

## Statement of Purpose

### 500/6919/6 – Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)

The Performing Arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. It is the second largest sector after Design. Overall, the industry contributes £3.5 billion to the UK economy. The performing arts industry employs 148,030, with actors and entertainers accounting for 23 per cent of this total workforce. There are 5,480 businesses and 101,593 people working in the performing arts sector. The UK's creative industries have been identified as a strategic growth sector by the government.

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (360 GLH) in Performing Arts is part of a larger suite of Performing Arts qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the performing arts sector at the appropriate level. This can follow either directly after achieving the qualification, or via the stepping stone of Higher Education (HE) in university or college. By studying a BTEC National, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education.

**The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (360 GLH) is primarily an Applied General qualification, equivalent in size to an A level**, which has been designed to occupy one third of the curriculum within a broader programme of study, which could include other vocational or academic qualifications. Its main purpose is to allow learners to develop the core specialist knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, such as interpreting performance material and performing skills. The qualification consists of the following pathways:

- Unendorsed
- Acting
- Dance
- Musical Theatre
- Physical Theatre.

Each pathway has a common mandatory unit and its own distinctive mandatory unit, which cover the fundamentals identified by employers for each pathway, such as performing skills, the key principles of acting, dance techniques, different styles of physical theatre and musical theatre performance. It provides a basis for progression into a broad range of roles within the sector, when supported by relevant qualifications at level 2, such as GCSE English and mathematics, and/or at level 3, such as an A level in History, Drama and Theatre Studies. Learners have some opportunity to study in more depth a range of pathways of their choice, including Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre, Physical Theatre and an Unendorsed pathway supplemented by a range of optional units such as directing, singing techniques and different styles of dance including international dance.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Creative and Cultural Skills. A range of professional organisations and employers in the sector have also confirmed their support for this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts. This means it is a highly respected route for those who wish to move into employment in the sector, either directly or following further study.

A significant proportion of recruitment in this sector is at graduate level. The Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts also provides a well-established route into a variety of specialist Higher Education (HE) courses in this sector, when taken alongside other qualifications appropriate for the desired course of study. UCAS has reviewed the qualification to assess its value for access to higher education, and has allocated UCAS points.

See details published on the Pearson website here:

<http://www.edexcel.com/i-am-a/student/results/Pages/BTEC-equivalence.aspx>

In addition, a number of universities have individually confirmed that this Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts fulfils their entry requirements when achieved alongside other qualifications.