



The
Yehudi
Menuhin
School

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Written / Updated By:	Deputy Head (Academic) Director of Music	Autumn 2023
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Revision History

Revision	Revision
November 2017	
Autumn 2021	Re-formatted to include revision history, paragraph numbers, Abbreviation, Acronym and Definitions table.
Autumn 2023	Inclusion of details about accessibility, main entry points, 3-day stays. Clarification of scholarships and appeals.

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 to not discriminate against anyone because of gender, race, religion or belief, cultural background, linguistic background, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, or disabilities.
3. Where possible, the School will endeavour to meet the requirements of pupils with special educational needs, pending careful consideration and consultation on a case-by-case basis.

Introduction

4. 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, and every effort is made for pupils to be admitted at the beginning of an academic year.
5. Pupils may be admitted into any year-group, however the main entry points are:
 - a. D (Year 5 or 6)
 - b. C1 (Year 7)
 - c. C3 (Year 9)
 - d. A1 (Year 12)
6. Under normal circumstances, the school will not usually admit pupils mid-way into a course (GCSE or A level)

Selection Process

7. All people who enquire about the School are automatically invited to the next available Open Day, if appropriate, to find out more about the School and the performance standards expected of its pupils. 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. Parents are charged for the consultation lessons. 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; the Director of Music may share the recordings with relevant colleagues for further review.

8. 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:
 - Two consultation lessons with a member of the music faculty, usually a week apart
 - A test of general musicianship hosted by a member of the Academic Music department
 - An interview with the Head, the Deputy Head (Academic), the Houseparent, and the School Nurse 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 and 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 DoM will outline the School's expectations and responsibilities, raise any pertinent matters relating to the candidate's suitability, and offer opportunity for the parent(s) to ask further questions about the School.
9. 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.
10. Where there is uncertainty about a prospective pupil's suitability, the school may invite the pupil to spend a trial period in the school (usually three days), to observe the pupil in a boarding and whole school environment. This may also be used as an additional assessment of the pupil's English language ability.

Selection Criteria

11. 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
- Fluency in English

Students with English as an additional language (EAL)

12. 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

13. The School does not offer merit-based scholarships, the terminology of which should not be confused with means-tested bursary support.

14.

Siblings

15. 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

16. 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 2023 as summarised below:-

- Where a pupil has been registered at another school
- Where a pupil is also registered at one or more other schools and the other schools have agreed the deletion
- 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/Appeals

17. The School's complaints policy is not available for use by prospective pupils or their parents.
18. Parents may request feedback if their child's application is not successful, but no appeal against the School's decision will be allowed.
19. The School's contractual terms and conditions are available on request.