



Guidance on Year 7 Priority Music Specialist Places For September 2025

Introduction

Wymondham College offers up to 16 priority specialist places for students applying for Year 7 (age 11+) who demonstrate a particular aptitude in Music. These are not scholarships, and in the case of Boarding Places (or Day+ places) the full fee remains payable.

Up to eight places are available to Boarders and up to eight places are available to Day Students for entry in September 2025. These places will be allocated on the basis of performance in an Assessment of musical aptitude conducted by the College.

Application Process

Boarding Places

In order to be considered for a Music Specialist Boarding place, parents/carers must indicate on the Y7 Boarding Supplementary Application Form that they would like a Music Specialist Place and submit the form by the published deadline. The External Relations Department will confirm receipt of the application and correspond with details of the Assessment in writing.

Day Places

In order to be considered for a Music Specialist Day place, parents/carers must complete a Y7 Priority Music Supplementary Application Form and submit the form by the published deadline. The External Relations Department will confirm receipt of the application and correspond with details of the Assessment in writing. Parents/Carers must also complete the Local Authority Common Application Form process for transfer to secondary school for their child in parallel.

Assessments

There are two Assessment dates each year and applicants must be able to attend one of these dates:

- Friday 27 September 2024
- Friday 15 November 2024.

Those who apply early enough to be included in the first Assessment will receive notification of whether they have met the required benchmark before the national closing date for Year 7 Admissions on 31 October.

Those who apply after the first Assessment date has passed, or after the first Assessment date has been filled, or who are unable to attend the first Assessment date for some other reason, will be able to attend for the second Assessment date.

Both Assessment dates provide the same opportunity to gain a place at the College and there is no advantage to be gained from attending one Assessment rather than the other.

Please note: Meeting the required Assessment benchmark does not guarantee a place at the College: This is because places are allocated according to our oversubscription criteria as outlined in our current Admissions Policy. In addition, if more applicants meet the required benchmark than there are places available, places will be allocated according to proximity.

Candidates for these places should have:

- A proven talent on their main instrument;
- Natural performance skills;
- A gift for the subject that enables them to learn quickly.

The Music Assessment involves a 15 minute individual Assessment conducted by a member of the Music department. This Assessment comprises the following elements:

- Performing - Candidates demonstrate their aptitude for performing instrumentally, or vocally. Candidates are asked to perform on their main instrument with suitable accompaniment. Candidates are welcome to bring their own accompanist or backing track (Tape, CD or MD) with them. Proficiency in a second instrument is not required, but candidates may perform on a second instrument if they wish;
- General Musical knowledge - Candidates demonstrate their aptitude for analysing their performance music;
- Aural Tests - Candidates demonstrate their aptitude to respond to music they have heard through singing, clapping and answering questions;
- Sight-reading - Candidates demonstrate their aptitude to interpret music notation that they have not seen before.

Assessment results

Applicants who attend the first Assessment will receive notification of whether they have met the required benchmark by 31 October. **Meeting the required Assessment benchmark does not guarantee a place at the College.**

In the case that there are more students who achieve the benchmark than there are places available, the oversubscription criteria detailed in the current Admissions Policy will be used to determine which applicants are allocated the Music Specialist Priority Places.

The College cannot enter into correspondence or discussion with parents concerning the outcome of the second assessment date and is not permitted to communicate information concerning whether or not an applicant who has taken the second assessment, has met the required standard.

This is in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Statutory Schools Admissions Code. The outcome of the assessment will be evident when the allocation of places is communicated to parents by their Local Authority (in the case of applicants in England) or the College (for other candidates).