



HOW TO APPLY FOR A MUSIC SPECIALISM PLACE AT BRISTOL CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL

Please read the information on this page for more information about the music aptitude assessment test to be taken by music applicants.

For entry into Year 7 2021, the music aptitude assessment test will be taken on **Saturday 3rd October 2020**.

*(*The date of the test has been changed from Wednesday 30th September 2020. We have now made alternative arrangements for the test to take place ensuring that we are adhering to all COVID-19 guidance.)*

The closing date for applications for a Music Specialism place will close at 9am on Monday 28th September 2020. However, to aid administration we encourage you to apply before this date.

Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) offers 10% of its intake to applicants who show an aptitude in music. In order to ensure equal opportunity for all, the school is unable to take into consideration music examinations achieved or teacher references.

If you wish your child to be considered under this criterion, please complete and submit our on-line music application form below by **9am on Monday 28th September 2020**.

Music Application Form - [click here](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens after I submit the music application form to the School?

We will send an email to you during the week commencing 21st September 2020 to invite your child to the test.

When and where will the music aptitude assessment test be held?

The music aptitude assessment test will be taken on **Saturday 3rd October from 9am** at the Cresswell Centre, BCCS.

Please note: unfortunately, there is no car parking on the school site, please use the following link for the nearest car parks.

[Parking](#)

Children applying to both BCCS and Trinity Academy will sit the music aptitude test at BCCS. The results of which will be sent to Trinity Academy. If your child achieves the score required in the first test for each school, they will be expected to attend the second music aptitude at both BCCS and Trinity Academy.

Please note in order to ensure that we adhere to COVID-19 guidance there will be several sittings of the test throughout the day. We will email details confirming the time your child should attend during the week commencing 21st September 2020.

If for any reason your child is unable to attend the original date please let us know **as soon as possible**. We will endeavour to make alternative arrangements where possible.

What does the music aptitude assessment test involve?

The assessment test is played on a CD and will last about 45 minutes. There are 50 questions of varying difficulty based on pitch, melody, texture and rhythm. Applicants put their answer on a multiple choice answer paper. Please note applicants are not required to play a musical instrument or sing.

How does my child prepare for the assessment test?

No previous knowledge of music or music theory is required by the applicant as the test is based entirely on response to an aural (listening) test.

Please remember the assessment test is for **aptitude*** in music, not ability, therefore no preparation is necessary. ***Aptitude** measures *potential* whereas ability measures attainment or what has already been achieved and the two should not be confused. The test is unique to the school and there are no practice papers available. In order to ensure equal opportunities for all music applicants, we will not take into consideration any teacher references or music certificates.

Will my child be given extra time if they have SEN needs?

No. The assessment test is played on a CD and will last about 45 minutes. Each section of the test is clearly explained and there is adequate time between each question. Staff will provide support where necessary.

How will I know whether my child has been successful in the first music aptitude assessment test?

Approximately 80 of the highest scoring applicants will be invited to attend the second music aptitude assessment test. This will be held on Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th October 2020. We will email details confirming the time and date your child should attend.

If my child has been unsuccessful in the first music aptitude assessment test can they still be considered for a place?

Yes. Provided you select BCCS as a preference of secondary school on your CAF, your child will be considered for general admission against the oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, including the random allocation process, as set out in the determined admission arrangements 2021/22.

What does the second music aptitude assessment test involve?

The second assessment test will be on a one-to-one basis with The Director of Music Specialism or or a music professional and will last approximately 10 - 15 minutes.

It will be a further opportunity to demonstrate **aptitude** in music; applicants will have to respond to various aural tests, which might include clapping back a rhythm and repetition of a melody.

Applicants are not required to play or sing a prepared piece but may be required to sing back notes played on the piano/keyboard; the quality of the voice is not being tested.

Will my child have to play a musical instrument or sing in the second music aptitude assessment test?

No. Applicants will not be required to play a musical instrument or sing a piece of their choice. In order to ensure equal opportunities for all music applicants, we will not take into consideration any teacher references or music certificates.

How will I know if my child has been successful in gaining a music specialism place?

It is our aim to take all reasonable steps to inform parents/carers of the outcome before the closing date for secondary school applications on 31st October. Parents/carers will be informed whether their child qualifies as one of the successful 10% under the music specialism oversubscription criterion. This information allows parents/carers time to make an informed choice of secondary school on their local authority common application form. This information does not, however, equate to a guarantee of a place at BCCS.

What happens if my child does not qualify for one of the 10% of music specialism places?

If your child does not qualify as one of the successful 10%, they will be ranked on the music specialism waiting list according to their scores from both music aptitude tests.

Your child will also be considered for a place against the oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, including the random allocation process, as set out in the determined admission arrangements 2021/22.

When will I know if my child has been offered a place?

Offers will be made by your home local authority, not the school, on the national offer date, 1st March 2021 or nearest working day.

Note: BCCS will not provide any further information about the results.

Important note about In Year admissions:

Music specialism places are only available during the secondary transfer normal admission round for Year 7 intake in September each year. Music places are **not** available for any in-year transfers.