

Frequently Asked Questions

SWINDON DANCE

Q. What is the CAT?

A. The Swindon Dance Centre for Advanced Training (CAT), offers a pre-vocational training programme for young dancers demonstrating exceptional potential and the commitment and passion for a career in dance. The CAT is one of nine across the country. These are a consortium of dance organisations that provide 11-17 year olds who have exceptional potential in dance, with access to the best available teaching at suitable facilities alongside strong links with the dance profession, [read more](#).

Q. Do I need to live in Swindon to attend?

A. No, the pilot programme is open to students across the South West of the UK.

Q. Does it matter if I haven't had a lot of experience in Ballet?

A. No formal dance experience is required; we are looking for enthusiastic and motivated young people with exceptional potential and an interest in ballet.



Q. What does it mean to be on the pilot scheme?

A. The Swindon Ballet (pilot) Programme will initially be a 10 week programme starting in May 2022. It will be based at Swindon Dance and run weekly Sunday afternoons between 11:00 and 5:00pm. Students will study; Ballet technique, Strength and Conditioning/Pilates, an introduction to Pointe work, an introduction to Contemporary, Male Virtuosity (if applicable), Music Appreciation as well as workshops in Anatomy, Healthier Dancer, Choreography, Drama and Dalcroze.

From all students, we expect exceptional commitment, attendance and a good attitude towards training. You will maximise your training by taking ownership of your learning along with being supported through:

- Individual Training Plans (ITP);
- a 2 day intensive during the May half-term;
- paid support for external classes and/or the opportunity to access additional enhancement classes during the week.

Q. Will the programme continue after July?

A. If the pilot is successful then you will be invited to join a longer programme scheduled to start in September 2022.

Q. Will the programme follow a ballet syllabus such as RAD or ISTD?

A. No. Students will be following a ballet curriculum to develop the solid foundation required to build a long and rewarding career.



Q. What are the fees?

A. The CAT is supported by the Department for Education (DfE) via means tested grants. For those who qualify - training is FREE or subsidised, [read more](#).

Q. What financial support can I get?

A. Please take a look at the [financial support guidelines](#) to find out more.

Q. What are the term dates?

A. Term 1: 1st-29th May
Intensive: 30th May-1st June
Term 2: 12th June-10th July
End of year performance: 8, 9 & 10th July

Q. How can I join the Swindon Ballet (pilot) Programme

A. Entry onto the pilot programme is by audition only. If you would like to apply please complete an [application form](#). The audition is your opportunity to demonstrate your potential by taking part in a practical dance session and creative workshop in front of a selection panel. The audition is FREE to attend but an application form must be completed and submitted in order to reserve a place.

Q. How will I fit this in with my schoolwork?

A. All CAT classes happen out of school hours. The programme leaders and/or mentors can help you plan your time using your Individual Training Plan so that you fit in your schoolwork and your dance lessons.



Q. I have some more questions, how do I get in touch?

A. The CAT team will be very happy to help answer your queries regarding the pilot programme. Please get in touch via the following:

Centre for Advanced Training
Swindon Dance
Regent Circus
Swindon
SN1 1QF

cat@swindondance.org.uk

www.swindondance.org.uk/cat

Q. How do I apply

A. Complete an [application form](#) and a member of the team will be in touch to confirm your place on the audition.