

Joining Redbridge Music School

Key information for applicants 2024-25

Any school aged pupil is welcome to apply to join the Redbridge Music School.

Entry to the Music School is gained through audition.

Membership of Redbridge Music School involves weekly participation in one of our central ensembles listed below.

Symphony Orchestra (A) - Friday 7.15pm – 9.45pm

Intermediate Orchestra (I) - Saturday 10.30am – 12.45pm

Junior String Orchestra (J) - Saturday 8.30am – 10.30am

Symphonic Band (A) - Friday 5.00pm – 7.15pm

Intermediate Wind (J) Band - Saturday 8.30am – 10.30am

Junior Wind Band (I) - Wednesday 5.30pm – 7.15pm

Jazz Orchestra (I/A) - Monday 6.30pm – 8.45pm (fortnightly)

Sax Ensemble (I/A) - Monday 6.30pm – 8.30pm (fortnightly)

Brass Band (I/A) - Wednesday 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Percussion Ensemble (J/I/A) - Wednesday 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Guitar Ensemble (J/I/A) - Monday 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Recorder Consort (I/A) - Thursday 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Ensemble Levels

(J) Junior – Approx Grade 2-4

(I) Intermediate - Approx Grade 5-6

(A) Advanced - Approx Grade 7-8

Choirs

Youth Choir (Y8+) - Monday 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Intermediate Choir (Y5-7) - Monday 6.00pm – 7.15pm

Standard Requirements

The expected minimum standard for instrumentalists to join the Music School is approximately Grade 3. However, students do not need to have taken the examination.

In certain circumstances, players of a lower standard (minimum Grade 1) may be considered for entry to fill spaces on less common instruments. Examples of this include the Oboe, Saxophone, Bassoon, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Viola, Double Bass & Percussion. Drum Kit players will be considered at Grade 2 level but are expected to expand their skills across a range of percussion instruments.

Students wishing to join a choir do not need to be in receipt of singing lessons or to have achieved a formal grade/level but are still required to audition.

Applicants may express an interest in being considered for a particular ensemble. However, the student will ultimately be offered a place in the most appropriate group as decided by the Head of Department based on their audition.

Students who are not yet of an appropriate standard to audition for the Music School are encouraged to join one of our many Club level activities which are for players of a beginner standard to approximately Grade 2.

The Audition Process

- Auditions are held at the John Savage Centre shortly after the May half term break.
- The auditions last approximately 15 minutes and are conducted by the relevant Head of Department.
- Instrumentalists should prepare two short contrasting pieces of their own choice.
- Sight-reading tests are also given but there are no scale requirements.
- Choir auditions include singing back some phrases and vocal exercises that the teacher will demonstrate first. Vocalists are also asked to prepare a song to sing at audition.
- Vocalists also wishing to be considered for a 30-minute vocal lesson should prepare 2 contrasting pieces. There is also a short sight-reading test.
- Accompanists are not required.
- Results are available towards the end of term.
- Students who are offered a place in the Music School are required to accept or decline the offer by email within 7 days. After this time, it may be offered to another student on the waiting list.

Music School Lessons

Although students are primarily auditioning to join an ensemble, they can also request to be considered for Music School Lessons. These are individual 30-minute lessons that usually take place at the John Savage Centre on weekdays after 4pm and on Saturday mornings.

Music School Lessons are limited in number as they are part-subsidised by the Music Service. As such, they are primarily offered to: students who are particularly successful at audition, those showing excellent potential and commitment and those who occupy key positions in senior groups.

Students in receipt of Music School lessons must commit to weekly participation in an ensemble.

Pianists are not normally used in orchestras or bands. However, students offered a 30-minute piano lesson are required to sing in a choir, take up a percussion instrument or the double bass (after some preliminary training) so that they can fulfil the weekly ensemble commitment required to be part of the Music School.

It is not possible to apply solely for Music School lessons without an ensemble commitment.

Fees

Music School Annual Membership fees for the 2024/2025 academic year will be **£17.50 per month** paid via direct debit over 12 months.

Annual membership allows students to attend multiple groups at no additional cost. It also allows students access to weekly aural & theory classes.

If your child receives free school meals in a school in Redbridge, membership of Music School is currently free.

Lesson costs

30 minute Music School Lessons fees for the 2024/2025 academic year will be: £56.50 paid via direct debit over 12 months.

Pupils admitted to the Music School remain in membership until they leave school, subject to good conduct, progress and attendance.

In the Summer Term each year there are short informal 'Internal Auditions' for every pupil to determine their ensemble placing for the following academic year.

If you have any further questions regarding auditions or the Music School in general, please contact our admin team - admin.musicsservice@visionrcl.org.uk