

Admissions Information & Frequently Asked Questions

Application Form - Please read the [Bristol Cathedral Choir School admission arrangements 2026/27](#) before submitting an application for Year 7.

How do I apply for a place at BCCS for my child?

Simply complete the Common Application Form (CAF) provided and administered by your home local authority. (This will be where you pay your Council Tax).

The CAF normally opens mid-September on your local authority website and must be submitted by 31st October 2025. Please make sure you name Bristol Cathedral Choir School as a preference of secondary school on this form.

Do I need to complete a supplementary information form for my child?

- If you are applying under the probationer chorister criterion for your child please complete [this supplementary information form](#) and submit to admissions@bristolcathedral.org.uk by 31st October 2025.
- If you are applying under the staff criterion for your child please complete this [supplementary information form](#) and submit to admissions@bristolcathedral.org.uk by 31st October 2025.
- If you are applying for a music specialism place you can find out more information [here](#).
- It is not necessary to complete any supplementary information forms for general admission. Information about your child's primary school or sibling status is included on the CAF.

It is my intention to name BCCS as my first preference on the CAF. Will this be taken into consideration? No. Only the local authority is aware of parents/carers' preference choices. We consider all applications irrespective of preference choice against the published oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, as set out in the admission arrangements. The local authority will endeavour to offer you a secondary school place at your highest preference where there is a place available. Note that your **highest** preference where there is a place available may not be your first preference.

Is there any sort of test or entrance exam? No, there are no tests for general admission. The only test is the optional music aptitude assessment test for those applicants seeking a music specialism place. You can find out more information about music specialism [here](#).

My child lives equally with both my partner and myself at different addresses, what address will you consider? To ensure equal opportunity to all applicants, we can only consider the address that is on the CAF and this is normally the address of the parent who is in receipt of the child benefit or child tax credit and where the child is registered with a doctor.

My child has an Education, Health & Care Plan will I need to apply via the CAF? No, you will need to complete the Special Educational Needs (SEN) secondary transfer application form which is available from your local authority SEN department.

When will I know if my child has been offered a place? Offers for September 2026 entry will be made by your home local authority not the school on the first working day on or after 1st March 2026. This is the national offer date.

Oversubscription Criteria

Do you need to attend Church to apply to BCCS? No. The school is a Church of England faith school but we accept applications from families of all faiths and none. Faith is not an oversubscription criterion for the School.

I live close to BCCS and I know children who live further away from my address who attend BCCS, does this mean my child will be offered a place? No. All applicants will be considered against the published oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, as set out in the admission arrangements. Children living in the Bristol local authority postcode areas BS1 to BS16 take priority over applicants who live outside the Bristol local authority postcode areas. Distance to school or ease of journey is not taken into consideration.

I live outside the Bristol postcode area BS1 to BS16, can I still apply for my child? Yes. All applicants will be considered against the published oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, as set out in the admission arrangements.

I live outside the Bristol local authority postcode area BS15 or BS16, can I still apply for my child? Yes. All applicants will be considered against the published oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, as set out in the admission arrangements.

Does my child have to live in the Bristol Local Authority area to apply for a Music Specialism place? No, anyone can apply for their child to sit the music aptitude assessment test irrespective of where they live.

I have twins applying for Year 7 entry. If one is offered a place will the other be offered? Yes, and if children of multiple births (twins and triplets)

are tied for the final place, those siblings will be admitted over the published admission number PAN.

My child is applying for Year 7 and has a sibling who attends Cathedral Primary School; will he/she be considered under the sibling criterion? No, in order to be considered under the sibling criterion your child would have to have an older sibling who is on roll at BCCS in Year 7 to Year 11 at the time of admission or year of entry. (See the admission arrangements for a full definition).

My child is applying for Year 7 and has a sibling who attends the 6th Form at BCCS; will he/she be considered under the sibling criterion? No, in order to be considered under the sibling criterion your child would have to have an older sibling who is on roll at BCCS in Year 7 to Year 11 at the time of admission or year of entry. (See the admission arrangements for a full definition).

My child has a sibling at BCCS; will he/she be guaranteed a place? Only if there are not more siblings than there are places available. If there are more siblings than places, then random allocation will be used as a tiebreaker to determine who will be offered the places available.

I wish to make a request for my child to be educated 'out of their chronological age group', what should I do?

You should read the **admission arrangements 2026/27** for more details on how 'out of year group' requests are considered.

Complete the ['Out of Year Group' Application Form](#) with your request and detail the reasons why you feel it would be in your child's best interests to delay or accelerate starting Secondary school, and submit to;

admissions@bristolcathedral.org.uk

You should enclose copies of any relevant reports which support your request.

Further Questions? Contact: admissions@bristolcathedral.org.uk