



P7.2 (ISI 15A) – ADMISSIONS POLICY

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Revision History

Revision	Paragraph Number	Revision
November 2017		
Autumn 2021	Whole document	Re-formatted to include revision history, paragraph numbers, Abbreviation, Acronym and Definitions table.
	Paragraph 2	New
	Paragraph 3	Last part of final sentence added.
	Paragraph 4	Rearranged and separated into two paragraphs.
	Paragraph 5	New (formerly part of paragraph 4)
	Paragraph 6	Rewritten to reflect latest practice (adapted as a result of COVID-19 learnings)
	Paragraph 7	New
	Paragraph 8	Last bullet point deleted (replaced by new section)
	Paragraph 9 - 11	New
	Paragraph 13	Rewritten
Paragraph 14	New	

Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition
DoM	Director of Music

Aim / Objective / Statement of Intent

1. The School's admission process is intended to identify children who possess the necessary musical talent and temperament to thrive at YMS. Selection is based primarily on musical potential, but a thorough assessment of the applicant's overall suitability towards life in a specialised boarding environment is key to determining the outcome of any audition. It is the School's aim to offer places to children who will not only excel musically, but who will integrate successfully amongst their peers and become happy and settled members of the school community. The School is wholly inclusive and endeavours to be means-blind through the provision of bursary funding to those who require it.
2. Promoting equal opportunities is fundamental to the aims and ethos of The Yehudi Menuhin School. Our policy is not to discriminate against anyone because of gender, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, cultural background, linguistic background, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, or special educational needs or disabilities.

Introduction

3. Entry to the School is by rigorous selection following a series of auditions, interviews and consultation lessons. There is no formal deadline for applications or fixed point of entry, and auditions may take place at any point in the school year, but early applications are recommended as limited bursary funding is available.

Selection Process

4. All people who enquire about the School are automatically invited to the next available Open Day to find out more about the School and the performance standards expected of any pupil of the School. Interested parties may also request consultation lessons from YMS instrumental teachers, intended to act as a platform for honest feedback regarding the child's suitability for YMS, at an additional expense if they are UK based.
5. The **first stage** of the admissions process is the submission of three recordings of a candidate's performance on their chosen instrument, presented in an easily downloadable and commonly used format or – ideally – as a YouTube link. An Application Form and application fee should accompany the recordings. The recordings enable the Director of Music to assess the suitability of any candidate for a full audition at the School.
6. An invitation to a **Full Audition** will be at the discretion of the Director of Music, following a review of the application form and accompanying recordings. The Full Audition comprises several separate elements:

- At least one consultation lesson with a member of the music faculty
 - A test of general musicianship hosted by a member of the Academic Music department
 - An interview with the Director of Academic Studies, the Director of Pastoral Care or house staff to ascertain the candidate's overall suitability for the YMS environment
 - A performance of two contrasting pieces for a panel comprising the Director of Music, the Headmaster and, if deemed appropriate, another member of the music faculty. The performance will be followed by an interview to assess the candidate's motivation and temperament.
 - A further discussion will be conducted with the candidate's parent(s), during which the Headmaster will request clarity on any comments made on the application form relating to support needs, and the DoM will outline the School's expectations and responsibilities.
7. Although in-person auditions are preferred, it may be possible to conduct the audition process remotely on occasions when international and/or long-distance travel is non-practicable. The school reserves the right to insist upon a face-to-face audition if it is deemed necessary in order to accurately assess the candidate's overall suitability.

Selection Criteria

8. When assessing an applicant's suitability for study at YMS, the audition panel will take into consideration a number of key criteria, including (but not limited to):
- Musical potential
 - A genuine love and/or curiosity for/about music
 - Temperament
 - The overall balance of instruments across the school
 - Available space in the boarding house
 - Year group size
 - Appropriate entry points for academic study
 - Availability of bursary funding
 - Suitability for a boarding environment
 - Ability to access the academic curriculum

Students with English as an additional language (EAL)

9. During the audition process, where relevant, students will have an informal assessment of their level of spoken and written English from our EAL teacher. This will then determine their current level and the EAL tuition required if a place is offered. There may be an additional cost for this provision if it is deemed necessary in order to access

the broader academic and music curriculum. The School may require additional tuition in English (to be undertaken prior to arrival) as a condition of entry.

Scholarships (sometimes known as exhibitions)

10. Due to the unique funding of the School, the terms 'Scholarship' and 'Bursary' are sometimes used interchangeably.
11. Certain scholarships may become available during a pupil's time at the school. Some may be awarded at the discretion of the Director of Music and/or the benefactor, following an outstanding musical performance; others may be open to application.

Siblings

12. There is no guarantee that siblings will be offered a place at the school. Siblings will be assessed following the above selection process.

Deletions from the Admissions Register

13. The School will promptly inform the Local Authority when it proposes to remove a pupil's name from the Admissions register. The School will remove a pupil's name from its admissions register only in accordance with the Pupil Registration Regulations 2006 (As amended in 2016) as summarised below:-
 - Where the pupil is the subject of a school attendance order and another school is substituted by the Local Education Authority except where it has been agreed that the pupil should be registered at more than one school;
 - Where the School has received written notification from the parent that the pupils is receiving education otherwise than at school;
 - Except in the case of a boarding pupil, that the pupil has ceased to attend the school and no longer ordinarily resides at a place which is a reasonable distance from the School;
 - Where a pupil fails to return to school for a period of more than ten school days after any authorised absence;
 - Where the School does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend the School by reason of sickness or any unavoidable cause;
 - Where the School and the Local Education Authority have failed, after reasonable enquiry, to ascertain where the pupil is;
 - Where certified by a registered doctor or consultant that the pupil is unlikely to be in a fit state of health to attend school before ceasing to be of compulsory school age, and neither the pupil nor the parent(s) has indicated

to the school the intention to attend school after ceasing to be of compulsory school age;

- Where the pupil has been continuously absent from the school for a period of not less than twenty school days and at no time was the absence during that period authorised by the School or due to sickness or any unavoidable cause;
- Where the pupil is detained in pursuance of a final order made by a court or of an order of recall made by a court of the Secretary of State for a period of not less than 4 months, and the School does not have reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will return to school at the end of that period;
- Where the pupil has died;
- Where the pupil will cease to be of compulsory school age before the school next meets and the relevant person has indicated that the pupil will cease to attend the School; or
- Where the pupil has been permanently excluded from the School;

Complaints

14. We hope that you will not have any complaints about our admissions process, however details of our complaints procedure can be found in our P7 Complaints Policy, available from the School or via our website.

15. The School's contractual terms and conditions are available on request.