



Patrons
Dame Antoinette Sibley
Robert Cohan CBE

Chairman
Roger Bramble DL

Director
Sean Williams

Press release – for publication on or after 27th September 2006

Recognised School (RS)

The Council for Dance Education and Training (CDET) has today announced its new kite-mark of recognition for dance and musical theatre schools working with students under the age of sixteen - ***Recognised School (RS)*** status. The Council's information service *Answers for Dancers* receives hundreds of enquiries a year from students and parents requesting information on the thousands of pre-and non-vocational schools operating throughout the country. Until now there has been no means of confirming that these schools meet even the most basic standards of professional practice and students have had no indication of the quality of service they can expect. The CDET kite-mark has been introduced to provide that assurance.

The *RS* kite-mark is renewable annually and is self-validating – applicant schools will be required to confirm to the Council in writing that they adhere to the nine *Requirements* of the kite-mark and issue a copy of those *Requirements* to each and every student enrolling on a course at the school. Should a *Recognised School* be then demonstrated to have failed in its undertaking, continuation of its award will be reviewed at the time of the next scheduled renewal. Dated *Recognised School* certificates, which must be prominently displayed at each venue in which a school operates, will be issued annually. Schools applying for the award will be issued with *Guidelines* to help put the *Requirements* in place.

Schools awarded *RS* will be required to:

- have in place and adhere to appropriate health and safety (including safe dance practice), equal opportunities, customer service and staff development policies
- ensure valid, enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure is in place for all members of staff (teachers, administrators and ancillary staff) working at the school
- employ or engage all teachers working at the school on appropriate contracts
- ensure all teachers working at the school hold a Council, QCA or other government recognised dance teaching qualification; or are actively studying towards such a dance teaching qualification; or can demonstrate equivalent professional teaching or training experience to the satisfaction of the Council
- adhere to the Council's *Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers of Dance* or an equivalent code recognised by the Council
- operate an annual staff appraisal system
- prominently display at all times or provide to all students a copy of *Recognised School Requirements*, full routine and emergency contact details; timetables; details of venues, examinations, public performances and/or displays in which students are expected to take part
- hold appropriate and adequate insurance
- keep formal accounts which should be independently inspected or audited where required by law.

The Council for Dance Education and Training is the national standards body of the professional dance and musical theatre industries and numbers some of the world's most successful and prestigious vocational schools and dance awarding bodies among its accredited members.

Sean Williams, director of CDET said: “A school holding the *RS* kite-mark will clearly offer much more assurance as to the quality of its service than one without it and we shall be actively encouraging students, parents and carers to ask at the time of enrolment if a school holds the kite-mark and if not, why not. *RS* is the first stage in the development of a national standard upon which students can rely and to which all pre-vocational dance and musical theatre schools aspire. *RSS* will cost *Recognised Schools* just £100.00 per year, it is clearly very important that no school is excluded on financial grounds.”

The names and contact details of *Recognised Schools* will be published on the CDET website.

Further information on the *Recognised School* kite-mark is available from the Council for Dance Education and Training website – www.cdet.org.uk by email – info@cdet.org.uk by telephone on 020 7240 5703 or by post from Old Brewer’s Yard, 17 – 19 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9UY.