



Yehudi
Menuhin
School

Admissions Policy

Reviewed By:	Leadership Team	Summer 2026
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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.
Summer 2026	Updated to reflect school policies

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)

Information Sharing

7. We require parents to inform the School at the outset of the application process about any needs (including special educational needs) which their child may have or any other significant matters which the School should reasonably be aware of because, for example, it would necessitate tailored provision and/or would materially impact on their child's attendance at School and/or ability to engage in

day-to-day School life. We also require applicant parents to be transparent about any circumstances which may

8. materially impact their ability to comply with the School's Parent Contract, for example, in respect of fees.
9. The School may wish to discuss these matters with the parents and/or require some further information.
10. Parents must ensure that information provided is accurate, complete and not misleading and relevant details and information (or changes to them) are shared in a timely and transparent manner.
11. A failure to disclose relevant information and/or the provision of inaccurate, incomplete or misleading information may - in some cases - lead to the withdrawal of an offer or termination of the School's Parent Contract.

Special Educational Needs

12. The Yehudi Menuhin School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs. Our policy is to apply our admission selection criteria to all potential pupils. We require parents of children with special educational needs, disabilities or allergies (suspected and diagnosed) to discuss their child's needs with the School at the outset of the admissions process so that we can consider and make – to the extent reasonable – appropriate provision for them.
13. Parents are required to provide, with the Application Form, full details of all relevant information about their child, including any reports (including any educational psychologist reports, medical reports or assessments or other relevant expert third party reports), materials or information about their child's needs (educational, health or otherwise), and this may include any final or draft EHC needs assessments (or applications for a needs assessment) or final or draft EHC Plans (or applications for an EHC Plan) or equivalents.
14. This is so that the School can assess their child's needs and consult with parents about any adjustments which can reasonably be made and so that the School can ensure, for example, that their child will be able to meaningfully access the education offered and that we are able to ensure their health and safety, and the health and safety of others. This information should be provided prior to the admissions assessment process.
15. Where parents of a prospective pupil feel their child requires adjustments (in respect of the admissions process and/or with regards to education at School and participation in School life in the event they are offered and take up a place at the School), parents should raise these with the School at the outset and the School may – depending on the circumstances - require some further information from parents or request further assessments in respect of the needs identified and will discuss with parents (and their child's medical advisers, if appropriate) the adjustments proposed and whether they can reasonably be made for the child if they were to become a pupil at the School.

16. There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's special educational needs and/or disability. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments (in the case of disability), we feel that a prospective pupil is not going to be able to meaningfully access the education offered, or that their health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, or where the School cannot reasonably accommodate the adjustments required or reasonably provide the nature or level of the support required.
17. Sometimes, the situation of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs changes between an offer of a place being made and the pupil starting at the School. The School requires parents to be pro-active in updating the School as to any changes which mean that the information provided during the application process is out of date or incomplete. In the vast majority of cases, this will not affect a pupil's place at the School. However, the School may, in exceptional circumstances, need to reconsider the offer of a place if a pupil's circumstances change materially. It is in the pupil's interests that any such decision is made as early as possible to avoid any disruption to their education, so parents are urged to be forthcoming and transparent in their communications with the School about any material change to their child's circumstances.
18. In the event your child has an EHC needs assessment or EHCP (or equivalent) (whether at the application stage, draft or final form) it is important that these (and the applicable supporting documentation, e.g. educational psychologist reports or other expert assessments) are shared promptly with the School and that the School is kept up to date with respect to any relevant decisions of the Local Authority or changes in provision.

Selection Process

19. 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.
20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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

23. 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)

24. 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.

Bursaries

25. The Yehudi Menuhin's bursary programme is generous and is designed to make it possible for as many of those who meet the School's entry criteria to take up a place here. Bursaries are means-tested. Bursaries are always offered for 12 months at a time. The family is required to provide fresh information about its circumstances for every year that their child attends the School. Levels of support may vary with fluctuations in income or wealth. A bursary may be withdrawn in accordance with the terms upon which such award is made or otherwise in accordance with the School's Parent Contract.

Scholarships

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

Siblings

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

Financial Information

28. Any applicant for a place at the School, including those who apply for bursary support and overseas applicants, may at the discretion of the School be required to provide additional financial information and/or undergo checks to confirm that they are able to pay the School's fees (or any percentage of the fees still payable if a bursary or scholarship is granted). As noted above, we expect applicant parents to be transparent with the School in respect of any concerns they may have about their ability to meet their obligations under the Parent Contract, including in respect of fees.

Overseas Applicants

29. We welcome overseas pupils to study at The Yehudi Menuhin School provided that they have the legal right to enter, live and study in the UK and, if boarders, they have a UK based educational guardian for the duration of the child's education at the School.
30. If your child's visa is sponsored by the School then you will need to comply with additional UKVI Home Office requirements which apply in respect of your child's living arrangements during and outside of term time and while they are in the United Kingdom. You must provide us with the evidence regarding your child's living arrangements used in support of their visa application and inform us immediately if there are any changes to those arrangements. You must also provide us with such information we may require from time to time to evidence your child's living arrangements.

Records and Review

31. Applicants' details will be held on file with due regard to data protection legislation. Please see the School's Data Protection and Retention Policy for further information about how the School collects, uses and processes personal data.
32. The School will not hold the personal data of you or your child for longer than is necessary for a lawful purpose and in accordance with our Data Protection and Retention Policy. This will generally be for up to one year following an unsuccessful application, but reasons to retain personal data for longer might include: if the parents express an interest in the applicant re-applying for any reason at a later date; or to deal with any ongoing matters or queries arising from the application.

Deletions from the Admissions Register

33. 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 pupil 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

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