

## 'Specialist Music' Admissions Information for Parents



**Ealing Fields**

High School

15 places within Ealing Fields High School are made available each year for students applying for a place in Year 7 and with an identified natural aptitude for music.

The application process is designed to test a child's natural ability to hear and discriminate differences in:

- Pitch
- Rhythm
- Chords
- Melodies

As such, a child can be awarded a 'Specialist Music' place based on musical aptitude, irrespective of any prior instrumental or vocal tuition.

### **How to Apply:**

1. Complete the Specialist Music Admissions application form [online](#) by 12 noon Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Parents applying for a place under this criterion are reminded that they must also submit the PAN London Common Application Form to their Local Authority by the closing date (31<sup>st</sup> October 2023). Please do not submit any music proficiency certificates, as previous musical experience is not relevant to the application process.
2. All applicants will be invited to attend **Round One** on one of the stated dates.
3. Your child's score will be issued together with news as to whether they have been invited to attend **Round Two** of the process.
4. Your child's Round Two score will then be added to their Round One score and a list of final results, in descending order, will be compiled. Those ranked in places 1-15 will be notified on National Offer Day (early March) that they have been offered a music place (provided they have not received a higher preference offer).
5. Other applicants will be placed on a waiting list, ranked according to their score. If a place becomes available it will be offered to the applicant who is highest on the waiting list. In the case of a tie on score, those students living nearer the school as the crow flies will be given priority.
6. Those not successful in obtaining a Specialist Music place are still eligible to apply for a general admissions place through the PAN London Common Application Form.

**Though this is not a condition of admission, students admitted to Ealing Fields High School under a Specialist Music Place will be expected to:**

1. Make an active contribution to the school community through commitment to our extra-curricular rehearsal and performance programme.
2. Make outstanding musical progress across all three disciplines of performing, composing and listening as a result of both the Music College curricular and extra-curricular programme.
3. Learn either a String, Woodwind or Brass instrument (including guitar) as either a first or second study instrument.

The application process is as follows:

Date	Detail
<p><b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Noon</b></p>	<p>Deadline to complete Music application form online.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 5-6pm OR Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 4-5pm OR Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 4-5pm (day and time to be agreed with the school)</b></p>	<p><b>Round One:</b> Unseen listening test designed to assess students’ ability to discern and discriminate between different pitches, rhythms, chords and melodies. This test will be carried out in the Ealing Fields Performance Centre under exam conditions in one hour. <b>This is marked out of 60.</b></p>
<p><b>10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024  (day and time to be agreed with the school)</b></p>	<p><b>Round Two:</b> The highest scoring students will be invited to come into school for a second formal assessment within the Music Department. They will be given a series of aural tests during which time they will be required to clap or play back various rhythms and pitches using classroom instruments. They will also listen to some recordings and identify the instruments being used. This will take approximately 20 minutes. <b>Marked out of 40.</b></p>
<p><b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b></p>	<p>Second round candidates informed of their position on the ranked list. Those numbered 16 or below who wish to apply to Ealing Fields under the other criteria should submit their application to their local authority <b>by 31st October 2024.</b></p>
<p><b>June/July 2025</b></p>	<p>Interview with the Music Department to identify exact package to be selected.</p>

**Expectations of those students admitted on a Specialist Music Place:**

<p><b><u>Extra-curricular commitment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership of choir</li> <li>• Membership of ensemble appropriate to instrument/voice from choice of options within Music College extra-curricular programme</li> <li>• Incremental increase in commitment year-on-year</li> <li>• Attendance at a weekly Music Scholars Musical Skills session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsory sessions equate to 2 – 2.5 hours' per week</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Instrumental Tuition commitment*</u></b></p> <p>Students may receive a discount on individual tuition</p> <p>A progress report for each student will be completed and a copy given to the Music College by students' tutors, whether in receipt of tuition through Ealing Fields instrumental programme or privately.</p> <p>All students will be expected to enter and pass annual practical exam on their instrument through ABRSM, RockschooL or Trinity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students with no previous musical experience will be enrolled on a tuition programme for strings, woodwind or brass.</li> <li>• Students already learning piano, drums, or vocals will be able to apply for discounted individual or free small group tuition on a second instrument within Ealing Fields instrumental programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Curriculum</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 7+8 – Additional challenge within differentiated curriculum to bridge gaps in musical learning and extend current level</li> <li>• Year 9 – Enrolment on elective music, accelerated music course available</li> <li>• Year 10/ 11 – Enrolment on GCSE course</li> <li>• Year 12/13 – Enrolment on A-level Music course, subject to meeting minimum entry requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students enrolled on 'Specialist Music' place would also be expected to take on a leadership role within their curriculum lessons.</li> </ul>

\*further information regarding this will be given to students who are successful in gaining a place.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Does my child need to be able to play a musical instrument?**

*No. Application for places is open to **all** students but, should your child gain a 'Specialist Music' place, they will be expected to learn a String, Woodwind or Brass instrument either individually or in a small group.*

### **Will my child be expected to sing?**

*Yes. Round Two of the application process will involve some aural tests which will require your child to sing short phrases in response to the teacher's direction. All 'Specialist Music' students will be expected to sing in a school choir.*

### **My child has already passed a number of practical exam grades on their musical instrument, will this help my application?**

*No. The application process takes no account of previous musical experience although this information is always useful to us should they be offered a place.*

### **My child has instrumental lessons outside school, should I continue with these?**

*We are able to offer tuition on Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Drums, Piano, Keyboard, Voice, Guitar (Acoustic, Electric and Classical), Bass Guitar and Theory. It is up to you whether you decide to receive tuition through us or privately and this will be something that will be discussed further at your child's induction interview should they be successful. All children enrolled on a 'Specialist Music' place will be expected to learn either a String, Woodwind or Brass instrument as a first or second study instrument.*

### **My child is involved in lots of musical activities already, what commitment will they need to show to Ealing Fields?**

*Students enrolled on a 'Specialist Music' place will be expected to commit to a minimum of two to two and a half hours' per week of wider musical learning within the Music College. This will include a Music Scholar Musical Skills session, membership of a choir and at least one other activity.*

### **My child has a Special Educational Need. Will they be given a concession during the application process?**

*If you feel that the school needs to be informed of any special educational need or disability that may affect the testing process, please let us know so that any necessary arrangements can be made. Your child's current school will need to provide full details of the level of support currently provided during assessments so that we are able to make arrangements as deemed appropriate.*