



Saint Cecilia's Church of England School

Application for a Specialist Music Place

Please read this information carefully, and discuss it with your child before deciding whether to complete the form overleaf.

What are specialist music places?

Specialist music places will be allocated to children who demonstrate a particular aptitude for music and are therefore likely to benefit from a specialist course in music at the school.

How many specialist places are available?

There are 15 places available. 8 of these places will be allocated to children who qualify for a Foundation place, and 7 will be allocated to children who qualify for Open places.

Which children should apply for specialist places?

Children do not need to have special knowledge of an instrument to be considered for a specialist music place. However, children who do not play an instrument, or have not taken any instrumental grades, or achieved any of the ribbons awarded by the Royal Schools of Church Music, will be required to undertake a preliminary assessment to determine their suitability for final assessment. The preliminary assessment will take place on Friday 21 September 2018.

What does the preliminary assessment process involve?

At this assessment, children will be asked either to play a short piece on their instrument or sing a short song of their own choosing, clap a rhythm back correctly and sing back a short series of notes played or sung to them. All children who complete these tests correctly will proceed to the final assessment, which will take place on Friday 28 September 2018.

What does the final assessment process involve?

Children who have passed the preliminary assessment or who have passed Preliminary/Grade 1 or above in any of the recognised examination boards or have achieved any RSCM ribbons will be invited to participate in the final assessment process. This will comprise of two sections:

• Performance

Children will be asked to perform either as a vocalist

or to play a piece or pieces on their first instrument (total maximum time 3 minutes). Vocalists may choose any suitable song but a list of appropriate songs will be available on request. All performers will be asked to provide a photocopy of the music for their own part. It is also possible to perform to a backing track on tape or CD. This must not have the solo voice part included, only the backing instrumental.

• Aural

Children will:

- sing a round with the teacher to show control of pitch and rhythm against a polyphonic melody;
- clap back a rhythm correctly;
- sing back a melody correctly;
- identify major and minor chords.

How will specialist places be allocated?

Children who go through to the final assessment will be given a mark for each part of the process and places will be allocated to the 8 Foundation place applicants and 7 Open place applicants with the highest total scores.

Where the number of Foundation music place applicants who meet the aptitude criteria for a specialist music place is less than 8, any unfilled specialist music places will be offered to Open place applicants who meet the aptitude criteria (in rank order according to their total score in the aptitude test as above).

How do I apply for a specialist place?

If you wish to apply for a specialist place, please complete the form overleaf and return it to the address at the bottom of the form by 7 September 2018.

Where can I get further information?

Further information about the assessment process can be obtained from:

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