**November 2023**

**Dear Head Teacher**

**Irish Dancing Championships 2023**

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairperson of the Midland Regional Council of Irish Dancing which is a subsidiary body of the Irish Dancing Commission, an organisation with charitable status, based in Dublin

We have many dancers in the Midlands area who work extremely hard to gain an entrance place to National and International competitions, as well as maintaining their academic work and commitment.

These competitions are held annually and whilst competition organisers do their utmost to program such events out of school time, this is not always possible due to the ongoing increase of numbers to this sport.

Your cooperation in the past years has enabled many of your students to progress onto the international stage at World Class level.

I am writing to request permission for (Name of child) to be granted absence to attend (name of competition) on (dates of competition).

Dance is a great way to develop students’ life skills. Along with actual dance skills, the benefits are many such as developing social interaction, discipline, respect, dedication, physical health, teamwork, work ethics and attitude. Irish Dance also allows students to experience the history and traditions of Irish culture and also provides the opportunity to visit many places a student would not normally have chance to.

Many thanks, in advance, for your consideration with this matter and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me; I will be pleased to assist.

Yours faithfully,

**Kevin McCarron**

**Chair, Midlands Regional Council**