

Brewer Dance Academy

Welcomes you to Grade One!

Whether you have recently passed Primary, just joined ballet for the first time, or already begun Grade One (with us or elsewhere), here is a helpful guide to what you will need and can expect.

UNIFORM

As we progress it becomes increasingly important to come to ballet not just ready to dance, but ready to perform. Feeling 'put together' helps with your focus, posture, and overall enjoyment of the class. To this end we encourage any students with long hair to wear it well secured up and out of their face, preferably in a bun. Hair tutorials are available on the uniform page of our website.

Grade One uniform is as follows:

LEOTARD

Girls: LAVENDER Sleeveless, scoop neck PCL leotard with matching elastic belt.
Boys: WHITE short sleeved PCL leotard

SOCKS

Girls: PINK short ballet socks
Boys: WHITE socks

SHOES

Girls: PINK soft ballet shoes with elastic across instep
Boys: BLACK soft ballet shoes with elastic across instep

SHORTS

Boys only: NAVY shorts



CHARACTER

Grade One is the first grade in the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus in which students begin to learn what we call 'character'. Character is an umbrella term for a range of steps and styles inspired by traditional national dances from around the world. In Grade One the influence is Russian.

Character is used a lot in ballet, with 'National Dances' often being a real crowd pleaser. The Nutcracker has some particularly famous examples, including a Russian dance of its own!



Dancers in a production of The Nutcracker

Character has a specific uniform, that not only gives dancers a sense of style, but protects their feet. While the majority of a Grade One class is still focused on the fundamentals of ballet, so students still require their normal ballet shoes, leotard, etc., they also require:

SHOES

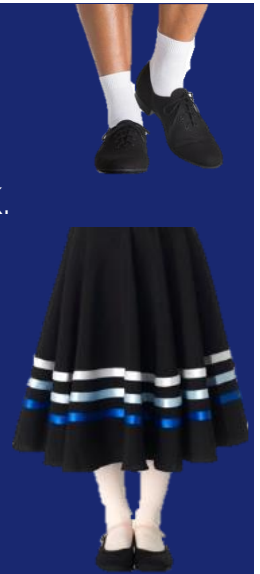
Girls: Canvas Character shoes in BLACK with elastic across instep. Low Heel.

Boys: A pair of low heeled, laced canvas character shoes in BLACK. (we will sometimes accept school shoes as an alternative in early classes)

SKIRTS

Girls only: Full circular skirt, approximately mid-calf length, in cotton. BLACK

Instructions for making your own skirt are available on request.



PROPS

As detailed on our uniform page, some exercises and dances in the RAD syllabus require props. In Grade One there are three exercises/dances:

TRANSFER OF WEIGHT

Optional use of a Ribbon, flag, or scarf

DANCE B

Brewer Dance Academy does not currently do this dance
Requires a short ribbon stick with two ribbons.

DANCE C

A small watering can is required with two handles, one over the top and one on the back.



It's especially important for students to have their own watering can, so they can get used to dancing with it as early as possible. We discourage and are rarely able to facilitate the sharing of props.

EXAMS

There is a minimum age requirement of 7 years for the Grade One exam, and candidates must reach the required minimum by 31 December of the year in which they are examined. It is recommended that students do 70 learning hours before taking their Grade One exam: 60 guided and 10 of self-study. Further information on preparing for exam day is available on the 'New Students' page of our website. If you have any questions, please email principal@brewerdanceacademy.com.