

St Paul's Way

Trust School

Consultation on Proposed Admissions Policy for 2014/15



The University School in the Heart of East London

Admissions to Year 7 (Age 11)

St Paul's Way Trust School is an all ability co-educational school for girls and boys aged 11-19. The number to be admitted each year to Year 7 is 240.

The school's unique relationship with Higher Education Institutions enables it to offer an exciting, relevant and robust learning experience providing a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities, particularly in its specialist areas of Science, Visual and Performing arts. This now includes a specialist music course aimed at giving a broader range of performance opportunities for children with musical talent.

The School welcomes applications from families who wish join its vibrant and successful community and work in strong partnership.

Oversubscription Criteria

St Paul's Way Trust School has adopted the Local Authority's policy of banding to ensure that it takes an even balance of children in different ability ranges. The available 240 places are divided equally across the four bands of ability. Therefore 60 children from each band will be admitted according to the criteria set out below.

A child with a statement of special educational needs naming St Paul's Way Trust School will be offered a place, unless there are particular reasons why the Local Authority is unable to do so. The place will be provided in the appropriate band of ability. **(See note 1)**

A total of twelve places (three in each band of ability) will be allocated to pupils with a proven aptitude in music. See section on 'Music Aptitude' on page 2. The remaining places in each band will be allocated (in descending order of priority) as follows:

- 1)** Children looked after by the local authority including adopted children who were previously looked after and children who leave care under a special guardianship or residence order. **(See note 2)**
- 2)** Children who have a strong medical or social reason to attend the school. This can include the parents', carers' or other family members' medical conditions and the family's social needs. Parents must complete the relevant section on the application form and attach medical and/or social reports from a suitable professional (e.g. a doctor or social worker) to support the application. The reports must be received by **31st October 2013**. **(See note 3)**
- 3)** Children living nearest the school who are the eldest child in the family. The number of children admitted under this category will reflect 25% of the intake of the school in each band.
- 4)** Children whose older brother or sister already attends the school will still be at the school in September 2014. **(See note 4)**
- 5)** Children who live nearest the school as measured by the shortest walking route. **(See note 5)**

Music Aptitude

Music applicants will be assessed through a three-stage process that has been designed to be taken by children regardless of any previous experience or formal training in music. All applicants should have an interest in music, however, and will be expected to take up the musical opportunities offered to them should they gain a place at the school.

If fewer than 3 children qualify to be admitted in any band the unused places will be filled by music applicants in adjacent bands. If fewer than 12 children qualify for music places, the number of places available under the other admission criteria will be increased in each band accordingly.

The music aptitude test will consist:

Stage 1: Listening Test

All applicants will sit this test which is independently designed to assess aspects of musical aptitude. No knowledge of music theory or notation is required and students respond to the questions by ticking their answers. Prior training or practice is not necessary. The top 50 scoring students in this test will proceed to Stages 2 and 3.

Stage 2: Workshop

Students, in groups of eight, will participate in a practical workshop run by a member of staff from SPWT. An external, independent musician will also observe these sessions. Using tuned percussion instruments, students will be assessed through the ways in which they instinctively respond as musicians to the tasks set during the workshop.

Stage 3: Performance

Students will be asked to perform a piece or pieces of their choice for up to 5 minutes on any instrument or voice. They may choose something that they have learnt in individual lessons, through a Wider Opportunities project at their school, through being a member of a music group or club, or something that they have taught themselves at home. It is an opportunity for them to share and express their enthusiasm for music. This session will be run by a member of staff from SPWT and observed by an external, independent musician. Students will be assessed on their instinctive musicality, the sense of style in their performance and the way in which they naturally communicate to the audience.

All applicants for a music place must complete a Music Application Form that can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website. The form should be returned direct to the school by **Thursday 3rd October 2013**. They must also complete the Local Authority's secondary transfer form, which can be obtained from the Local Authority's Pupil Admissions Team on tel: 020 7364 5006 or completed online at: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/school_admissions from the 1st September 2013.

All three stages of the music aptitude assessments will take place during the three weeks beginning **Monday 7th October 2013**. Parents will be notified of the outcome of their child's application for a music place by **Friday 25th October 2013**. Children who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a music place can be considered for a place under the other admission criteria, provided they have named St Paul's Way Trust School as one their preferences on the Local Authority's secondary transfer form.

Note 1: Parents of children with statements of special educational need should note that the Local Authority seeks to ensure that pupils with statements do not, at secondary transfer time, become unduly concentrated in a few schools. Experience indicates that this can compromise the efficient education of children and the efficient use of resources. This means that if any particular school receives a large number of applications for pupils with statements, some of these may be refused. All applications for pupils with statements will be considered by the Local Authority's Special Educational Needs Panel.

Note 2: Confirmation of a child's looked after status will be required.

Note 3: Applications under this category are considered by the Local Authority's Primary to Secondary Transfer Committee, comprising a Headteacher, a member of the Attendance and Welfare Service and a school governor. The Committee will decide whether the application should be given priority under this category.

Note 4: Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living in the same family unit at the same address. The address used should be the one that the child usually lives at and attends school from.

Note 5: Distance is measured by the shortest walking route from the child's home address to the student entrance in St Paul's Way, using a computerised map.