

JOIN IN



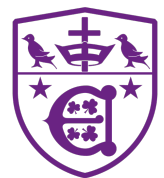
ST EDWARD'S
COLLEGE
LIVERPOOL



SPECIALIST MUSIC PLACE



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“The Music Faculty at St Edward’s College involves a wide range of pupils from across the school, but our specialist music place students lie at its heart. The quality and quantity of their achievements is extraordinary, and their contribution to the college’s music makes it what it is. We aspire to be the best we possibly can, and the professional way in which the pupils work, all the while having fun, makes it a huge pleasure to be leading the music here.”



MATTHEW O'KEEFE - DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

‘Specialist Music Places’ may be awarded at Year 7. They are prestigious placements which provide talented young musicians with a broad range of outstanding musical opportunities which support and develop their musical progression. Our Specialist Music Place students are expected to participate fully in the musical life of the school. They should be members of all ensembles appropriate to their instrumental speciality and will have plentiful solo performance opportunities, including regular performances at Friday recitals and an extensive concert schedule throughout the year. Their musical development will be supported with two music classes a week. As well as tackling the normal Year 7 curriculum, students on a music place will also work on composition, performance and music theory with the ambitious aim of reaching Grade 5 theory at the end of Year 9. They are expected to take a lead in all musical activities, and they should set a good example in participation, punctuality and general conduct. Music placements will be made based on ‘musical aptitude’, and of course, selected pupils can look forward to experiencing the extensive musical facilities and contributing to the musical life of the college.

To be successful in gaining a specialist music place, pupils must take an aptitude test at the College and submit a small video of them performing on their main instrument or voice.

MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE



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At St Edward's College, pupils are prepared for rewarding personal and professional lives with the intellectual, personal and social qualities and skills needed to make a positive difference to the communities in which they live. We are immensely proud of their enthusiasm, commitment and generosity towards each other.

Musicians have a busy schedule of informal and formal concerts and masterclasses, and regular internal and external performances of all sorts of musical styles. There are ensembles for all instrumentalists, and five choirs. St Edward's College performs multiple concerts each year, holds annual music competitions for individuals and by house, and has a wonderful subscription concert series, hosting international artists throughout the school year such as Domingo Hindoyan and The Sixteen.



LIFE AS A SPECIALIST MUSIC PLACE STUDENT



Hi, I'm Holly and I'm in Year 7. I am so happy I got into St Edward's College on a specialist music place for singing. We do all different things in music such as music theory, performances, concerts, weekly Friday recitals and much more. My teacher Mr O'Keeffe teaches me how I can be better at singing, and I get the chances to do solos. I have done a solo in the Christmas concert and the House Choir Competition in the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Crypt.

Hello, I am Ayo and I really enjoy music because it is fun and a challenge. I get to go to Junior Orchestra and piano lessons every week. It also means I can go and meet new people to talk to and learn things with them. It is hard and demanding sometimes but definitely worth it!

Hello, I'm Isabella and I am a Year 7 specialist music place student at St Edward's College. St Edward's College is a great school especially for its music capabilities. I received a place from the school for piano but I am also Grade 5 flute. St Edward's College has helped be a lot with my music elements and at the start of the year I didn't know how to do music theory and now I am Grade 2 already! It is a very outstanding school for everything they do.

Hi, I am a specialist music place student at St Edward's College. As a Grade 3 guitarist and a Grade 1 drummer at this college. As a music student you will have two lessons a week with either Mr O'Keeffe or Dr Howard; both teachers are very nice and are both support you throughout your musical journey at the college. In addition, you will be able to have many opportunities for extra-curricular activities for music: for example, I do Junior Choir, Guitar Club and Junior Orchestra, but you can also have many other opportunities for other clubs such as Brass Ensemble, Flute Choir or Piano Club.

In addition, we can have peripatetic music lessons; if you are to play guitar you could come along to Guitar Club or your clubs for your instruments. All of the peripatetic music staff are very helpful and nice.

Hi, I am Rose, and I am part of the St Edward's community. I got in with a chorister place because I sing in the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir - that is a big part of St Edward's! Music is my favourite lesson because it is a fun learning environment and a safe space. As well as being a singer, I am also a Grade 2 guitarist and I have just started to learn the piano but I wouldn't be as good at music without Mr Okeeffe or Dr Howard. Also, there are amazing opportunities like solos in concerts and weekly Friday recitals to show your talent! One of the things we do in our music class is theory which helps you educate yourself in music and sight-reading. It is an amazing opportunity and if you love music, you would love this class! I hope this inspires you to choose this path for St Edward's College.

Hi, I am Callum and I go to St Edward's College on a music place. I really enjoy it because it means I'm able to be in multiple bands such as Junior Orchestra and Young Voices Choir. Moreover, all the music teachers for music are very inspirational and kind. They encourage you to try music if you do not get into St Edward's College on a music place; many other options for music are available like starting an instrument such as a flute, trumpet, keyboard, piano, clarinet and others. I myself am a Grade 2 musician; I play the trumpet. Instrumental teachers from around Liverpool come into our school and help us continue our music journey through St Edward's College. It has really helped me improve as I will be doing my Grade 3 music test very soon.

Being in on a music place is a great thing: you have two lessons a week doing theory and creating compositions. There are many clubs for everyone (Orchestra, Choir and instrument clubs). All the teachers are really nice and help you when you are struggling. I have only been doing theory for two terms and I have finished Grade 1 and over halfway through Grade 2 already! Overall, I highly recommend you try and get in on a music place.

Hello, I'm Isla and I am a specialist music place student in St Edward's College. We have two lessons a week which includes music theory, different types of musical compositions and sometimes even performances like Friday recitals and concerts. By being part of this special music class, I have been able to express my talent which is singing by going to music clubs such as: Young Voices Choir, Junior Orchestra, being a chorister and way more! Just halfway through Year 7 I have managed to finish Grade 1 theory and I'm now on Grade 2!



BE PROUD



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“My son was fortunate enough to secure a specialist music placement at St Edwards College. Since being a pupil at the college, he has received the most amazing opportunities to sing and play guitar and has received incredible support from all of the staff within the music faculty. It’s been so lovely to see, and it simply wouldn’t have been possible without the gift of opportunity at the school.

He has had the chance to explore a plethora of different genres which has encouraged him to learn and enjoy many different pieces and experiences. The variety within the shows supports and enables an unparalleled development of diverse skills. The shows are always Uber creative, super professional and a pleasure to watch. The talent, effort and growing confidence amongst all the performers is admirable. My son’s love for music is flourishing and we have so much gratitude for the music faculty, its staff and all the great opportunities on offer at St Edwards College.”



BE PROUD



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“Holly is thriving within the music faculty at St Edward’s College. She has performed in the school concerts showcasing her talent. The encouragement and support within the faculty has boosted Holly’s confidence and she has even taken up another instrument.”

“We are so proud of Olivia and all the opportunities offered to her at St Edward’s College. The music faculty at St Edward’s College is truly exceptional, providing a nurturing environment where our daughter has truly flourished. Under the guidance of dedicated teachers and alongside talented peers, she has grown immensely in her musical abilities and passion. Whether she’s mastering new pieces on the piano, experimenting with different vocal techniques, or composing her own music, her journey in the music faculty has been nothing short of remarkable. I am incredibly proud of her accomplishments and the opportunities she has had to explore and excel in her musical talents. The faculty’s supportive community and high standards have undoubtedly contributed to her growth and success in music.”



MUSIC EVENTS 2023 - 2024



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St. Edward's College Music Faculty proudly present

THIS SHINING NIGHT

A concert for St Cecilia

St Edward's College Senior Choir and Orchestra

Liverpool Mozart Orchestra

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Choir



Wednesday 22nd November - 7.30pm. Tung Auditorium.

In my dreams

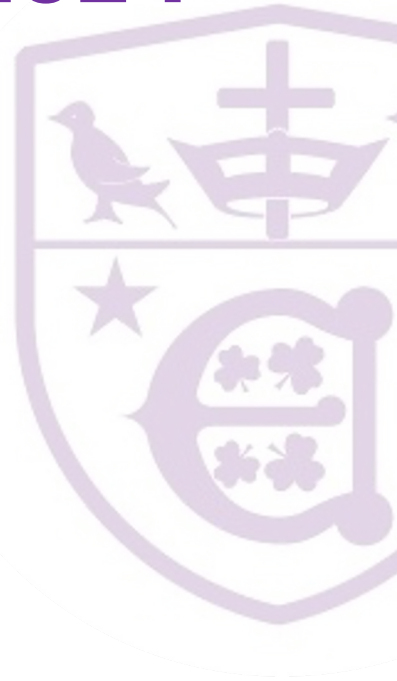
St. Edward's College Music Faculty

Wednesday 20th and
Thursday 21st March

College Hall, Tickets £6

MUSIC EVENTS 2023 - 2024

St Cecilia's Concert, 'This Shining Night' in the Tung Auditorium
Founders Evening at the Cathedral
St Edward's Day Mass at the Cathedral
Requiem Mass
Official City of Liverpool Remembrance Service at St. George's
Plateau
Christmas Concert
Domingo Hindoyan Visit
Carol Service at the Cathedral
Spring Concert, 'In My Dreams'
House Choir Competition in the Cathedral Crypt
Year 7 Spring Recital
Year 13 Leavers' Concert
Junior Summer Concert
Choir Tour to Venice
Music Festival, 'Summer on the Stage'



DOMINGO HINDOYAN
CHIEF CONDUCTOR OF THE ROYAL
LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

PERIPATETIC LESSONS

ENHANCING MUSIC EXCELLENCE

Our school is proud to offer an outstanding peripatetic (peri) music lesson programme, which provides numerous advantages and opportunities to all students at St. Edward's College. These lessons are designed to nurture each student's musical potential through personalised, high-quality instruction. Here are some key features and benefits of our peri system:

1. One-to-One Lessons:

We believe in the value of individual attention, which is why all our peri lessons are conducted one-to-one. This ensures that each student receives tailored instruction that caters to their specific needs and goals, without the distractions or limitations of group lessons.

2. Duration and Frequency:

Each lesson is 30 minutes long, providing ample time for in-depth exploration of musical concepts and techniques. Students receive 10 lessons per term, ensuring consistent progress and development.

3. Competitive and Reasonable Costs:

Our peri lessons are competitively priced at £160 per term for 10, 30-minute sessions. This cost-effective approach makes high-quality music education accessible to all our students.

4. Expert Instructors:

Our instructors are professional musicians with expertise in their respective fields. They bring a wealth of experience and knowledge, ensuring that students receive top-notch instruction.

5. Excellent Facilities:

Lessons are delivered in a suite of 6 well-equipped practice rooms, each with its own piano. Students also have access to the Recital Room and College Hall as needed, providing them with a professional environment to hone their skills.

6. Structured Curriculum:

Our peri instructors use relevant examination syllabi from esteemed institutions such as ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall, Rock School, and LCM. This structured approach ensures that lessons are aligned with recognised standards and tailored to the pupil's level and aspirations.

7. Performance Opportunities:

Peri lessons naturally lead to numerous performance opportunities within the school. Students can showcase their talents in weekly Friday Recitals, school concerts, competitions, and off-site events. Additionally, they can participate in our extensive extra-curricular music program, further enriching their musical journey.

By choosing our peri music lessons, students benefit from a comprehensive and supportive environment that fosters musical excellence and personal growth. We are committed to helping each student achieve their highest potential and look forward to seeing them thrive as musicians.

The aim of our Music Home-College Agreement is to ensure that each individual pupil makes the best of the opportunities provided at St Edward's College



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THE COLLEGE SEEKS TO:

1. Provide a safe, well organised and caring environment with high expectations, where music can prosper, and individual musical talent can be developed to the full.
2. Provide opportunities for pupils' musical development through a wide range of extra-curricular music groups.
3. Recognise and celebrate pupils' achievement in music examinations (ABRSM, Trinity, Rockschoo etc).
4. Provide a range of instrumental and vocal lessons for pupils to opt in to.
5. Provide a weekly singing lesson equating to five half-hour lessons per term (Choristers only).
6. Contact parents if there are concerns with attendance, punctuality or behaviour in peripatetic lessons.
7. Keep parents informed about the progress of their child in instrumental/singing lessons through regular feedback by the peripatetic teacher.

WE EXPECT PUPILS TO:

1. Continue with their instrumental/vocal development.
2. Attend all instrumental/singing lessons punctually.
3. Bring the correct books and instrument needed for the lesson.
4. Attend Junior Choir (vocalists) and/or Orchestra (instrumentalists) until the end of Year 11 (progressing into the senior groups in Year 10 - alternative commitments will be agreed for male singers when their voice changes).
5. Attend weekly rehearsals for Junior Choir/Orchestra and be available for performance in concerts.
6. Perform in at least one recital/assembly per academic year.
7. Study Music at GCSE level (although not compulsory).
8. Study Music Theory with the ambitious aim of achieving Grade 5 by the end of Year 9.
9. Be outstanding role models and ambassadors for the College at all times.

WE EXPECT PARENTS TO:

1. Ensure that their child checks the music noticeboard on a weekly basis and notes the time for their instrumental/singing lesson.
2. Ensure that their child arrives at their instrumental/singing lesson on time.
3. Contact the peripatetic teacher with an explanation on the first day of any absence due to illness.
4. Ensure that their child arrives at their instrumental/singing lesson with their instrument/books, having completed all practice required for the lesson.
5. Take an interest in their child's musical development and support them by providing a suitable environment for music practice.
6. Pay for any singing lesson which is missed without notifying the peripatetic teacher in advance with good reason for absence (Choristers only).

APPLY



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Music Aptitude Test for entry September 2025

The College will admit 35 children on the basis of their aptitude in music. Candidates will be assessed and ranked according to their religion and places allocated as follows:

1. Baptised Catholic Choristers of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. The maximum number of children to be admitted under this priority will be 17. Any unsuccessful applicants are able to apply to the school for general musical aptitude assessment under criteria 2 below. [Choristers of the Metropolitan Cathedral are selected on the basis of their musical aptitude as displayed during a voice trial. In the voice trial, candidates are marked on their musical aptitude in rhythm, pitch and vocal/instrumental ability. Each candidate receives the same test, and marks are given in each section. Voice trials are assessed by members of the Cathedral Music Department, and the process is moderated by an external assessor for the sake of independence.]
2. Other baptised Catholic candidates on the basis of the score in the assessment of musical aptitude.
3. Candidates of other Christian denominations on the basis of the score in the assessment of musical aptitude.
4. Other candidates on the basis of the score in the assessment of musical aptitude.

In the Aptitude for Music criteria 2 to 4, if two or more applicants' musical aptitude scores are tied, the tie-break will be via a random allocation process.

If it is not possible to allocate all of the 35 Aptitude for Music places the remaining places will be included within the Faith Criteria.

Applications to the College are part of the Coordinated Admissions Arrangements operated by Liverpool Education Authority. Applications for places for Year 7 in September 2024 should be made to the Home Local Education Authority (applications must be made online) and also directly to the College using the faith application form (online via College website) if applying for a place requiring documented proof of baptism or Catholic practice. **The closing date for applications to St Edward's College is 19 October 2023. Applications should be made online via the College website. It is advisable for parents to check the closing date of their Home Local Authority, since these vary.** When allocating places to Year 7 in September 2025, the College will coordinate admission arrangements with the Liverpool Education Authority and will follow the equal preference scheme determined by the Education Authority.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As you consider applying for this specialist music place, it is essential to understand the two components of the application process.

- 1. Aptitude Test:** The first part of the application process involves an aptitude test. This test is structured to assess your child's innate musical abilities, focusing on their capacity to recognise and interpret subtle differences in melodies, pitches, and rhythms. It is important to note that this test is designed to be accessible to all students, and no specific preparation is required. We believe it measures the natural musical aptitude that students possess, rather than their learned skills. The test is marked out of 50 and all questions are multiple choice.
- 2. Performance Upload:** The second part of the application process requires the upload of a performance by your child on their main instrument or voice. This performance should not exceed three minutes in duration. Unlike traditional auditions that assess technical proficiency, our evaluation of these performances also emphasises aptitude over ability. We aim to gauge your child's musical potential, their expressiveness, and their ability to convey emotion through their performance.

Cathedral Choristers

We are pleased to inform you that Cathedral Choristers also fall under the banner of the Specialist Music Place Programme. However, there are many spaces available for non-choristers as well. We welcome all students with a passion for music to apply, regardless of their current involvements in the chorister programme.

Understanding the difference between aptitude and ability:

Aptitude refers to a natural inclination or talent for a particular activity or skill. In the context of music, aptitude encompasses factors such as sensitivity to pitch, rhythm, and melody, as well as creativity and musical intuition. It represents the inherent potential for musical expression that individuals possess.

On the other hand, ability refers to the level of skill or proficiency that one has acquired through practice, training, and experience. While ability is important in mastering an instrument or voice, our programme prioritises the recognition and development of aptitude, as we believe it lays the foundation for sustained musical growth and creativity. It is essential to emphasise that our assessment of aptitude provides a completely equal opportunity to all pupils, regardless of their backgrounds or prior musical experience.

In terms of preparation, I'm glad to inform you that the test primarily assesses students' aptitude in spotting subtle differences in melodies, pitches, and rhythms. It's designed to be completely accessible to all pupils, and there's no need for specific preparation as it aims to measure innate musical aptitude rather than learned skills.

While there aren't specific practice materials tailored to our college's test, I encourage your child to engage with a variety of musical experiences, listen to different genres of music, and perhaps explore basic music theory concepts. These activities can help foster a general appreciation for music, which may indirectly support performance on the test.

We hope this explanation clarifies the application process for our Specialist Music Place programme. Should you have any further questions or require assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to support your child's musical journey in any way we can.

Matthew O'Keeffe
Director of Music



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WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Submission of application for music aptitude test

WEDNESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 4.00pm



Performance video to be submitted

Parents will be required to submit a video of their child playing one piece of music using one instrument or voice. The piece should last no longer than 3 minutes.

MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 4.00pm



Music aptitude test to be held in College

Applicants will be invited to attend a listening test in pitch and rhythm, lasting approximately 30 minutes.

TUESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 5.00pm



Results to be posted

FRIDAY 11th OCTOBER



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