

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL SCHOOL



ADMISSIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Salisbury Cathedral School is a co-educational preparatory and choir school which caters for pupils from ages 3 to 13. Currently the school has 172 pupils, of whom approximately 40 are boarders. The school educates the boy and girl choristers of Salisbury Cathedral.

The Registrar is responsible for all aspects of the registration and entry procedure. Prospective parents and their children are strongly encouraged to visit the school before registration, either through arranging an appointment with the Head Master or through attendance at one of the two Open Days (held in the Michaelmas and Trinity Terms), details of which are published on the website. Parents are invited to tour the school.

A third Open Day is held in November, very much with the Choristers in mind and is called 'Be a Chorister for a Day'. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and parents to see the school and to gain an insight into the life of the Choristers.

On all Open Days, tours of the school are organised with opportunities to meet the Head, teaching staff and pupils.

THE ENTRY PROCEDURE

The school is not academically selective, but pupils are assessed during a 'taster' day in advance of entry and a report from the previous school is requested. Choristers gain admission to the Cathedral Choirs through the annual voice trials held in the Lent term. Selection for the choirs is based upon musical ability, but each candidate is also assessed academically. It is hoped that all pupils will benefit from the balanced and well rounded education provided and that they will make a positive contribution towards school life. The school has a strong tradition in music but this is by no means a pre-requisite for entry.

The main points of entry are at 3+ and 7+ and for choristers, at 8+ and 9+ but, subject to places being available; pupils may enter at any stage. Please contact the Registrar for details.

EQUAL TREATMENT

Salisbury Cathedral School is committed to equal treatment of all its pupils, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or social background. We ensure that we do not treat disabled pupils less favourably and take reasonable steps to avoid putting disabled pupils at a substantial disadvantage and will make reasonable adjustments as required.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Pupils with special educational needs are welcomed. Pupils are screened to ensure that the Learning Support Department can offer them the support which they require. Parents of children with special educational needs or physical disabilities are advised to discuss their child's requirements with the Head Master during their first visit to the school, so that needs may be assessed from the outset. Medical reports or a report from an educational psychologist are valuable where appropriate, for example when assessing the need for extra time in exams or if other special arrangements are required.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Junior and senior scholarships are awarded to pupils aged 8+ and 11+ respectively, with the assessments taking place during the Lent term. Scholarships are awarded for excellence in academic subjects, music, sport and art. The value of each award is 10% of the day or 15% of the boarding fee. Parents are asked to indicate on the registration form whether they wish to apply for a scholarship. Details of the arrangements and requirements will be sent to those who express an interest.

The Governing Body is also prepared to consider requests for bursary assistance, particularly from those who have been awarded scholarships but are unable to take up the place for financial reasons. Bursaries are awarded following completion of a means test form and awards are reassessed on an annual basis. Parents wishing to apply for a bursary should contact the Business Manager.

Choral Scholarships (Choristerships) are offered by the Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral and are awarded after successful completion of a voice trial, usually when the child is 7 to 9 years of age. The Registrar will be pleased to provide more information about the voice trials which are held each year in the Lent term.

All scholarships are held for the duration of a pupil's time at the school, subject to satisfactory conduct and application to work.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

Overseas pupils are welcomed to board at the school, provided that he/she has a relative or legal guardian living in the United Kingdom with whom he/she can stay at some weekends or during holiday time where necessary. In order to cope with the academic and social demands of the school, pupils must have at least a basic grasp of the language. Tuition in English as an additional language (EAL) can be arranged at parents' expense.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Pupils are not selected on the basis of religious belief, but parents should be aware that the school has strong Christian roots and is closely linked with Salisbury Cathedral. There are regular assemblies based on the Christian faith, exemption from which is permitted with notification from parents but all pupils are expected to attend the annual Speech Day held in the Cathedral.

SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Copies will be made available to parents as part of the admissions process.

COMPLAINTS

It is hoped that there will be no complaints about the admissions process, but copies of the School's complaints policy is available on the website under policies.

Person responsible for this policy:	Headmaster
Last Review:	November 2011
SMT approved:	November 2011
Next Governing Body Review:	Lent Term 2012