



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.

Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) offers up to 10% of its intake (up to 15 places) to applicants who demonstrate an aptitude in music in relation to this particular music aptitude assessment test. The test is a 2-stage process. Highest scoring applicants from the initial test will be offered a further music aptitude assessment test.

For entry into Year 7 2026, the initial music aptitude assessment test will be taken on **Saturday 27th September 2025**. If you wish your child to be considered for a music specialism place, please complete and submit our on-line music application form available on the school website by **9am on Friday 26th September 2025**. However, to aid administration nearer the date of the test we encourage you to apply before this date.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

Once you have completed your application and clicked submit, a confirmation message will pop-up on screen. To aid administration we will start to contact you by email during the week commencing 15th September 2025 to invite your child to the test.

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

Both BCCS and Trinity Academy are Specialist Music Schools. **Please note this year the initial Music Aptitude Test is being held at Trinity Academy.** Children applying to both

BCCS and Trinity Academy will sit the music aptitude test at Trinity Academy which will take place on **Saturday 27th September 2025**

<https://www.trinityacademybristol.org/contact-us/>

Parking is available on the school site and surrounding roads.

Please note there will be several sittings of the test throughout the day. We will email details confirming the time your child should attend with your invitation.

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 initial music aptitude assessment test involve?

The assessment test is played on a CD and will last about 45 minutes. The questions are 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.

***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 we are not able to provide any practice papers. 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?

The highest scoring applicants will be invited to attend the second music aptitude assessment test. Tests will take place in October. We will email details confirming the time, date and location 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?

Children who sit the first music aptitude assessment test but who do not progress to the second music aptitude assessment test will be considered alongside all other children, as part of the normal Year 7 admission round, as set out in the BCCS admission arrangements 2026/27.

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 trained 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/playback 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?

Children will be ranked from highest to lowest according to their score from both tests. Children who do not achieve a place in this category because there are more qualifying applicants than places available will be placed on the music specialism waiting list in rank order. They will also be placed into the next category that applies and be considered for a place under that category too, as set out in the BCCS admission arrangements 2026/27.

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 2026 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.