

# Primary to Secondary Applications for September 2026



## Criteria 7 - PROVEN APTITUDE IN MUSIC

Admission criteria regarding Music Aptitude tests are held in October.

**Applications to register a child for Music Aptitude will close on Friday 10th October.**

Our Musical Aptitude Tests do not require a child to have any knowledge of music theory or have achieved any formal graded levels. They are designed to test a child's natural musical ability and their musical potential. As such, **please do not send in** any accompanying certificates, references or digital media as we will not be able to take these into consideration.

Results of the Musical Aptitude Test will be released via email no later than 4pm on October 24<sup>th</sup>. **After the results of the tests are published, anyone wishing to continue with their application for a place at St Mary's College based on musical aptitude must submit the Common Application Form available from the Local Authority and select St Mary's College as their first preference.**

This must be done by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Musical Aptitude Test is in two parts; part 1 is a listening test and part 2 is a practical test.

### **Musical Aptitude Test – Part 1**

The written test is split into four parts:

- **Pitch:** candidates listen to two sounds and must indicate whether the second sound is the same as the first, or whether it is higher or lower
- **Rhythm:** candidates listen to two patterns of notes and must decide whether the second pattern is the same as, or different from, the first.
- **Melody:** candidates listen to two tunes consisting of five notes. Candidates must decide whether the second tune is the same as the first or if one of the notes has been altered.
- **Listening to Music:** candidates will listen to a short piece of music and be asked to identify 2 statements about it which are true from a list of 5.

## **Musical Aptitude Test – Part 2**

The second part of the test is the practical element.

Candidates will be required to complete a musical performance of some sort. Each child is allocated an individual 10minute slot; in that time, they will perform on their preferred instrument(s) (voice included) and speak to the panel.

There is a totally free choice of piece(s), enabling candidates of all cultures, backgrounds and experiences an equal chance to succeed. They may perform on more than one instrument if they would like to.

We prefer that your child perform unaccompanied or, if accompanied you must email your backing track to [musiclessons@smchull.org](mailto:musiclessons@smchull.org) prior to your session. No accompanist will be provided by the school.

Appropriate adaptations will be made for candidates with SEND or medical needs – please indicate at the time of applying the usual way of working for the candidate and we will ensure that reasonable adjustments are made.