



Prospectus for Year 7 Entry 2024

www.saintcecias.london



Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School

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‘You and your team have created a caring, supportive and successful learning community where pupils attend regularly and achieve well. Pupils reported that they feel safe and well supported in school. The school’s ethos is underpinned by the Christian faith and is much valued by parents and carers and pupils.’

Ofsted 2018

An Introduction to Saint Cecilia’s Church of England School

Welcome from Renata Joseph, Headteacher

A warm welcome to you, from me and the Saint Cecilia’s family. I hope our prospectus will give you an insight into our wonderful school.

I am immensely proud to be the Headteacher of Saint Cecilia’s Church of England School. We are an inclusive, co-educational and community orientated academy, for pupils and students, aged 11-18 years. Specialising in the teaching of Music and Mathematics, Saint Cecilia’s is a well-respected and oversubscribed school. Teaching is exceptional, our curriculum is challenging and standards of behaviour are high.

Proudly Christian, we value the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God. Our success and culture for learning and achievement is built upon a commitment to Christian values and high expectations of all in our school community. Faith, service, courage, justice, hope, love, reconciliation and community, are at the heart of our school family and firmly rooted in our ethos and relationships.

Our school mission statement ‘Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education’, spells out what we seek to achieve and why.

Our school scripture, ‘I came so that you may have life, and have it abundantly’ (John 10:10), is one I hope resonates with you all, whether you have a faith or not, because at its essence, it means we offer an abundance of opportunity and inspiration for all. Everyone at this school is invited to realise their potential, thrive and flourish.

We are on an exciting journey, as we aspire to be a ‘Great’ school. A school with a Great Curriculum, that is full of opportunity. A school that offers pupils and students Great Learning experiences, in and beyond the classroom. A school with a culture of Great Professionalism amongst all, and a school which understands the importance of Great Partnerships with parents and the community.

Whether you are a prospective pupil, parent or carer, I am excited that you are considering joining us on this journey, and look forward to meeting you in person.



Staff and Governors

Board of Governors

The Governing Body is committed to the school's mission of 'Glorifying God through outstanding, enjoyable education' and to raising the standards of achievement of all our pupils and students. The membership of the Governing Body comprises both elected and nominated representatives: parents, staff, the community and Local Authority.

Name	Category of Governor	Date of Appointment
Renata Joseph	Headteacher	23rd April 2019
James Ewins KC	Chair of Governors - Diocesan Foundation Governor	12th January 2017
Martin Andrews	Vice Chair of Governors - Diocesan Foundation Governor	31st January 2016
Nicola Wild	Diocesan Foundation Governor	12th January 2017
Carl Membery	Co-opted Governor	1st September 2019
Mike Cox	Staff Governor	1st September 2020
Fiona Simpson	Foundation Governor	1st September 2020
Bejoy Pal	Foundation Governor	30th January 2021
Suzanne Malton	Foundation Governor	30th January 2021
Luke Bevir	Foundation Governor	31st July 2021
Yewande Ogunkoya	Foundation Governor	31st July 2021
Ruth Woodcraft	Foundation Governor	31st July 2021
Toyin Akindeko	Co-opted Governor	1st January 2022
Kirsty Warwick	Parent Governor	1st January 2022
Tessa Lashley	Staff Governor	17th October 2022
Anouska Barnes	Parent Governor	30th November 2022

Year Leaders

Year 7:	Christopher Luke
Year 8:	Rosie Lonsdale
Year 9:	Mairead Gibbons
Year 10:	Louise Thompson
Year 11:	Alexander Bishop
Years 12 and 13:	Joanne Osborn

House Leaders

Schubert:	Sara Navarro Martinez
Archimedes:	Sophie Moulard
Ives:	Daniel Bowman
Newton:	Sarah Wood
Turing:	Niamh O'Grady
Carter:	Becky Butlin

Senior Leadership Team

Renata Joseph	Headteacher
Lucy Bush	Deputy Headteacher (Teaching, Learning and Professionalism)
James Owen	Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum, Assessment and Standards)
Paul Bishop	Assistant Headteacher (Director of Sixth Form)
Andrew Gillespie	Assistant Headteacher (Staff Development and Professionalism)
Andrew Harrington	Assistant Headteacher (Data and Assessment)
Anessa Lee	Assistant Headteacher (Personal Development and Student Leadership)
Jonathan Miller	Assistant Headteacher (Safety, Behaviour and Attitudes)
James Robinson	Assistant Headteacher (Technology, Challenge and Partnerships)
Dave Cobb	School Business and Development Manager

Curriculum Team Leaders

Stella Allan	Curriculum Team Leader for Art and Design
Omara Munoz Asensio	Curriculum Team Leader for Modern Foreign Languages
Alexander Bishop	Curriculum Team Leader for Physical Education
Ewa Bednarek	Curriculum Team Leader for Religious Studies
Liz Hogg	Curriculum Team Leader for Science
Anessa Lee	Curriculum Team Leader for PSHE
Lisa Morris	Curriculum Team Leader for Business Studies and Computing
Richard Noibi	Curriculum Team Leader for Mathematics
Joanne Osborn	Curriculum Team Leader for Geography
James Aldridge	Curriculum Team Leader for History, Government and Politics
John Wells	Curriculum Team Leader for Music
Claire Woodhouse	Curriculum Team Leader for English and Drama



Exam Results

In 2022, our GCSE results were impressive. For high attainers, Attainment 8 was significantly above the national average and in the highest 20% of all schools in 2022. Attainment for English and Mathematics was significantly above national averages and in the highest 20% of all schools in 2022. Average point score in English, Mathematics and Humanities was significantly above national averages and in the highest 20% of schools in the country in 2022. Progress in English and Languages was significantly above national averages and in the highest 20% of schools in the country in 2022.

GCSE 2022:

- Attainment 8: 55.1; Progress 8: 0.2
- Grade 9-4 English: 94%
- Grade 9-4 Maths: 87%
- Grade 9-4 English and Maths: 83.3%
- Grade 9-5 English and Maths: 61.5%
- English Baccalaureate average point score: 4.86
- Pupils entered into the English Baccalaureate: 34%
- Pupils staying in education or into employment after GCSE: 96%

A Level 2022:

24% A*-A

50% A*-B

72% A*-C

Leavers' Destinations

Each year, our A Level and BTEC students win places at their first choice of higher education destination. Our former students study at some of the most prestigious universities including Oxford and Cambridge, Russell Group universities and music colleges and conservatoires. They are studying for degrees in Engineering, the Sciences, Law, Medicine, Economics, Mathematics, Computing, Classics, Architecture, Music and Education amongst others. Those choosing to start work after Sixth Form have secured a range of positions and apprenticeships.



The School Day

Pupils must arrive before 8.45am each day. The school day starts at 8.50am. Pupils have a short break of 20 minutes in the morning and a 40-minute lunch break. There are five one-hour periods (lessons) each day. There is a 20 minute assembly or mentor meeting at the end of each day before school ends at 3.10pm.

At the end of the formal learning part of the day, our extra-curricular provision provides additional opportunities for pupils. Pupils are encouraged to attend at least two extra-curricular, enrichment or revision clubs per week.

The school runs a two-week timetable. This 10-day cycle is broken down into 'Week A' and 'Week B'. This provides greater flexibility to the curriculum and allows us to accommodate more subjects.

Monday - Friday

Years 7, 8, 9 and 12

Years 10, 11 and 13

8.50-9.50	Period 1	8.50-9.50	Period 1
9.50-10.10	Break (20 mins)	9.50-10.50	Period 2
10.10-11.10	Period 2	10.50-11.10	Break (20 mins)
11.10-12.10	Period 3	11.10-12.10	Period 3
12.10-12.50	Lunch (40 mins)	12.10-13.10	Period 4
12.50-13.50	Period 4	13.10-13.50	Lunch (40 mins)
13.50-14.50	Period 5	13.50-14.50	Period 5
14.50-15.10	Assembly/Mentor	14.50-15.10	Assembly/Mentor
15.10 onwards	Extra-curricular	15.10 onwards	Extra-curricular



Curricular Offer

Curriculum Plan

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9)

Pupils have lessons in all National Curriculum subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Art and Design, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education, PSHE and Religious Studies. One Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish) is taught in Years 7, 8 and 9. Homework is set regularly in each subject. During Year 9, pupils select their GCSE choices. Overviews of our full curriculum including hours of teaching in each subject are available on our website.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11)

Pupils are encouraged to study a range of subjects within a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. All pupils follow a compulsory core of: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, and Science (Double/Triple). As a Christian school, Religious Studies plays an important role and is a compulsory GCSE for all pupils. All pupils study PSHE and Physical Education, both of which are non-examined courses.

Pupils then choose from an exciting range of optional subjects. The current offer includes GCSEs in Art and Design, Computer Science, Drama, French, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, Textiles, and a Technical Award in Retail Business. Pupils must take one supplementary subject in order to allow them to achieve the 'Progress 8' performance measure. At present, pupils are allowed a free choice of whether to take the subjects leading to the English Baccalaureate.

More Able Pupils

We are a partner member of the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) and are committed to improving provision for our more able learners. National expectations for the high attainers are that they achieve at least grades 9-6 (A** - B grade equivalent) in all subjects at GCSE. However, at Saint Cecilia's it is expected that these pupils achieve at least 9-7 grades (A** - A equivalent) in all subjects. Those who are identified as the High Attaining pupils (based on Key Stage 2 test results) are given further challenge in lessons, through differentiated work, higher order questioning or tasks that are more independent. All pupils in school are provided with challenging and thought-provoking lessons to give them the opportunity to develop their academic strengths.





In recognition of the excellent quality of music education provided to pupils and sixth formers, the school has been accredited with the Music Mark.

Pupils who display a particular strength within a subject area are identified by departments as being Gifted for that subject. Pupils may be added or removed from these lists throughout the year. Teachers provide for these pupils through further challenges in lessons and may provide additional experiences outside of lessons, with visits and trips to places of interest, to help pupils develop their passion and academic strengths in the subject.

Special Educational Needs

We offer a range of provision to support children to access the school curriculum and make good progress. Teachers and support staff have access to information on each pupil, including previous data, EHCPs, pupil passports, reading ages and information passed from primary schools. This information, along with termly data from subject teachers, will be used to determine the support a child needs and whether this is in class or through additional support outside the classroom. Progress continues to be monitored and tracked during their time at Saint Cecilia's.

Specialisms: Music and Mathematics

As a specialist Music and Mathematics school, provision for talented musicians and mathematicians is outstanding. Every year, both departments achieve excellent examination results at GCSE and A Level.

Music

Our Key Stage 3 Music curriculum is highly innovative, up-to-date and designed to cover all styles of music to engage all our pupils in musical learning. All pupils have the chance to learn keyboard and other instrument skills in class. If your child wishes to learn a musical instrument or have vocal coaching, we offer an extensive programme of paid-for music tuition at the school. These take place at school, before, during or after the school day. Children have the opportunity to take either individual or group lessons to learn the following instruments:

Baritone/Euphonium	Drums/percussion	Piano	Tuba
Bassoon	Flute	Recorder	Viola
Cello	French Horn	Saxophone	Violin
Clarinet	Guitar - all styles	Trombone	Voice
Double Bass	Oboe	Trumpet	



Pupils benefit from high quality resources and extra-curricular activities such as Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Choir, Musical Theatre Club, trips to West End theatres, ENO and the Royal Opera House. They have the opportunity to perform at the Royal Festival Hall and attend an annual music tour abroad. Recent trips have included Lake Garda, Bruges, Tuscany, Malta and Salzburg.

We have a large number of pupils taking music at GCSE and continuing to study music to A Level or study our BTEC in Music Technology. To support students who wish to continue their music studies into higher education, we have experienced mentors for expert guidance with university and conservatoire applications. We have links with Crown Lane Studio, an award-winning recording studio in south west London to give our students experience of a professional music production environment.

Specialist Music Places (Music Scholars)

Nine Foundation and nine Open places will be offered to children who demonstrate that they have the aptitude and/or potential to benefit from a specialist course in music. As a music scholar, children receive a comprehensive package of support. They receive funded instrumental or vocal lessons in Year 7 and are set more challenging music work in curriculum lessons.

We organise a number of workshops each term exclusively for scholars. They are given a range of performance opportunities and play in concerts regularly. We invite them to attend the annual international music tour and they have priority access to our theatre, opera and concert trips. Music scholars also have extra support and guidance from our music staff for their personal musical development. If you would like to apply for a specialist music place for your child, full information is in the Admissions and Appeals section of this prospectus.

Mathematics

We adopt the Shanghai Maths Mastery style of teaching - mathematical concepts are covered methodically and in great depth in every lesson. This revolutionary method of teaching equips pupils with a long lasting understanding of Maths.

We are a Secondary Beacon School for the London South West Maths Hub. This Hub is part of a national network of 37 Hubs that work together in the national Maths Hub programme. Maths Hubs offer professional development opportunities for all staff in our Maths department. As a Secondary Beacon School, we host Maths 'Open Days' where staff from other schools are invited to Saint Cecilia's to observe best practice in the field.



Our Library

The Library at Saint Cecilia's is a busy and essential resource, receiving around 80,000 visits across the academic year. We have an excellent range of fiction books, from the classics to the latest best-sellers, as well as graphic novels. New stock is added throughout the year with recommendations from pupils, students and staff always welcome. Our information collection covers curriculum subjects and topics of general interest, and is regularly updated. We also have subscriptions to various magazines and online resources. The Library organises a variety of events for pupils, including Library lessons, author visits, participation in book awards, trips, book fairs, competitions, clubs and more. From Year 8 onwards, pupils may apply to become Pupil Librarians.

All pupils are automatically members of the Library, and Year 7 groups attend an induction session in September where they learn what we offer. This includes using their school photo card to borrow books and searching the catalogue for resources or seeing when their books are due for return. Highly-trained staff offer support to pupils, from helping with research tasks, to suggesting books based on previous reading choices.

The Library software, Accessit, allows users to search for books and online resources, reserve and renew items and more. Accessit can be viewed on any device and is accessed by the link on the Library page of the school website. The Library is open from 8am until 4.15pm every day and pupils/students may visit during break and lunch times as well.

Physical Education

Recognising its importance to pupils' well-being, our physical education provision is exceptional. We have four highly qualified teachers who deliver a PE programme that embeds the key concepts and processes as outlined by the PE National Curriculum. All pupils have a timetabled PE or Games lesson each week and we offer a number of sports related extra-curricular opportunities. We have a well-equipped sports hall, dance studio, and have the benefit of Wimbledon Park on our doorstep, which we use throughout the year for extra-curricular rugby, football and curricular athletics in the athletics stadium. We take pupils to Barn Elms Sports Centre in Barnes, which is a specialist multi-sports facility for their curriculum Games lessons. Across our core sports, we have a full fixture list against state and independent schools each season.



Saint Cecilia's Harlequins Rugby Academy

We are extremely proud of our partnership with Premiership Rugby Club, Harlequins. Each year, 26 Sixth Form boys enjoy a package of weekly coaching and training from professionals, whilst studying for A Levels or BTEC qualifications at Saint Cecilia's.

Members of our Rugby Academy benefit from weekly sessions including strength and conditioning training or nutritional support, the potential to attend Harlequins home matches and meet the First Team players, and an opportunity to be put forward for a trial at Harlequins. The 1st XV play weekly matches against both state and independent schools. In addition, all squad members receive less than half price membership to a local gym and special Saint Cecilia's branded kit.

Saint Cecilia's Netball Academy

Our netball academy is for senior girls who play netball, want to improve their game and play at the highest level. The academy offers Sixth Form girls regular coaching and support and many opportunities to help them develop.

Those selected for the Netball Academy receive an exciting raft of benefits. Members enjoy specialist coaching three times a week, special branded Saint Cecilia's academy kit, regular fixtures and tournaments of their own and less than half price membership to a local gym.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School is a proud supporter of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. We are delighted to offer the opportunity for pupils to complete the Bronze Award during Year 9 and Silver in Year 10.

The aim of the scheme is to help young people plan and undertake their own programme of activities, which allow them to develop mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually, becoming more motivated, disciplined and balanced as individuals. It is not all about expeditions!

Equally, the Award is about them learning new skills, exploring cultural heritage, assisting people within the community, or simply doing what they love.

For our Sixth Form students, we run an 'Open Offer' for the much coveted Gold Award, which means we will support students to plan and run their own activities. This will be invaluable for UCAS personal statements and interviews for jobs or university places.

Ultimately, the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards help to bring the best out of young people in a non-competitive environment. The skills they develop are valued by employers and will continue to reward them long into their working lives.



Extra-curricular Opportunities

Clubs

At Saint Cecilia's, we are proud of the wide range of extra-curricular clubs available to pupils, including sports clubs, music clubs, academic support sessions and hobbies. All clubs are offered free of charge and are run by members of staff. Children should make the most of the clubs on offer and we encourage all pupils to attend at least two extra-curricular activities per week. A list of extra-curricular clubs is published every term on the school website.

School Trips

We organise a range of day and residential school trips in the UK and abroad to further our pupils' and students' learning and provide them with rich and vibrant experiences. In recent years, trips have included educational visits to London museums and theatres, geography field trips, skiing trips to European resorts, musical tours for our concert band and choir to perform across Europe and ecological expeditions to Africa.

Most day trips are offered free of charge, however there may be a small charge to cover the costs of workshops or entrance fees. Residential trips are by their nature more expensive. Bursaries and financial support are available to those who may need help to meet the costs of day or residential trips.

Competitive Sport and links with Wimbledon Tennis

The school has strong rugby, netball, athletics and football teams, which compete in weekly local and regional competitions. Our rugby and football teams are very strong, compete in established inter-school friendlies, and progress well in regional and national competitions.

We run at least three netball teams for each year group. Our netball teams have won a number of trophies and are often crowned the South West London champions. Every year, our athletics teams represent Wandsworth Borough at the prestigious London Games.

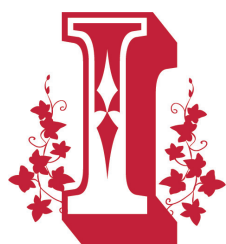
We have strong links with the All England Lawn Tennis Club and a number of pupils are selected each year as ball boys or ball girls for the Wimbledon Tennis Championships.



Schubert



Archimedes



Ives



Newton



Turing



Carter

Pastoral Support

Pastoral support is very strong at Saint Cecilia's, and it sets us apart from other schools. We seek to provide for the personal welfare of each individual child so that there are as few barriers to learning as possible. We want pupils to leave us having achieved their full potential, able to think and make decisions for themselves.

Each child has a mentor, is part of a house and can gain access to see one of our Well-Being Champions if they need support.

Mentors

We are rightly proud of our mentor system. Each child is assigned to a mentor group and mentor. Mentors keep an eye on each pupil's well-being and academic progress and will liaise with parents and teachers to ensure the pupil is happy, safe and making good progress. Mentor meetings take place three times a week and are an opportunity for mentors to check-in with pupils individually, as well as creating strong relationships within the group.

Mentors are a parent/carer's first point of contact should you be concerned about anything. If the query is subject based, the mentor will liaise with the relevant members of staff and respond to you with feedback. Your child's Year Leader can also assist you with any issues you might have.

Houses

Each year group is divided into six houses (S, A, I, N, T, C).

The houses are named after famous mathematicians and musicians to reflect our specialisms. The house system is extremely popular in school and provides a sense of competition, embodies our values and ethos and is an integral part of our school community. The House Cup is awarded to the house with the highest score at the end of each term, with the overall winner for the year announced in the end of year assembly in July.

Pupils help to accumulate points for their house through their attendance, effort in school and behaviour. There are various inter-house competitions held throughout the year, including Sports Day, football competition, Saint Cecilia's Bake Off and the Lip Sync Battle, with winners gaining points for their houses.

‘Pupils’ well-being and emotional needs are considered fully. When pupils experience difficulties, they benefit from good-quality guidance and care, including early help at the Bethany Centre.’

Ofsted 2018



Well-Being and Mental Health Support

We train a number of pupils from Years 9 and 10 in mental health awareness and first aid to become our team of Well-Being Champions. Working in pairs, they offer light touch support to children in Years 7 and 8 with issues such as building confidence in a new school setting, advice on approaching studies or friendship support. Our Well-Being Champions are part of Wandsworth’s Mental Health in Schools Project where they meet children in similar roles in other schools to share ideas and develop solutions to support fellow pupils.

We have a separate email account iwanttotalk@saintcecilias.london where children can privately contact us regarding any worries or concerns.

Chaplaincy and Spiritual Support

We have a full-time chaplain and a chaplaincy programme including assemblies, Collective Worship at the end of each day, and throughout the year we have parents’ and staff prayer meetings in school. We have a chapel for the use of pupils and staff, both for voluntary services and private prayer and reflection. Mentor meetings include a time of Christian reflection, meditation and prayer.

Our Worship in the Community events celebrate key dates in the Christian calendar. The whole school visit local churches to learn more about them and to experience a service. Throughout their time at the school, pupils take part in retreats to promote team spirit and encourage conversation about their differences. The retreats for Key Stage 3 pupils are designed to enable pupils to appreciate not only their individual value, but also the effect of their interaction with their peers and others, inside and outside of the school.

The Bethany Centre

Our Bethany Centre accommodates all aspects of support and inclusion, ensuring we meet the needs of all pupils, including those with Special Education Needs, those who speak English as an additional language and those with personal struggles such as bereavement. The Bethany Centre also holds coffee mornings and drop-ins for parents and carers.

Sessions are run by Learning Support Assistants, external professionals, the SENCo and teaching staff to support all pupils in the Bethany Centre. We liaise with many outside agencies and seek support and advice where necessary.



Opportunities to Flourish

Our aim is to give children an abundance of opportunity to help them flourish and to reach their full potential. Not only is this delivered through our curriculum and extra-curricular programme, but through the many opportunities pupils and students have to take on roles of responsibility across the school. This begins in Year 7 and continues through to Year 13.

Prefects and Junior Leadership Team

The role of **Prefect** is a highly important one and is a position of considerable responsibility. Our team of Prefects, selected from all year groups, act as role models for their fellow pupils and students. Whilst fulfilling the Prefect role, young people develop leadership skills whilst having significant influence on the daily life of the school. They represent the school at important events throughout the year including front-of-house duties at events such as Open Events and music events. Day to day, they carry out regular duties at break times and assist in the smooth running of the school outside of lesson times. In recognition of their status at the school, they wear a burgundy tie so they are instantly recognisable to pupils and staff. Saint Cecilia's is committed to listening to pupils and students and we have various initiatives for pupils and students to air their ideas and concerns.

We have a **Junior Leadership Team** with two representatives from each year group who meet twice each term with members of the school's Leadership Team. This gives pupils and students a voice on important school decisions and gives our young people ownership over aspect of school life. In the past year, the idea to offer free sanitary products at school came directly from pupils via the Junior Leadership Team. Members of this team sat on the panel to help select the new catering company and have given input into changes to uniform and rewards policies.

House Captains, Sports Captains, Charity Captains, Eco Captains

Each house has a number of positions for our pupils to gain experience of leading whole-school projects or working with senior staff on house initiatives. Our House Captains help House Leaders with inter-house competitions and help supervise, lead and manage house initiatives. Our Sports Captains assist with house-related sports events such as our annual Sports Day. Our Charity Captains co-ordinate fundraising for the school's nominated charity which changes each year. Finally, our Eco Captains devise initiatives with their House Leader to improve the school's green credentials. Applications for all these positions open at the start of the school year and are open to all pupils.



Admissions and Appeals

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School has a distinctive Christian ethos at its heart and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children learn and flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. We welcome applications from all members of the community and ask all parents/carers and applicants to respect the Christian ethos of our school and recognise its importance to our community. **Saint Cecilia's Church of England School admits 180 pupils into Year 7 each year.**

Foundation Places

We offer 90 places to children who themselves or whose parents/carers are practising members of a Christian church (see Note a and b) in the following order of priority:

- 1 Children in public care (looked-after children) and those who ceased to be looked-after children because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order (see Note c).
- 2 Those who attend Anglican churches.
- 3 Those who attend other Christian churches.

Within each of the above criteria, priority will be given in the following order to:

- i. children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application (see Note e and f).
- ii. children of staff (see Note h).
- iii. children living nearest to the school, using a straight line measurement (see Note i).

Open Places

We offer 90 places to children irrespective of their religious background. Priority will be given in the following order to:

- 1 Children in public care (looked-after children) and those who ceased to be looked-after children because they were adopted, or because they became subject to a residence order, child arrangements order or a special guardianship order (see Note c).
- 2 Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school at the time of application, providing the sibling accepted an Open Place (see Note e and f).
- 3 Children of staff (see Note h).
- 4 Children living nearest to the school using a straight-line measurement (see Note i).



Specialist Music Places (Music Scholars)

Nine Foundation and nine Open places will be offered to children who demonstrate that they have the aptitude to benefit from a specialist course in music. Places will be allocated on the basis of an aptitude test carried out in the Autumn Term, which includes a performance, either as a vocalist or instrumentalist, and a test of aural perception and awareness. Applicants will be placed in rank order according to their total score in the aptitude test.

Applicants will need to complete a Supplementary Information Form if they wish to be considered for a specialist place. This form is available via the Application Portal link which is on the Admissions page of our website and paper copies are available from the school office on request. Those not offered a specialist place will automatically be considered for a place under the general admissions criteria.

Where the number of Foundation music place applicants who meet the aptitude criteria for a Specialist Music place is less than nine, 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).

Nine Foundation and nine Open places will be offered to children who demonstrate that they have the aptitude to benefit from a specialist course in music.

Notes:

- a Attendance at a Christian church which is either a full member of “Churches Together in England”, The Evangelical Alliance, The Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches, The Association of Grace Baptist Churches, or, Affinity at least twice a month for two years immediately prior to application is required to be eligible to apply for a Foundation place. Governors do not give priority to families where both parents worship. In exceptional cases, a parent/carer for whom unavoidable circumstances have consistently prevented them from attending worship such that they have been unable to qualify for the faith-based oversubscription criteria, may be considered to be a faithful and regular worshipper; the relevant minister will determine whether or not there were unavoidable circumstances.
- b A reference will be sought from the minister or church leader at the place of worship for applicants for Foundation places.
- c Looked after children are children who are in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions as defined by Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time of making an application to the school. Previously looked after children are children who immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose main purpose is to benefit society. The Governors will require written confirmation that the child is looked after, or previously looked after, and will be so at the time of making an application to the school.
- d Any unfilled Foundation places will become additional Open places.
- e All unsuccessful applicants for Foundation places will be considered for Open places. However, where the applicant does not meet the criteria for eligibility for a Foundation place but has a sibling in the school on the date of application who accepted a Foundation place, the sibling link will be disregarded.
- f A sibling is defined as a full brother or sister, a step/half/adopted brother or sister living at the same address, a child who is living at the same address as part of the family by reason of a court order, or a child who has been placed with foster carers as a result of being looked after by a Local Authority.
- g The school is organised under one roof with a lift providing access to the upper floors. All classrooms may be accessed without steps and there is a ramp at the entrance to the playground. The school has six toilets designed for use by pupils with disabilities, including one with shower facilities. The school will take all reasonable steps to ensure that pupils with disabilities have the same opportunities as other pupils.
- h The member of staff must have been employed by the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or be a member of staff who was recruited to fill a vacant post where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- i Distance will be measured from home to school using a straight line measurement. This commences at the location of the property and terminates at the central point of the school site as determined by Wandsworth Council’s Geographical Information System. Measurements by alternative systems and/or to other points will not be taken into account in any circumstances.



Tie-breaker

In the event that two or more applicants have equal right to a place under any of the above criteria and there are insufficient places, the Governing Body will use distance in the first instance, to decide between applicants. Where applicants have identical distance measurements, priority amongst them will be determined by the drawing of lots supervised by someone independent of the school.

Application Procedure and Timetable

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School participates in the co-ordinated admission scheme of Wandsworth Borough Council. Applicants must complete their home Local Authority Common Application Form. Applicants who wish to be considered for Foundation and Specialist Music places or a staff place, must complete the supplementary information form(s). The school also adheres to the common timetable for admissions, including the arrangements for dealing with applications received after the closing date as set out in Wandsworth Borough Council's scheme. The Governing Body is responsible for in-year admissions to this school. However, parents/carers wishing to apply in-year should complete Wandsworth Borough Council's in-year application form and return it to the Council, which will then refer the application to the School. Having considered the application, the Governing Body will inform the applicant whether or not a place can be offered and advise the Council of the outcome.

Continuing Interest List

Parents/carers who are not offered a place may request to be put on the Continuing Interest List. If an application is received and a child is added to the waiting list, the list will be re-ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. The Continuing Interest List will be held until 31st August 2025, after which applicants will need to reapply.

Appeal Arrangements

Applicants refused a place at the school have the right to appeal against the decision to an independent admission appeal panel established under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Appeals must be received by Friday 29th March 2024. Should an appeal be unsuccessful, the Governing Body will not consider further appeals from those applicants within the same academic year unless there have been significant and material changes in their circumstances. If you wish to appeal, please download an Appeal Form from the Admissions section on the school's website.



Fair Access

The school is committed to taking its fair share of pupils who are hard to place in accordance with the locally agreed fair access protocol. Pupils admitted under the protocol will take priority over any children on the waiting list and this may include, on occasion, admitting above the published admission number.

Special Educational Needs

Parents/carers of pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are required to apply for school places separately through the Local Authority. If a child with an EHCP is placed in the school by the Local Authority before the normal admission round, the number of places available to other applicants will be reduced.

The Governing Body will admit all those pupils whose EHCP names the school, and whose need can be met by the school.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Children are educated in school with others of their age group. However, in exceptional circumstances parents/carers may choose to seek places outside of their child's chronological year group. Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case.

Parents/carers must state in writing clearly why they feel admission to a different year group is in the child's best interest and may provide recent professional evidence to support this.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply to Saint Cecilia's?

Please fill in the 'Common Application Form' on your Local Authority's website. If you wish to apply for a Foundation and/or Specialist Music place, please fill in the supplementary information forms, which are available via the Application Portal link on the Admissions page of our website.

What is a Foundation place?

Foundation places are the faith-based places we offer. Applicants for these places must have been attending a church for two years or more, at least twice per month at the time of application. Applicants for a Foundation place should fill in the supplementary information form available via the Application Portal link which is on the Admissions page of our website. We will then contact your minister for a reference.

What is the application deadline?

The deadline for applying for all places using the your Local Authority's Common Application Form is 31st October 2023. If you wish to apply for a Foundation and/or Specialist Music place, you need to submit an additional form, which is available via the Application Portal link on the Admissions page of our website.

The deadline for the Specialist Music place form is Monday 9th October 2023 and the deadline for receipt of the Foundation place form is Tuesday 31st October 2023.

Where can I get the supplementary information forms (Foundation place and Specialist Music place forms)?

Please click the Applications Portal link on the Admissions page on our website. Should you be unable to access the online forms, please contact the Admissions Manager to request paper copies.

What is your catchment area?

We do not have a defined catchment area. We admit children on the basis of the distance that they live from the school, with those who live nearest first.

Does my child need to sit the Wandsworth test?

No, we do not use the Wandsworth test score to filter the children.

When will the aptitude test for Specialist Music places take place?

The preliminary aptitude test will be on Thursday 12th October 2023. For those who pass the preliminary test, or those of grade two or above, there will be a final aptitude test on Thursday 19th October 2023.

What is involved in the aptitude test?

Applicants should be ready to play or sing a short piece, which is no longer than three minutes in length. They will be asked to sing as part of a round with the teacher, clap back a rhythm and sing back a short series of notes. In the second round, their sight reading will also be tested.



Step by step how to apply

Step 1:

Applicants must complete their home Local Authority's Common Application Form, available online at www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app

All Common Application Forms have to be submitted online by Tuesday 31st October 2023.

Step 2:

Applicants who wish to be considered for Foundation (faith-based) and/or Specialist Music places, must also complete the supplementary information form(s). These are available via the Application Portal link which is on the Admissions page of our website.

The deadline for receipt of the Specialist Music place form is Monday 9th October 2023 and the deadline for receipt of the Foundation place form is Tuesday 31st October 2023.

Step 3:

If you are applying for a Foundation place, we will write to your minister or priest for a reference to confirm that you meet the criteria. Please note that church attendance of twice a month for at least two years immediately prior to application is required to meet the Foundation criteria. Open places will be offered to children living nearest to the school using a straight-line measurement.

Step 4:

Applicants who have applied for a Specialist Music place will be invited to take a music aptitude test at the school in October 2023.

Step 5:

Outcome letters are sent to all applicants by the Local Authority on Friday 1st March 2024.



Saint Cecilia's

Church of England School

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