

Musical Aptitude Outline

Northampton School for Girls, within its admissions policy, offers 10% of its places (27 students) according to a child's perceived **aptitude** for music. It is important to differentiate **aptitude** from ability, so we use a listening test that requires no previous musical experience or ability in playing a musical instrument.

Music teachers' judgments about students' musical "talent" are often based significantly on musical achievement, not the potential to achieve. It is not uncommon, for example, for students of average aptitude to achieve at a high level as a result of a rich musical background and dedicated effort. Only a valid musical aptitude test can distinguish between actual achievement and the potential to achieve further. Because many students with high musical aptitude may not have had the opportunity to achieve in music, a musical aptitude test can reveal musical potential that might otherwise remain unknown to those students and their teachers.

Recent research reveals that musical aptitude, like all human characteristics, is normally distributed in the population. All persons have the potential to achieve in music. Relatively few have high aptitude, a similar number have low aptitude, and the majority of persons fall somewhere in the middle of the "bell curve" with average aptitude.

The Musical Aptitude process is as follows:

1. Complete and return a Musical Aptitude application form to NSG - a copy of the form is available from the school or via the Admissions section of our website www.nsg.northants.sch.uk
2. The application form can be submitted to NSG in one of two ways;
 - a printed version by post or by hand
 - an online version via the Admissions link on our website www.nsg.northants.sch.uk/admissions

The deadline for receipt of all applications is 4pm on Monday 2 November 2015.

3. Printed applications will be acknowledged by post. Online applications will be acknowledged electronically. You may screen print a copy of the electronic acknowledgement for your records if you wish.
4. The Musical Aptitude test will take place at NSG on Saturday 7 November 2015 at 11.00am. In the interest of fairness and consistency, no alternative date/time is available.
5. ALL parents will be informed by the Local Authority of the school allocated to their daughter by post on Tuesday 1st March 2016.

The Musical Aptitude test is a short multiple choice listening test (usually 20 minutes). The test does not require any preparation or revision. Students do not need to bring a musical instrument.

The top 27 places will represent the 10% of places according to musical aptitude.

It is important to point out that it is NOT the purpose of aptitude testing to identify students for inclusion or exclusion in music activities. We are proud of our inclusive instrumental / vocal tuition policy and extra curricular programme which remain unaffected by this Musical Aptitude testing process.

Please note that the sibling link criterion has a higher priority within the oversubscription criteria than musical aptitude. It is likely (based on the last 7 years) that all applications from siblings (made on time) will be allocated a place. Therefore siblings do not necessarily need to apply under musical aptitude as they will most likely be allocated within a higher criterion. However, if you wish to proceed with your application within this criterion this will be acceptable.