We want to give everyone an enjoyable, rewarding and supportive dance experience, with classes that suit you whatever level you join us at.

We especially want every child to have the chance to dance with us regardless of their circumstances. We have a team of dedicated and hardworking teachers, well versed in safeguarding, who will go that extra mile for children in our care. We encourage parents/carers to get in touch to discuss any concerns or issues.

We hope your time with Fireflies is enjoyable! We will help you build confidence through the sense of fun, freedom and achievement that dance offers. We look forward to seeing you in class very soon.

Natalie Hall – Fireflies Founder and Principal



ENROLEMENT

Please read all of the information in this document before enrolling. If you have any further questions, please contact us using the contact details on page 16.

Online Registration

Please complete a registration form for new customers, using the portal on our website: https://www.firefliesdance.com/book-a-class

This will allow you to register your child for a class.

Once you have completed the form, and it is accepted by the Fireflies team, you will be able to log in to your customer portal to view the classes that your child has been enrolled into.

Trial Class

We offer new customers a free trial class to ensure that the level is suitable and enjoyable for the child.

After the trial class, you will be sent an email explaining what to do next. Parents/carers must confirm whether they would like their child to continue permanently. Once the teacher has confirmed that the class is suitable for the child, they will be enrolled into classes for the remainder of the term. An invoice for the remainder of the term will then be emailed to you. Please pay this invoice promptly on receipt – failure to pay may result in exclusion from the class until the full payment is received. Once enrolled, students will automatically be re-enrolled into the class for the following term without having to notify us. However, if you wish to change class or withdraw from the school, please contact us.

Please see the term dates below before attending a trial:

Fireflies Dance Term Dates 2025/26

Autumn Term

13th September - 6th December 2025

Half Term: 26th October – 2nd November 2025

Spring Term

10th January - 28th March 2026

Half Term: 15th – 22nd February 2026

Summer Term

18th April - 11th July 2026

Half Term: 24th - 31st May 2026

Our last day of classes before the summer holidays is on Saturday 11th July 2026.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND AGE GUIDELINES

Nursery Pre-School Ballet

Ages 2-5 years

A beautiful introduction to dance and movement, this class is structured to aid children's physical development, coordination, spatial awareness, sensory development, creativity and self-expression. It also introduces children to other fundamental curriculum learning skills such as counting, colour and shape recognition, vocabulary and language skills. Learning is achieved through imaginative movement which is enjoyable and fun. Behind all the fun, this class provides a perfect platform for any child who would like to progress to ballet at higher levels and take RAD examinations.

RAD Pre-Primary and Primary Ballet

Ages 5-7 years

With the use of an array of beautiful props and stories, children develop basic steps to demonstrate awareness of positions of the body; perform with an awareness of space; demonstrate control, coordination, elevation, appropriate movement dynamics and to perform expressively. The syllabi prepare students for the transition to ballet at higher levels. Children are given the opportunity to take formal RAD examinations.

RAD Graded Ballet

Ages 7+

The Graded syllabi provide a broad practical dance education developing technical, musical and performance skills. Through the use of musically inspired exercises and dances, the students will learn joy in movement, creative interpretation and a sense of performance quality. Students are given the opportunity to take formal RAD examinations. The classes consist of three dance disciplines:

- Ballet: the foundation and most important part of the syllabus.
- Free Movement: influenced by and incorporating movements in common with other dance styles such as Natural Movement, Contemporary, and Classical Greek Dance.
- Character: the theatrical presentation of national dance using ethnic dance and music, which has been freely adapted for the theatre. Styles are selected because of their historical importance in the development of the $19^{\rm th}$ century full-length classical ballets.

Fireflies Street Dance and Junior and Senior Street Dance

Ages 3+ years old

A fast and funky class using all the favourite pop tunes! Children learn to reproduce movement as well as learning, creating and performing choreography. Dance games are used help the children to build confidence and co-ordination in a fun way. There are opportunities to perform in shows and open days. We have three levels of class to progress in technique and performance.

FAQs

Q: Who should I list as the customer when registering?

A: The customer is a parent/guardian if the student is under 18 years. Whoever is listed as the customer will be sent al communication and invoices, so it is vital that the contact details are correct.

Q: What should students wear for a trial class?

A: Students are not expected or required to wear the correct uniform for their trial class. Wear comfortable clothing that is suitable for dancing in, and tie hair up neatly.

Q: Can parents watch trial classes?

A: For nursery pre-school classes and children under 5 years old, we ask that parents stay for their trial class. For children older than 5 years, parents do not need to watch the class.

Q: How do I sign up for a class?

A: All applications are done on our website, here: https://www.firefliesdance.com/book-a-class. Please complete a registration form to be invited for a trial class.

Q: I want to sign my child up for classes but which class should I book?

A: If you're unsure of which class to sign up for, please check the class descriptions and age guidelines found in this booklet and on our website: https://www.firefliesdance.com/the-school

If you need further advice, please contact us.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Watching Days

All classes take part in watching days, usually on the last week of term, in normal class time. These give parents the chance to see how their child has progressed. Please note that watching days are not guaranteed to take place.

Filming and photography are not permitted due to both safeguarding and copyright issues. Individual photographs of your child can be taken at the end of class.

Safe Touch

Due to the nature of dance classes, some physical contact between the teacher and student may be necessary. All teachers are required to hold a DBS certificate to teach at Fireflies. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact us.

Photography and Filming

Photographs and footage may be taken of students for use in promotional materials and on our website. In conjunction with the school's Privacy Policy and Photography and Media Consent Policy, Fireflies will not publish or post any images or footage of students without prior consent. Images and footage will only be used for the purpose stated on the permission form. You can opt out of this when signing our Photography and Media Consent Form, found on our website here: Policies | Fireflies Dance

Safeguarding Policy

Fireflies Dance has a formal policy and procedures on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, which can be found here: Policies | Fireflies Dance

Fitness to Practice

While ensuring that quality training is available to all students – assuring access to classes for all people with protected characteristics, with appropriate accommodations being made – dance training does make physical demands and requires a level of fitness that not everyone may have attained. Fireflies Dance retains the right to assess any student for the correct class placement to consider both physical and technical development and the acquisition of required skills in order to protect against the risk of injury.

Fire Evacuation Policy

This is available to read on our website here: Policies | Fireflies Dance

INFORMATION ON RAD EXAMS AND CLASS AWARDS

We offer the opportunity to take RAD exams and class awards for all our RAD syllabi classes.

Entry to take an exam or class award is at the sole discretion of the class teacher. This is usually after 4-5 terms of study at the particular level, but this can vary depending on the individual student.

Usually, exams and class awards take place at RAD HQ in Battersea. Due to the high number of schools entering students for exams, you cannot select a specific date for your child's assessment to take place. This will be allocated for us by the RAD Exams Department.

Please also be aware that exams and class awards can take place at any time during the exam session, including weekends and school times. Should your child's assessment take place during school time, an RAD School Absence Authorisation letter can be provided for you to send to your child's school. This is recognised as a valid absence authorisation.

For more information on RAD exams and class awards, please see their website here: <u>United Kingdom</u> | Exams (royalacademyofdance.org)



FIREFLIES DANCE FEES

Fees for 2025/26

Returning students will be invoiced for the full term, regardless of which week they start at the beginning of term.

CLASS TYPE	FEE PER CLASS
Nursery Pre-School Ballet	£13.00
RAD Pre-Primary Ballet	£15.00
RAD Primary Ballet	£15.00
RAD Grade 1-3 Ballet	£17.00
RAD Grade 4-6 Ballet	£22.00
All Street Dance Classes	£15.00

We offer a 20% discount to students with siblings, or to students who take more than one class per week.

All invoices must be settled by the start of term. An admin fee of £10 will be charged for any fees not paid by the first day of term.



UNIFORM

Students must arrive to class wearing the appropriate uniform for their level/grade. Not only does this help them to feel confident and part of the class, it also gives a sense of the discipline required.

Our ballet uniform is recommended by the Royal Academy of Dance and you can purchase it from our online IDS store. Please see below for specific uniform for each class/Grade. Please can you ensure that ballet shoes are adjusted and tied prior to the lesson to save time during the class. Please also ensure that hair is tidy. Long hair should be tied back and preferably for Grade 1 students and above, their hair should be in a bun.

Our street dance uniform is a Fireflies Dance t-shirt with comfortable tracksuit bottoms, leggings or shorts with trainers.

Any uniform accidentally mislaid will be kept in storage by Fireflies Dance until it is claimed. However, we do not take responsibility for lost items.

Pre-School Nursery Ballet	Female: Lilac Bloch Desdemona Tutu Dress Lilac wraparound cardigan Pink ballet tights or ballet socks Pink leather full sole ballet shoes Male: White t-shirt Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings White socks Black full sole ballet shoes
RAD Pre-Primary and Primary Ballet	Female: Lilac cap-sleeved leotard Lilac wrap-over skirt Lilac wraparound cardigan Pink ballet tights or ballet socks Pink leather full sole ballet shoes Male: White t-shirt Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings White socks Black full sole ballet shoes
RAD Grade 1 Ballet	Female: Purple sleeveless leotard Pink ballet tights or ballet socks Pink leather full sole ballet shoes Character skirt with blue ribbons Black character shoes with a low heel

	Male: White t-shirt Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings White socks Black full sole ballet shoes Black lace-up character shoes with a low heel
RAD Grade 2 Ballet	Female: Marine sleeveless leotard Pink ballet tights or ballet socks Pink leather full sole ballet shoes Character skirt with blue ribbons Black character shoes with a low heel Male: White t-shirt Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings White socks Black full sole ballet shoes Black lace-up character shoes with a low heel
RAD Grade 3 Ballet	Female: Navy sleeveless leotard Pink ballet tights Pink leather full sole ballet shoes Character skirt with blue ribbons Black character shoes with Cuban heel Male: White t-shirt Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings White socks Black full sole ballet shoes Black lace-up character shoes with a low heel
RAD Grade 4 Ballet	Female: Black sleeveless leotard Pink ballet tights Pink split sole ballet shoes Character skirt with bright ribbons Black character shoes with Cuban heel Male: White t-shirt Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings White socks Black split sole ballet shoes Black lace-up character shoes with a low heel

RAD Grade 5 Ballet

Female:

Sleeveless leotard – colour to be agreed with the teacher

Pink ballet tights

Pink split sole ballet shoes

Character skirt with bright ribbons Black character shoes with Cuban heel

Male:

White t-shirt

Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings

White socks

Black split sole ballet shoes

Black lace-up character shoes with a low heel

RAD Grades 6, 7, 8 Ballet

Female:

Leotard colour and style to be decided with the teacher

Calf-length chiffon skirt in same colour as leotard

Pink ballet tights

Pink split sole ballet shoes

Character skirt with bright ribbons

Black character shoes with Cuban heel

Male:

White t-shirt/leotard

Navy shorts or navy stirrup tights/leggings

White socks

Black split sole ballet shoes

Black lace-up character shoes with a low heel

CODE OF CONDUCT

The aim of Fireflies Dance is to ensure that all students experience a fun, friendly, positive and safe environment when taking dance classes. To achieve this, please see the below rules and regulations.

Customer Incidents

Aggressive, abusive, or anti-social behaviour is not tolerated from customers or students at any time, whether towards Fireflies staff, students or other customers. Please conduct yourself in an appropriate manner and respect all others, following our policies at all times. All incidents will be reported and investigated.

Any incident reported may result in withdrawal from the school. Serious incidents will result in immediate withdrawal.

Punctuality

It is vital that students arrive in good time so that class can begin on time. Those arriving late may miss important information, disrupt the lesson, and distract the learning of their peers.

Attendance

Regular attendance is extremely important. If students do not attend on a regular basis, then their development will be affected. This may impact on their entry for exams and class awards. We regret that it is not possible to make up missed classes by attending another class for which you are not registered.

Discipline

Students are expected to behave in an orderly, civilised, and well-mannered way, and to show respect to their peers, teachers, assistants and other staff members. Bullying is not tolerated in any way.

Uniform

It is important that students arrive dressed and ready for class in full uniform to be able to dance correctly and safely. All students from Grade 1 and above should have their hair tied back neatly, ideally in a bun for ballet classes.

Changing

Should there be a need to change clothing during class, parents and carers of children of four years or under, or children who still need help getting out for their uniform for toileting, should remain nearby in a waiting area. They should be contactable during the class in case their child requires assistance. Staff will assist the student in locating their parent/carer and directing them to the toilets to change.

Drop Off/Collection

Parents and carers are asked to drop off students directly before the start of their class and to supervise them until the class begins. Children under the age of 11 years also need to be supervised

by a parent or carer if they are attending multiple classes that have a break of more than 10 minutes in-between.

Personal Property

Students should always make sure to keep their valuables with them at all times. We cannot be held responsible for missing items.

Fees

Fees must be paid before the start of term. Failure to do so may result in withdrawal from classes.

Safeguarding

Fireflies Dance has a duty of care to provide a safe environment and to promote the health and wellbeing of children under 18 years, and adults at risk. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is embedded in our contact with them through the activities we provide.

We believe that the welfare of any child is paramount, and that all children and vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, race, sexual orientation or identity, or religious belief, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm and abuse.

All staff, students and customers are expected to comply with Fireflies Dance's safeguarding policy. This can be found on our website here: <u>Policies | Fireflies Dance</u>. Failure to do so may result in withdrawal from classes.

Data Protection Policy

Fireflies Dance staff members are not at liberty to disclose any information relating to students. Student information is confidential and retained in accordance with our privacy policy.

Visual and Social Media

Fireflies Dance will not post or publish and images or videos of students without prior written consent (and then with minimal personal information).

We ask that all parents, carers and students ensure that they use social media and the internet in a safe and positive way whilst on the premises of the school. This includes not taking and sharing pictures of others without their permission. No mobile phones, including for social media purposes, are to be used during class.

Health and Safety

- Students should always wear shoes when walking around the building and make sure that any laces or ribbons are tied properly.
- It is essential that students are in the right place at the right time. If late for a class, they may miss vital information, impede the learning of others, and place themselves at risk of injury if they miss the warm-up at the beginning of class.

- It is important that students keep themselves warm between classes to protect against injury.
- Students should drink plenty of water, and ensure they keep their energy levels up by eating healthy snacks between classes.
- A student who hurts themselves or feels unwell should tell their teacher or other staff member immediately.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the premises.
- If the fire alarm sounds, students, parents and other visitors should follow the Fire Evacuation Policy, which can be found on the website here: <u>Policies | Fireflies Dance</u>. Parents and carers are asked not to collect their child from the designated meeting point prior to the fire marshal allowing them to do so.
- Children's skateboards, scooters, bikes, and roller skates must not be ridden anywhere inside the building.

Agreement to the Terms and Conditions

Customers must acknowledge their acceptance of the terms and conditions for each student enrolled by checking the relevant box during their online registration and enrolment. The terms and conditions must be accepted in order to enrol into classes with Fireflies Dance. Registration cannot be completed until the acceptance box has been checked. Fireflies Dance reserves the right to change the terms and conditions at any time for the benefit of the business, staff or participants.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CONTACT US

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