



11+ Music Scholarship Guidelines

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded after a video round and a live practical audition by the Director of Music and music staff. They are based on the value of one lesson per week and are currently worth £975 per annum. **Music Scholarships at 11+ are tenable for FIVE years when scholars will be required to apply for the 16+ scholarship.**

The school runs a comprehensive co-curricular programme in which music scholars play a high-profile and valued role. They are expected to be members of large ensembles, such as orchestras, bands and choirs, and to make the most of the many opportunities to perform in concerts throughout their time at the school. They also receive weekly professional coaching in a chamber music group.

Whilst recent successful candidates are currently performing at Grade 7/ 8 level, the minimum required on the first instrument/voice is **Grade 5 Distinction**. Nevertheless, applications are welcomed from candidates offering **less commonly played orchestral instruments** (see below) at Grade 4 Distinction.

Less commonly played instruments include harpsichord, bassoon, French horn, trombone and double bass.

MUSIC EXHIBITIONS may also be awarded at the discretion of the Director of Music. They include some of the expectations of a music scholar. Music exhibitions do not carry a financial reward, but receive the recognition, mentoring, and enhanced opportunities that the current scholarships attract. Exhibitions are also tenable for FIVE years.

STAGE 1 - VIDEO ROUND

When sending in an application, all candidates must provide a **reference**, written by their current teacher, outlining the candidate's particular merits and provide any other information that may assist in the decision-making process. Candidates should also provide a **brief personal statement** outlining why they would like to be a music scholar at St Paul's Girls' School. Candidates applying with one instrument/voice must play/sing two contrasting pieces or excerpts of three minutes each, and candidates applying with two instruments/voice must play/sing one piece or extract on each instrument/voice lasting up to three minutes each.

The deadline for submitting the video is **12pm, Monday 23 November 2026**. Information on video submission will follow from the music department.



The videos will be watched by members of the music department. Successful candidates will be notified in mid-January (after the entrance examination) if they have been put forward to the live audition round which will take place on **Wednesday 20 January 2027**.

STAGE 2 - LIVE MUSIC AUDITIONS

Live music auditions will last for approximately 15 minutes. Candidates should present **TWO** pieces or excerpts, lasting a **maximum of eight minutes**, which may be only on the first study or cover first and second study (they can be the same pieces presented on the video or different – it does not matter). The first study piece should be at least **four minutes** in duration. Offering an orchestral instrument can support an application but it is not essential. Only the official accompanists which the school will provide will be permitted. Candidates will also be given some sight-reading and a short, informal interview with members of the music department.

If you require any further information, please contact the Music Department Manager, Ms Neslihan Jordan, on musicadmin@spgs.org or telephone 020 7605 4812.



Being a Music Scholar at St Paul's Girls' School

We value the contribution that music scholars make to life at St Paul's Girls' School and will monitor their progress carefully to ensure that all possible support is given to enable them to get the most out of school music. They are a crucial part of music-making here and we hope that they will enjoy all the opportunities that we offer.

Although we do not put undue pressure on our scholars, we do have serious expectations of them. Acceptance of the scholarship assumes acceptance of these expectations, although we find that most scholars are already fulfilling these obligations as a normal part of their life. If a scholar is not performing to our expectations support will be given to help get them back on track, but as a last resort a scholarship can be removed. The Deputy Director of Music oversees the music scholars and their activities as well as providing pastoral support. The Director of Music will have the final say in all matters relating to a music scholar's activities and is always happy to discuss this with them.

Summary of expectations

- ✓ to continue to play instrument(s)/sing to a high level.
- ✓ to be a member of major ensembles, as well as other groups as appropriate, in consultation with the Director of Music and Deputy Director of Music
- ✓ to be a role model and mentor to other musicians
- ✓ To take part in part in music department partnerships projects such as the Jupiter Project
- ✓ to be in at least one chamber music group
- ✓ to take a full and active role in extra-curricular music rehearsals and concerts including setting up and clearing away
- ✓ to attend all rehearsals except in exceptional circumstances. It is often possible to be flexible with a small number of rehearsals each term as we do understand the huge commitment scholars make.
- ✓ to communicate any clashes to the music department promptly and to respond quickly to any communication from the music department.

Support

- ✓ instrumental/singing teachers will write a report on each scholar's progress
- ✓ each scholar will meet formally or informally with the Director of Music and/or Deputy Director of Music as arranged.
- ✓ heads of section will monitor a scholar's participation throughout the year and pass on any concerns.