

CHILDREN'S PROGRESSION THROUGH LEVELS AT SLDS



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The progression through levels at South London Dance School is outlined below. Children usually remain in a level for one year, but this may be increased to two years, as necessary, considering physical and cognitive development.

LOWER SCHOOL LEVELS (contact sldslowerschool@gmail.com)

1. **Melody Movement** (*please note: some of the older children in the year group will move into Nursery dance in summer term*)
2. **Nursery dance** (*please note: some of the older children in the year group will move into Nursery 2 dance in summer term*)
4. CHILDREN IN PRE-RECEPTION IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL - **Preparatory dance & tap**
5. CHILDREN IN RECEPTION IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL - **Pre-Primary 1 ballet (I), Pre-Primary tap (I) & Primary modern (I)** (*note that children will automatically move into Pre-Primary tap (II) & Primary modern (II) over the course of the year but classes will stay on the same day at the same time*)
Junior 'Funky Moves' (boys only)

UPPER SCHOOL LEVELS (contact sldsupperschool@gmail.com) - Upper School classes start from classes where children can work towards an examination in one or all of the genres.

Please note that children who join us from Year 2 onwards without any suitable previous dance experience, will be placed in a class with mainly younger children in order to learn the basics.

1. EXISTING STUDENTS WHO ARE IN **YEAR 1** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL AND NEW STUDENTS WITHOUT PRIOR DANCE EXPERIENCE WHO ARE IN **YEAR 1 AND 2** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL:
Pre-Primary ballet (II), Pre-Primary tap (III) & Primary modern (III)
(*Primary modern (III) is an examination preparation class and children will be selected to take their first modern dance examination (Primary class test), usually at the end of the spring term*)
(*boys can also choose to continue with Lower School class Junior 'Funky Moves' at this level*)
2. EXISTING STUDENTS WHO ARE IN **YEAR 2** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL AND NEW STUDENTS WITHOUT PRIOR DANCE EXPERIENCE WHO ARE IN **YEAR 3** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL:
Primary ballet (I), Primary tap & Grade 1 modern (I)
(*children will be selected to take their first tap examination (Primary class test) and their first Freestyle Modern Performance Award, usually at end of spring term*)
(*boys who were in Junior 'Funky Moves' will move up **Boys street (I)** and start **Grade 1 modern (I)** which is compulsory alongside street from Boys street (I) upwards, whereas ballet & tap classes are advised but optional for boys*)
3. EXISTING STUDENTS WHO ARE IN **YEAR 3** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL AND NEW STUDENTS WITHOUT PRIOR DANCE EXPERIENCE WHO ARE IN **YEAR 4 PLUS** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL:
Primary ballet (II), Primary National (compulsory with ballet at Primary (II) and Grade 1 levels), Grade 1 tap (I) & Grade 1 modern (II)
(*children will be selected to take their first ballet examination (Primary grade), usually at end of spring term*)
(*boys can opt to do **Grade 1 modern (II)** & **Boys street (I)** without learning ballet, National or tap*)

4. EXISTING STUDENTS WHO ARE IN **YEAR 4** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL AND NEW STUDENTS WITHOUT PRIOR DANCE EXPERIENCE WHO ARE IN **YEAR 5 PLUS** IN THEIR ACADEMIC SCHOOL:
Grade 1 ballet, Grade 1 National, Grade 1 tap (II), Grade 2 modern (I) (including Freestyle Modern Performance Awards) & **Girls' Level 1 commercial/street / Boys street (II)**
(it is compulsory for girls to learn commercial / street together with modern from Grade 2 modern (I) and above)
 5. **Grade 1 ballet, Grade 1 National, Grade 2 tap (I), Grade 2 modern (II) & Level 1 commercial/street / Boys street (II)**
 6. **Grade 2 ballet, Stretch & Technique** *(compulsory with ballet from Grade 2 upwards)*, **Grade 2 tap (II), Grade 3 modern (I)** (including Freestyle Modern Performance Awards) & **Level 2 commercial/street / Boys street (II)**
 7. **Grade 2 ballet, Stretch & Technique, Grade 3 tap (I), Grade 3 modern (II) & Level 2 commercial/street / Boys street (II)**
 8. **Grade 3 ballet, Stretch & Technique, Grade 3 tap (II), Grade 4 modern (I)** (including Freestyle Modern Performance Awards) & **Level 3 commercial/street / Boys street (II)**
 9. **Grade 3 ballet, Stretch & Technique, Grade 4 tap (I), Grade 4 modern (II) & Level 3 commercial/street / Boys street (II)**
 10. **Grade 4 ballet, Stretch & Technique, Grade 4 tap (II), Grade 5 modern (I)** (including Freestyle Modern Performance Awards), **Level 4 commercial/street / Boys street (II), Power & Skills** *(compulsory with ballet from Grade 4 upwards and modern from Grade 5 upwards)* & **Senior Contemporary** *(recommended for children in Grade 5 modern plus)*
 11. **Grade 4 ballet, Stretch & Technique, Grade 5 tap (I), Grade 5 modern (II), Level 4 commercial/street / Boys street (II), Power & Skills & Senior Contemporary**
- etc up to **Advanced 1 ballet & modern, Advanced 2 tap, Level 5 commercial/street and ongoing Freestyle Modern Performance Awards.**

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **Reminder: it is assumed that your child will continue classes from term to term and if you find the next level of class(es) to be unsuitable for any reason and therefore need to leave the school or request to change any class(es), you should refer to the school Terms and Conditions regarding the notice period agreed to avoid fees for late notice of cancellation being payable.**
- If your child attends Levels 1-4 commercial / street classes then please be advised that they will be assessed by the teacher and Principal with regard to moving up to the next level which will be when they are ready and this will not necessarily be at the same time as their peers. Bear in mind that there are fewer levels in commercial / street compared to modern grades and so movement through the levels is slower, also note that taking a Freestyle examination does not impact moving up to the next level in commercial / street or modern.
- Levels in brackets: the (I) indicates that it is a technical skills preparation class and when they are ready, students will move into the (II) (and in some cases (III)) class(es) in order to learn the set syllabus work for the examination. Children usually spend one year in each level but if necessary, a child may need to remain in a level for two years. Grade 1 ballet plus classes are not split into levels in the same way that tap and modern are. Therefore, children usually spend two years in each ballet grade.
- The route through our levels will vary according to the individual child's rate of progression in each genre of dance i.e. where ballet, National, tap, modern and commercial/street levels are listed under one number, it is just a typical example. The exact grades and levels will depend on the order in which a child is ready to take his / her examinations in each genre.

- The teachers of our higher grades classes along with the school Principal will make decisions in order to provide the best possible training for a group, regarding whether they learn an 'award' (e.g. silver / gold tap or jazz), work towards a higher graded examination (i.e. Grade 5 or 6) or start work on vocational syllabus work (i.e. intermediate foundation or intermediate). As this will change for each group, we cannot lay out the exact route on this document.
- If your child's teacher decides that they are ready to move up to the next level of class for the following academic year, the invoice you receive a few weeks before the end of the summer term will provide full details of the new class day and time. So please always read your invoice carefully and contact us if you have any problems.
- It is always useful to keep up to date with the entire school timetable (see newsletters, website and studio notice boards) so that as far as possible, parents / guardians can foresee which class(es) their child will move up to next and inform us of any potential timing challenges. It is extremely important that we receive all class day / time preference requests before each half term break so that we can try to accommodate.
- However, as a child can remain in the same level of class(es) for variable lengths of time, parents / guardians will of course, not know exactly when their child is due to move up. However, parents / guardians can still notify us of what they will need when the time comes for their child to move up as soon as each new level of class is commenced. The sooner we receive a request concerning day / time preference for a child's class, the higher up the waiting list it will be and the more chance there will be of it being accommodated.
- We will always do our best to help in conveniently scheduling siblings class times, however, it is not usually possible for us to accommodate requests for a child to be placed in the same class as a friend.
- As our teachers are qualified and experienced professionals, we politely request that parents / guardians respect and don't question their judgement over whether a child is ready to move up to the next level. We also ask that parents recognise that their child may not be ready to move up to the next level of class at the same time as any sibling / friend and that it may not be in the best interests of their child to insist that they do so.