



# Specialist Music Application Information

## 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 18 places available. 9 of these places will be allocated to children who qualify for a foundation place, and 9 will be allocated to children who qualify for an Open place.

## 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 but need to have a passion for music and performing. 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 aptitude test to determine their suitability for a final aptitude test. The preliminary aptitude tests will take place on Friday 18th October 2024.

## What does the preliminary aptitude test involve?

Children will be asked to play a short piece on their instrument or sing a short song of their own choosing, clap a rhythm back, sing back a short series of notes played or sung to them, and sing a round with the teacher, either Frère Jacques or London's Burning. All children who complete these tests adequately will proceed to the final aptitude test, which will take place on Thursday 24th October 2024.

## What does the final aptitude test involve?

Children who have passed the preliminary aptitude test or have passed Grade 2 or above in any of the recognised examination boards or have achieved any RSCM ribbons will be invited to participate in the final aptitude test. 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 is available on request. All performers will be asked to provide a photocopy of the music for their own part. The standard for performing is usually very high so please ensure your child is well prepared.

We will not have an accompanist here. You are welcome to bring your own accompanist, audio CD or send us an audio file in advance of the test. This must not have the solo part included, **ONLY** the backing instrumental. MP3 players or phones connected to speakers are acceptable if the track does not need internet access to play back. We reserve the right to stop assessing where these stipulations have not been followed. Please ensure that your child can operate and set up their own equipment.

### Aural

Children will:

- sight read/sing;
- clap back a rhythm correctly;
- sing back a melody correctly;
- identify major and minor chords.

## How will specialist places be allocated?

Children attending the final aptitude test will be given a mark for each part of the process and places will be allocated to the 9 Foundation place applicants and 9 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 9, 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 music place?

If you wish to apply for a specialist place, please complete online by Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

## Where can I get further information?

For any other queries, please contact our Admissions Manager:

Sally van der Meer  
Telephone: 020 8780 1244 (press 2 for admissions)

Email: [admission@saintcecilias.london](mailto:admission@saintcecilias.london)

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