

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

Royal Academy of Dance advises public to check dance teacher's qualifications after publishing revealing new research



Image by Siobhan Hennessy

- The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) today reminded members of the public of the importance of verifying a dance teacher's qualifications before signing up to classes, after **a new survey revealed 89% of adults in the UK were not aware that there is currently no legal requirement for dance teachers to have a relevant dance teaching qualification in order to lead a class or dance school**
- The RAD wants to encourage members of the public to seek out this information, in order to ensure a safe and quality experience for learners of all ages
- **The RAD wishes to reinforce the importance of learning to dance with a qualified teacher and today launched a global Register of Teachers.** This new tool enables the public to search for a local dance teaching professional, with confidence. Only dance teachers who meet RAD's professional standards and training requirements are registered with the RAD and viewable on the register
- The RAD has been inspiring the world to dance for over 100 years. Originally created to standardise dance teaching standards in the UK, the RAD now has a network of highly trained teachers registered with the organisation in 85 countries, and a community of over 400,000 students of all ages learning to dance with the RAD
- Images available to download [here](#). Password: 'rad'
- To find out more and view the register visit:
royalacademyofdance.org/qualifiedteachers

25 August 2022: The Royal Academy of Dance is advising members of the public to check a dance teacher's credentials before signing up for classes after releasing enlightening new research today. **A new survey conducted on behalf of the RAD by YouGov revealed that 89% of adults in the UK were not aware that there is currently**

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no legal requirement for dance teachers to have a relevant dance teaching qualification to lead a dance class or a school. Alongside this key finding, the survey also found the following:

- **74% of adults surveyed agreed that they would want to check the credentials of a dance teacher before attending a dance class or signing their child up to a dance school**
- **75% of adults surveyed also agreed that it would be useful to have a service to check whether a dance teacher had a relevant dance teaching qualification before attending a dance class or sending their child**

Although this new research shows that a large majority of adults were not aware that there is currently no obligation for someone to have relevant qualifications in order to teach dance to the public, it did prove that this was something that was important to people when selecting a class. For example:

- **54% of adults surveyed selected ‘qualifications of a dance teacher’ as an important factor when selecting a dance class for themselves or for their child**
- **Parents and guardians surveyed felt even stronger about this with 56% choosing dance teaching qualifications as an important consideration and 77% stating they would want to be able to check credentials of a dance teacher, before enrolling their child or attending themselves. To the same end, 79% of parents and guardians surveyed stated they agreed it would be useful to have access to a service which allowed them to check a dance teacher’s credentials.**

Whilst the safety of children and young people is vital, it is worth noting that whatever a student’s age, it is important that they still have access to a qualified teacher who understands how our physiology changes as we get older, and how to teach movement safely for all ages and body types- as well as keep older learners motivated.

Following this new research, the RAD has today launched a new global Register of Teachers, where employers, prospective students, and their parents and guardians can find RAD Registered Teachers with confidence. Only teachers who hold registered teacher status are included in this register. Holding this status means the following:

- **The dance teacher has met the eligibility criteria for registration. This means they have dance teaching qualifications, including university-validated courses, as well as other RAD awards or routes. These courses cover best practice pedagogy principles, as well as in-depth subject knowledge, and how to deliver dance classes which are developmentally and physically safe and appropriate.**
- **The dance teacher has agreed to comply with RAD’s Code of Professional Practice for teachers; this covers expected values and behaviours, and professional conduct, which is intended to encourage a welcoming and inspiring learning experience.**

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- The dance teacher is expected to engage in regular professional development, covering a range of topics.
- The dance teacher is expected to follow RAD's Safeguarding Good Practice Guidelines to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.
- The dance teacher is eligible to put students forward for RAD exams, should they wish to do so.

RAD Chief Executive Tim Arthur commented on these new findings: *“At the RAD we believe that everyone can dance - but not everyone can teach dance. Unqualified teachers devalue the whole art form because a bad experience can put people off dance for life, not to mention potentially causing injuries. Conversely, a great experience with an experienced and knowledgeable teacher, can be life changing. Unfortunately, I am not surprised to see that 89% of those surveyed didn't know that a dance teaching qualification isn't a legal requirement in order to teach dance. But I hope that the RAD's new Register of Teachers will allow the public to make informed decisions when finding a dance teacher. In fact, we have also created a checklist which can be used by the public, which covers a list of questions they may wish to ask when finding any qualified dance teacher, because ultimately we want to inspire the world to dance!”*

The RAD's new Register of Teacher has launched today. To find out more visit www.royalacademyofdance.org/qualifiedteachers

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

About the Royal Academy of Dance

Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the most influential dance education and training organisations in the world with a strong global membership in 85 countries. Established in 1920 to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training, the Academy helps and encourages its teachers to perfect their teaching skills and pass on this knowledge to their students. There are currently over 1,000 students in full-time or part-time teacher training programmes with the Academy and each year the examination

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syllabus is taught to thousands of young people worldwide, with around a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take RAD exams.

YouGov

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2091 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 8th - 9th August 2022. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults (aged 18+).