

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2022/23 for 11 - 16 provision

Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) is an academy and part of Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) who is the admission authority.

Year 7 Admission

BCCS has a published admission number (PAN) of 150 pupils for entry into Year 7. The school will accordingly admit at least 150 each year if sufficient applications are received. All applicants will be admitted if 150 or fewer apply.

Applications for places at BCCS will be made on the common application form (CAF) in accordance with the local authority's co-ordinated admission scheme.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school. The places are reserved and the PAN will be reduced accordingly. Their parents should apply for a place via the service dealing with Special Education Needs in their home local authority and do not need to make an application on the common application form. If after the initial allocation of places an application is received from a child with an EHCP, we will go over PAN to accommodate the child.

Consideration of Applications

Priority will then be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in order;

1. Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Highest priority will be given to children with the status of 'looked after' children or 'previously looked after' children at the time the application is submitted and will be allocated places in this category.

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions. A 'previously looked after child' is a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, or became subject to a child arrangements or residence order, or a special guardianship order.

In order to be included in this category, a letter on headed notepaper signed by the child's fully qualified current or former social worker confirming their status must be submitted with the application or, if later, by the closing date for applications.

2. Probationer Chorister

Next, priority will be given to up to 8 children based on their membership of the Probationer Chorister programme at Bristol Cathedral. Children admitted under this criterion are not included in the 10% admitted under Music Specialism.

If there are more probationer choristers seeking admission than places available then the 8 places will be randomly allocated and the remainder placed on a waiting list. For the avoidance of doubt, children who cannot be offered a place under this criterion can also be considered against the other oversubscription criteria in order of priority if an application has been made. The applicant's address is not taken into consideration under this criterion.

Parents applying for a place under this criterion should complete and submit the [Probationer Chorister Form](#) by 31st October 2021 to CST.

3. Music Specialism

Next, up to 15 places of the Year 7 intake will be allocated to children who have demonstrated an aptitude¹ in our specialist subject area for music, using a music aptitude assessment test for pitch, melody, texture and rhythm. Parents will need to complete the music specialism application form available on the school website if they wish their child to be considered for one of these places. The closing date for applications to sit the music aptitude test is **9am Monday 27th September 2021**.

The music aptitude test will be held on **Saturday 2nd October 2021** and parents will be informed of the result of the test before the closing date for applications which is 31st October 2021.

For further details and frequently asked questions about the music aptitude assessment test please see the school website.

For the avoidance of doubt, the applicant's address is not taken into consideration under this criterion. Children not demonstrating aptitude will be considered alongside all

¹ *Aptitude measures potential, ability measures attainment or what has already been achieved and the two should not be confused.*

other children against the other oversubscription criteria, in order of priority including random allocation if their parents apply for a place.

4. Children of Staff

Next, children who are sons / daughters of serving employees of Bristol Cathedral Choir School.

This will include all teaching and non-teaching staff, who have;

- a. been employed permanently at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or;
- b. where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

For the avoidance of doubt, the applicant's address is not taken into consideration under this criterion. Parents applying for a place under this criterion should complete and submit the [Staff Supplementary Information Form](#) by 31st October 2021 to CST. Please note that the parent applying on the CAF to the home local authority should be the member of staff.

5. Feeder School

Next, priority will be given to children who are on the roll of Cathedral Primary School, on the date of application, as the designated feeder school for Bristol Cathedral Choir School. For the avoidance of doubt, the applicant's address is not taken into consideration under this criterion.

6. Siblings

Next, children who, on the date of admission, will have a sibling on roll at Bristol Cathedral Choir School (11-16 provision).

A sibling is defined as a natural brother or sister, or a half brother or sister, or a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, or step brother or sister who will be living with them permanently at the same address. Step brothers/sisters are defined as children who are not necessarily related biologically (including foster children) but are living in the same household for the majority of the time at the address the admission authority considers to be the address of the child for whom the application is made.

For the avoidance of doubt this does not include cousins, other family members, friends or siblings in the BCCS 6th Form (Post 16). The admission authority may require proof of relationship and/or proof of residence. The applicant's address is not taken into consideration under this criterion.

7. Other children living in Bristol local authority postcode areas BS1 to BS16

For other children not falling into any of the above categories, random allocation i.e the drawing of lots, will be used to decide the remainder of the places for children living in any Bristol Local Authority postcode areas BS1 to BS16. This process will be overseen by an independent body.

8. Other children not living in Bristol local authority postcode areas BS1 to BS16

In the event of any places still available these will be allocated by random allocation i.e the drawing of lots, to other children living outside of the above postcode areas. This process will be overseen by an independent body. Note: applicants living in South Gloucestershire Local Authority whose postcode is BS15 or BS16 will be included in this category.

Tiebreak

If in categories [1-8] above a tie-break is necessary to determine which child is admitted, random allocation will be used to decide who will be admitted and this process will be overseen by an independent body.

Twins/Triplets

Random allocation will not be applied to multiple birth siblings (twins and triplets etc.) from the same family tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over PAN.

Applicant's Home address

The home address is where a child normally lives. Where a child lives with parents with shared parental responsibility, each for part of a week, the address where the child lives is determined using a joint declaration from the parents stating the pattern of residence. If a child's residence is split equally between both parents, then parents will be asked to determine which residential address should be used for the purpose of admission to school. If no joint declaration is received where the residence is split equally by the closing date for applications, the home address will be taken as the address where the child is registered with the doctor. If the residence is not split equally between both parents then the address used will be the address where the child spends the majority of the school week.

For the avoidance of doubt, in categories [1-6] above, the applicant's address is not taken into consideration to determine whether a child meets these criteria.

Late Applications

All applications received after the deadline for secondary applications will be considered to be late applications. Late applications will be considered after those received on time. If, following consideration of all applicants the school is oversubscribed, parents may request that their child is placed on the school's waiting list.

Admission of children outside normal age group

Children are normally educated in school with others of their age group; however, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may request that their child is admitted to a year group outside their normal age range, for instance where the child is gifted or talented or where a child has suffered from particular social or medical issues impacting his or her schooling. All such requests will be considered on their merits and either be agreed or refused, on that basis. If a request is refused, the child will still be considered for admission to their normal age group.

The process for requesting such an admission is as follows:

With the application, parents should complete the form below to request that the child is admitted to another year group, and the reasons for that request;

[Form to request an out of year group admission](#)

Completed forms should be sent to the Admissions Officer, Cathedral Schools Trust, College Square, Bristol, BS1 5TS or via email to:

admissions@cathedralschoolstrust.org

Parents will submit any evidence in support of their case with the application, for instance from a medical practitioner, head teacher etc. Some of the evidence a parent might submit could include:

- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- Where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.

The Trust will consider each case on its merits, taking into account the individual circumstances of the request and the child's best interests. The Admissions Committee along with the Head Teacher will then decide whether such an out-of-year group place will be agreed or refused. We will also ensure the parent is aware of whether the request for admission out of age group has been agreed before final offers are made, and the reason for any refusal. Requests for admission out of the normal year group will

be considered alongside other applications made at the same time. An application from a child who would 'normally' be a Year 8 child for a Year 7 place will be considered alongside applications for Year 7.

Waiting Lists

Where in any year BCCS receives more applications for Year 7 places than there are places available, a waiting list will be maintained by CST until 31 December in the year of entry. Parents wishing to stay on the waiting list beyond this date will need to make a fresh application to the school using the online application form available on the school website.

Any parent will be able to ask for his or her child's name to be placed on the waiting list, following an unsuccessful application. For every added child to the waiting list, the list will be ranked again in line with the published admission criteria.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, as set out in categories [1-8]. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the published oversubscription criteria [1-8] above.

Unsuccessful music specialism applicants will be ranked alongside all other children against the oversubscription criteria, in order of priority including random allocation, if an application has been made.

For the avoidance of doubt, during the normal admission round for the Year 7 intake, where a music specialism place becomes vacant it will be reallocated from the next highest scoring applicant based on the combined scores achieved in both music aptitude tests, if an application has been made.

Children who are allocated to BCCS in accordance with Bristol Local Authority's In-Year Fair Access Protocol, will be given precedence over children on the waiting list.

Admission to other year groups

CST is the admission authority and administers all in year applications for BCCS.

Parents/carers seeking admission for any year group, other than for the normal point of entry may make an application using the online application form on the school website.

CST will consider all such applications and if the year group applied for has a place available, a place will be offered. Parents/carers will be notified in writing of the outcome of their in year application and have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel if a place is refused.

A child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, in order of priority. Where places become vacant they will be allocated to children on the waiting list in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The waiting list will be reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added or leaves it.

For the avoidance of doubt there are no probationer chorister or music specialism places for in year admission. These places are for children as part of the normal admission round for Year 7 only. Waiting lists are terminated annually at the end of the academic year. A new application needs to be made each year.

Appeals

Parents/carers who are not offered a place for their child have a right of appeal to an independent appeal panel constituted and operated in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code. Parents/carers wishing to appeal should submit an appeal form with their written reasons within the timescale set out in their refusal letter confirming the admission authority's decision not to offer a place. Should an appeal be unsuccessful, the admission authority will not consider further appeals within the same academic year unless there have been significant or material changes in the child's circumstances. For further information about the appeal process contact The Admission Officer; admissions@cathedralschoolstrust.org

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