

# NVSDD Uniform

<p>Babies, Pre-Primary &amp; Primary Ballet. Warfield Thursday 2-4yrs Ballet &amp; Warfield Thursday 4-5yrs Ballet <i>(Hair should be in a bun or tight pony tail)</i></p>	<p><b>RAD Regulation Pink Cotton Leotard with Sleeves</b> <b>RAD Regulation Pink Wrap Skirt</b> <b>Pink Ballet Tights or socks. Pink Ballet Shoes.</b> <i>Optional: Pink NVSDD or Plain Cross Over ballet cardigan. NVSDD T shirt and/or hoodie. .</i></p>
<p>RAD Grade 1 Ballet &amp; Warfield Thursday 5 yrs+ Ballet (5.45pm) <i>(Hair should be in a bun, plaits or tight pony tail)</i></p>	<p><b>RAD Regulation Pink Cotton Leotard with or without Sleeves</b> <b>Pink Ballet Tights or socks. Pink Ballet Shoes.</b> <b>RAD Black Character skirt &amp; Character shoes</b> <i>Optional: Pink NVSDD or Plain Cross Over ballet cardigan. NVSDD T shirt and/or hoodie. .</i></p>
<p>RAD Grade 2-5 Ballet (Grade 4 Pointe &amp; Conditioning) <i>(Hair should be in a bun, plaits or tight pony tail)</i></p>	<p><b>RAD Regulation Navy Cotton Leotard (V neck, with ruche)</b> <b>Pink Ballet Tights or socks. Pink Ballet Shoes.</b> (Convertible ballet tights are a good option, so that students can have barefeet, if required) <b>RAD Black Character skirt &amp; Character shoes</b> <i>Optional: Coordinating Cross Over ballet cardigan. NVSDD T shirt, vest, shorts and/or hoodie/sweatshirt. .</i> Girls in Grade 4 &amp; 5 may also wear the Capezio Black cotton strappy leotard, but will need Navy for the RAD exam.</p>
<p>RAD Grade 6-8 Ballet (Pointe &amp; Conditioning) <i>(Hair should be in a bun, plaits or tight pony tail)</i></p>	<p><b>Black strappy cotton Leotard</b> <b>Pink Ballet Tights or socks. Pink Ballet Shoes.</b> (Convertible ballet tights are a good option, so that students can have barefeet, if required) <b>RAD Black Character skirt &amp; Character shoes</b> <b>RAD Free Movement Skirt and scarf</b> <i>Optional: NVSDD T shirt, vest, shorts and/or hoodie/sweatshirt.</i></p>
<p>RAD Vocational Ballet <i>(Hair should be in a bun , plaits or tight pony tail)</i></p>	<p><b>Black strappy cotton Leotard</b> <b>Pink Ballet Tights. Pink Ballet Shoes. (Inter girls require Demi Pointes &amp; Pointes)</b> <i>Optional: NVSDD T shirt, shorts, vest and/or hoodie/sweatshirt.</i></p>
<p>ISTD Modern Primary – Grade 3 <i>(Hair should be in pony tail)</i></p>	<p>For lessons students may wear either <b>Regulation ISTD Modern Exam Uniform, Ballet Uniform as listed above or an NVSDD T-shirt with Black leggings or Jazz Pants.</b> <b>EXAM UNIFORM: Limelight Black Velvet leotard with black footless tights or Purple NVSDD Lycra Leotard with black footless tights.</b> <i>Optional: Jazz Shoes/Trainers. NVSDD T shirt, shorts and/or hoodie/sweatshirt.</i></p>
<p>ISTD Modern Grade 4+ (Contemporary) <i>(Hair should be in pony tail)</i></p>	<p>For lessons students may wear either <b>Regulation ISTD Modern Exam Uniform, Ballet Uniform as listed above or an NVSDD T-shirt with Black leggings or Jazz Pants.</b> <b>EXAM UNIFORM: Black Cotton Leotard with black footless tights.</b> <i>Optional: Jazz Shoes/Trainers. NVSDD T shirt, shorts, vest and/or hoodie/sweatshirt.</i> <i>Foot thongs are optional for Contemporary.</i></p>

ISTD Tap Dance Primary – Grade 2 (Hair should be in pony tail)	For lessons students may wear either <b>Regulation ISTD Modern Exam Uniform, Ballet Uniform as listed above or an NVSDD T-shirt with Black leggings or Jazz Pants. Black Tap Shoes. (Heel Taps are compulsory from Grade 2)</b> <b>EXAM UNIFORM: Limelight Black Velvet leotard with black footless tights or Purple NVSDD Lycra Leotard with black footless tights.</b> <i>Optional: NVSDD T shirt, shorts and/or hoodie/sweatshirt</i>
ISTD Tap Dance Grade 3+ (Hair should be in pony tail)	For lessons students may wear either <b>Regulation ISTD Modern Exam Uniform, Ballet Uniform as listed above or an NVSDD T-shirt with Black leggings or Jazz Pants. Black Tap shoes. (From Grade 4 students should have Jazz Taps)</b> <b>EXAM UNIFORM: Black Cotton Leotard with black footless tights.</b> <i>Optional: Jazz Shoes/Sneakers. NVSDD T shirt, shorts and/or hoodie/sweatshirt.</i>
Street Dance, Musical Theatre, Drama & Co 15, Limbering (Hair should be in pony tail)	<b>NVSDD T-shirt with Black leggings, black footless tights/shorts or Jazz Pants. (Other NVSDD Dance uniform may also be worn)</b> <i>Optional: shorts and/or hoodie/sweatshirt.</i> Trainers for Street Dance/Drama/Musical Theatre (or barefeet if advised by teacher) Black Jazz Shoes/Trainers for Co 15
GCSE Dance (Hair should be in pony tail)	<b>Black Strappy Leotard, Black Footless Tights. NVSDD Sweatshirt. (Optional: Foot thongs)</b>
Boys	<b>NVSDD T-shirt with Black bottoms or shorts. Appropriate shoes.</b>

## Pointe-Work Information for Students and their Parents.

I hope you are excited to be joining the Pointe Prep/Conditioning class this term. In the first few lessons you will be shown some exercises which you must do at least 4 times a week (only 5-10 minutes). It is very important that you continue to do these exercises and approach your practice seriously.

*Poor technique = injury!*

Over the coming weeks your teacher will be continually assessing you and she will let me know when she feels you are ready to go on Pointe. Naturally this may not be at the same time as other girls in your class, so be patient, do not get down-hearted and do keep working hard. Your teacher will only allow you to have pointe shoes when she feels you have the strength to cope and not cause yourself injury. Initially when you do get your pointe shoes you will only do 5-10 minutes and it is important to build this up gradually.

Pointe shoes should be bought either from our Uniform Shop or from a Ballet shop experienced in fitting Pointe shoes and who hold a good selection of Pointe shoes of different sizes/widths/makes.

**Demi-Pointe Shoes** (Soft-Pointe Shoes) As a “training” shoe, prior to Full pointe shoes, you may like to consider buying Demi pointe shoes (or soft pointes, as some people call them). These are recommended as an excellent way to strengthen your feet and to get used to a pointe shoe. You may also wear demi-pointe shoes to your Grade 4 Ballet class (instead of your normal ballet shoes) but this entirely optional, as I realise the cost implications. (see information below on the benefits of soft/demi-pointe shoes)

### **POINTE SHOE FITTING – Very important**

Before your fitting make sure you have trimmed your toenails! Make sure they are not too long or too short. Do not cut them the day of the fitting! Cut them a few days before just in case you cut them too short. Make sure you don't have any sharp edges that might poke into your skin. As a Pointe work student you must take proper care of your feet and toe nails are the first step. Wear Ballet Tights or Ballet Socks to the fitting.

Take your “Ouch Pouches”, ribbons and elastics to the fitting if you have purchased previously.

## What you will need to buy:

**Pointe Shoes** - These should fit snugly, but not too tight. The toes should not be jammed in and there should not be too much space at the sides. You should stand with your feet flat on the floor and check that the shoes do not gape at the sides, in which case the shoe is probably too wide. Your toes should not overlap. **YOU MUST NOT ALLOW ROOM TO GROW!** The shoe should fit perfectly. A shoe that is too big or gapes could ultimately hurt you. It is important to have your first pair fitted properly. A snug but not “toe-numbing” fit is important. Pointe shoes have no left or right. At first, the shoes are interchangeable, but after you have worn them a few times, they will conform to the shape of your feet...you should then mark them so you know left/right. The shoes should fit like a glove. Always try the shoes on both feet. (Approx £35.00-£45.00) **DO NOT ORDER POINTE SHOES ONLINE!**

**Ribbons** - I highly recommend the Bloch “Elastorib”. This ribbon, with an elasticated section, has been designed to alleviate pressure on the Achille Tendons. (approx £3.50-£5.00)

**Elastics**—although not compulsory I recommend Bloch “Covert Elastic”. This is sewn to each side of the heel seam for added security when going through to demi-pointe and helps to stop the heel of the shoe slipping off. (Approx £3.50-£5.00)

**Gel Toe Pads (Ouch pouches)** - although you can buy cheaper options of “toe padding” I recommend this type as a long lasting, effective method of protection. (approx £16-£21)

**Suede Pointe Shoe Cover/Cap - optional** - these can be placed on the end of the Pointe shoes to protect the satin from wear and tear. Please ask if you are unsure where to position them, as the pads should not be visible on the top of the shoe (when foot is flat). (approx £2.00-£3.00)

## How to sew on the ribbons:

If you have any questions please ask. With the elastorib ballet shoe ribbons you have to cut about 1.5 inches off the shorter length (if you hold the ribbon out you will see one side is shorter than the other - cut this side by about 1.5 inches and sew this end in to the shoe. This will mean that when you tie the ribbons the stretchy bit of elastic is at the back of you ankle/Achilles.

(See this YouTube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1hEu3SCw2z4> - watch from about 6 mins in)

## Attaching Bloch “Covert Elastic”



Measure elastic to a length that will attach at the back of the heel, around the ankle and back to the heel again. Elastic should be attached about one fingers width away from the shoe's back seam on both sides of the shoe forming a loop. Position elastics all the way down in the shoe. Pin elastics to shoes and test placement before sewing. Be sure that elastics fit snugly but not too tight. Sew elasticstilted forward so that they will lie flat against the front of the ankle. Stitch along the top near the drawstring then continue your stitch around all four sides so your stitching pattern resembles a box.

**Be careful not to sew through the drawstring**

# **Being on Pointe**

As mentioned at the start of this leaflet, it is very important to strengthen your ankles and feet by continually practicing your foot exercises. (Remember some of these can be done whilst watching TV or chatting on the phone!) **Once you have your Pointe shoes and are ready to go up on Pointe it is very important to remember the following:**

You must support your toes and feet by pulling up out of your shoes with the rest of your body. Always keep your knees and back straight and pulled up. **Don't look down!** Your chest should be lifted and slightly forward (remember ...shoulders down). Your lower back and abdominal muscles must be held firmly. By firmly holding the muscles in your legs, bottom, back and stomach, you can make Pointe work a whole lot easier on yourself. (Think about this whilst you practice your demi-pointe work). When on Pointe think of pushing where the ribbons cross...this helps you to keep your feet/ankles from rolling in or out.

**If you are buying your shoes from another shop, please show Miss Natalie, Miss Lisa, Miss Sophie, Miss Alex or Miss Emily BEFORE sewing ribbons etc.**

## **Tying the Ribbons**

Before you tie the ribbons around your ankle, you should tie the drawstring. The drawstring should be pulled by both ends until there are no gaps in your shoe. Then, tie a bow and tuck the ends into your shoe. Anything in excess of two or three inches should be trimmed off.

The ribbons must be tied correctly so that the shoe will remain correctly positioned on the foot. Slip the foot through the elastic and into the shoe. The foot should be flat on the floor, not on Pointe. It is best to kneel or sit on the floor, with one foot in front, so that your knee is over your foot. Cross the ribbons over the instep, continue wrapping them around the Achilles tendon and again across the instep. Now take the ribbon which is going around the outside of the foot and bring it across the Achilles tendon to meet the inside ribbon.

Tie a square knot at the soft part of the foot between the **inside ankle bone and the Achilles tendon**. Neatly fold up the excess ribbon and tuck it, from the top, under all the ribbons wrapped around the ankle. Any ribbon in excess of about three inches is trimmed off.

To prevent the ribbons from fraying, the ends can be run very quickly through a match flame to melt the nylon fibres together. (An adult should do this for you)

The ribbons which wrap around the ankle should lay on top of each other rather than wind up the lower leg.

**For an online video guide to tying your ribbons visit :**

**[www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_BqoNLLLY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_BqoNLLLY)**

**Or type "video of tying pointe shoe ribbons" into your Google search engine.**

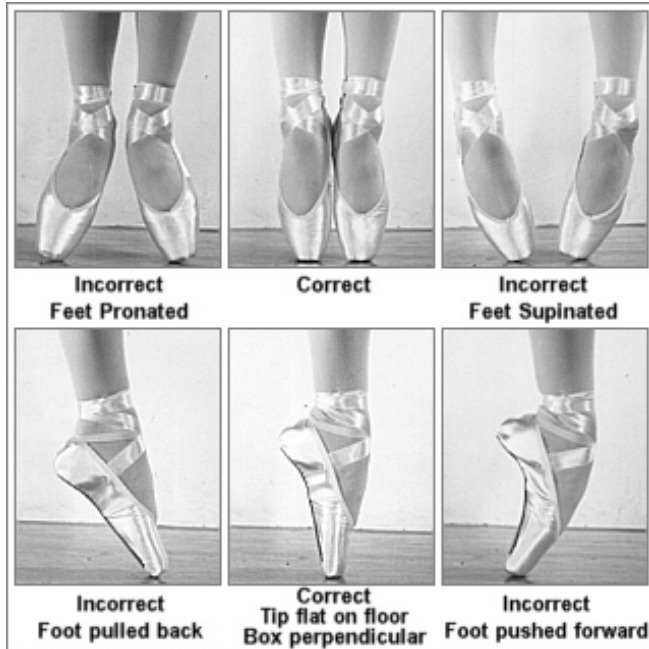
**What to do once you have sewn the ribbons and elastics.** Warm-up your feet and ankles properly by doing your strengthening exercises, then put on your Pointe shoes, tying the ribbons correctly. (You will need to practice tying your ribbons....it is not easy and you must be able to tie them correctly and quickly!) Put a pair of thick socks on top, so that your feet are warm. Walk around as much as you can, a little bit on [demi-pointe](#) if possible. This will be difficult and painful at first....you may feel like a duck or penguin! However increased flexibility in this area of the shoe will make it much more comfortable to work in. **TAKE CARE NOT TO SLIP ON WOOD/LAMINATE FLOORS.** (Socks with non slip grips are the best)

**After your first class you will be given some simple exercises to practice..... ensure you do these properly.**

# Correct Placement of the foot on Pointe

When standing on Pointe, the foot should be placed so that the instep is fully stretched and the toes form a perpendicular angle with the floor. A straight line can be drawn through the centre of the hip, knee, ankle and big toe joints (when viewed from the side). From the front, a straight line can be drawn through the hip, knee, and ankle joints through the box of the shoe, on or between the second and third toes. The entire flat surface of the tip of the box should touch the floor. Leg muscles must be lengthened and knees must be pulled up.

**SAFETY** To avoid injury you must have a positive, sensible approach and attitude to Pointework: pay close attention and work diligently on the corrections given by your teacher. If, at any time, we do not feel you are working safely, or that it is obvious that you have not done any practice, you will be asked to remove your shoes immediately and the matter will be discussed with your parents before you can participate in Pointe work again.



**POINTE SHOES ARE EXPENSIVE - DO NOT ALLOW OTHERS TO PLAY IN THEM. ALWAYS LOOK AFTER YOUR POINTE SHOES AND HANDLE THEM WITH CARE!**

## ***SOFT/DEMI POINTE Shoes. : Why wear Demi-Pointe shoes??***

Research has shown that they are an excellent way to prepare and strengthen dancers for Pointe work. A Demi Pointe shoe is also known as a soft block or pre-pointe shoe and is made of a similar construction. It should be worn for the whole ballet class, instead of a normal ballet shoe. However please note the student may need to “build up” the length of time they can wear the demi-pointe shoes, so all students will still need a normal shoe (as they wore for the show).

From the outside appearance it resembles a regular pointe shoe, but the “box” is softer. The Demi Pointe box is made of 3 or 4 layers of fabric compared to the 6 used in a Pointe shoe; it also has slightly smaller, softer wings with a smaller platform. The most important difference is that the Demi Pointe has thinner leather soles, but no shank. **Therefore, a Demi Pointe shoe gives NO support for going on Pointe and is extremely dangerous to attempt . To reiterate: Demi-pointe shoes are not to be used to stand en-pointe as there is no shank to support the foot.** Using a Demi Pointe shoe will improve balance, and strengthen ankle/arch (intrinsic) muscles that are very necessary for Pointe work. Balancing in Demi Pointe shoes is harder owing to the resistance of the leather sole, the

thicker inner sole and vamp. Dancers will be able to feel the muscles of their feet working hard in these shoes. Many dancers continue to use [demi pointes](#) for their class even when they have progressed to pointe shoes. In addition to strengthening the foot and gaining confidence, these shoes are intended to help familiarise pre-pointe students with working in a boxed shoe, as well as basic shoe care such as sewing on ribbon and elastic. **PLEASE NOTE THIS SHOE SHOULD NEVER BE USED TO STAND ON YOUR TOES!** Like normal pointe shoes these must “fit” properly, and are available in different widths. Shoes must fit like a “glove” and not allow for “room to grow!”

**I HOPE YOU HAVE FOUND THIS INFORMATION USEFUL, HOWEVER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME! THANK YOU. njvinson@aol.com Natalie**