

THE LONDON ORATORY SCHOOL - JUNIOR HOUSE (YEAR 3)

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2026

AIMS OF SCHOOL

The School was founded by The Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri (London) and the Fathers of this Congregation are the Trustees of the School. The London Oratory School and the London Oratory Church have always maintained a close working relationship which includes the Oratory Fathers supplying chaplaincy to the School and the School supplying the Schola choir for the parish.

The School's aim is to assist Catholic parents from across London in fulfilling their obligation to educate their children in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church, to provide a unique liturgical life founded in the spiritual and musical traditions of the oratories of St Philip Neri and of the London Oratory Church; to do this within an environment which will encourage and support the spiritual, physical, moral and intellectual development of the child and help them to grow towards full Christian maturity; and to provide a wide and rich range of educational and cultural experiences which will encourage children to discover and develop their potential to its maximum and to strive for high standards of excellence in all activities.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL ADMISSIONS

In these arrangements, "parent" means the parent of or adult with legal responsibility for, the child (candidate) for whom a place at The London Oratory School is being sought.

MEETINGS FOR PARENTS AND PROSPECTIVE PUPILS

Parents are encouraged, accompanied if possible by their son, to attend one of the meetings for parents of prospective pupils, where the Headmaster and his staff will explain the nature of the School, the demands it makes of both pupils and their parents and the commitment which they make when they accept a place at the School. These meetings do not play a part in the admission decision-making process and attendance is not a condition for allocation of a place. The dates of meetings for parents and prospective Junior House pupils are:

Thursday 6th November 2025, 6.00pm

Wednesday 19th November 2025, 2.00pm

For further details of these meetings and other enquiries please contact the School's Registrar.

CLOSING AND NOTIFICATION DATES FOR APPLICATIONS

You should submit, to this school, our Supplementary Information Form and Music Inquiry Form by Friday 9th January 2026. These are available from the School website. Parents will be informed of the outcome in the week beginning 23rd February 2026.

Applications received after the applicable closing date given in these arrangements will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, for example, when a family has just moved from abroad. Separate provision is made for candidates with an Education, Health and Care Plan.

There were 37 applications for the 20 places in Junior House in September 2025.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE JUNIOR HOUSE

Twenty boys will be admitted to the Junior House at the age of seven for a specialist musical education. In determining to which candidates places will be offered, priority will always be given to Catholics (defined as a baptised person in full communion with the See of Rome). Of the twenty places, up to ten are to be offered to choristers. Boys in the Junior House are full members of the School and are expected to remain at the School until the end of their secondary phase of education.

In the first instance only candidates falling under Category A and B will be considered. Only if there are insufficient candidates in these categories will category C, D, E and F children be considered.

Candidates will be tested for general ability. Those candidates whose ability test score indicates average or above average ability will then be considered in relation to suitability for a specialist music course as assessed in the musical audition, to determine to whom places will be offered.

The music audition will involve candidates being tested aurally and orally for general musical aptitude and potential, and, in the case of candidates applying to be a chorister, for choral aptitude and suitability as a chorister. The purpose of the audition is to assess the candidate's musical potential and suitability for a specialist musical education at the School. A candidate whose application for a place as a chorister is unsuccessful, may still be considered for a place as a non-chorister.

In the event of over-subscription, the arrangements set out below will be used to determine the boys to whom the places will be offered.

After the admission of boys with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the School, places will be allocated according to the criteria below

Over-subscription Criteria

Category A

Catholic looked after boys and Catholic boys who have been adopted, or made subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders, immediately following having been looked after (*see notes 3, 4, 5 and 6*).

Category B

Catholic boys from practising Catholic families with a Certificate of Catholic Practice (*see note 2*).

Within this category the following candidates will have priority:

(1) Candidates who have a sibling at the School on the date of admission to the School (*see note 7*). Candidates meeting this criterion will be placed at the top of Category B.

(2) Candidates who are a sibling of a former pupil (*see note 8*). Candidates meeting this criterion will be placed at the top of Category B after any candidates meeting (1) above.

(3) Candidates who have a parent/guardian who is a member of staff at the School (*see note 9*). Candidates meeting this criterion will be placed at the top of Category B after any candidates meeting (1) and/or (2) above.

Category C

Other Catholic children.

Category D

Other looked after and previously looked after children (*see notes 3, 4, 5 and 6*).

Category E

Catechumens (*see note 10*) and members of an Eastern Christian Church (*see note 11*).

Category F

Any other children.

Tie-break

In the event of a tie for a place after the above criteria have been applied, a ballot system of random allocation will be used with each tied candidate's name being entered into the ballot and names then selected randomly by an independent external organisation, until a rank of all candidates has been established. If the School is oversubscribed by Catholic applicants with a Certificate of Catholic Practice, only children from Category B will be included in the tie-break.

How is an application made?

All applicants must complete:

(i) The London Oratory School's Music Inquiry Form

(ii) The London Oratory School's Supplementary Information Form, which may be obtained from the School or via on line application through the School website, which must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the form and returned/sent online to the School on or before the applicable closing date given in these arrangements.

Applications which are received by the School without a Supplementary Information Form or Music Inquiry Form, which are incomplete or which are received by the School after the applicable closing date, will only be considered if there are fewer than 20 applicants for the 20 places. The School is under no obligation to advise parents on or before the applicable closing date that the application is in any way deficient.

OFFERS

Offers of places will be sent to parents by the third week in February 2026 providing them with the necessary forms to complete, asking them to reply within five working days so that places not taken up at this stage can then be offered to the next most suitable candidates on the list.

WAITING LIST

After admissions decisions have been made and places have been accepted, the Governors will hold a waiting list of candidates until 31st December 2026, using the priority order set out in the admission policy, of those who have positively indicated their wish to be placed on the list. Each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the published over-subscription criteria. Priority will not be given to children based on the date their application was received or their name was added to the list.

Fair Access

The School is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admissions round the Governing Body is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any local protocol that has been agreed by both the Diocese and the Governing Body for the current school year. The Governing Body has this power even when admitting the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

Children Educated Outside Their Chronological Age Group

Parents may apply for their child to be educated outside his chronological age group i.e. a year behind or a year ahead. Supporting evidence should be submitted at the same time as the application and Governors will consider each case on its own merits.

Appeals

If an application for a place is unsuccessful, parents will be given an opportunity to appeal against the decision to an appeal panel set up in accordance with the statutory provisions in force at the time.

NOTES (These notes form part of the Admission Arrangements)

1. Catholic means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy, it includes a looked after child who is part of a Catholic family where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised or received if it were not for their status as a looked after child (e.g. a looked after child in the process of adoption by a Catholic family).

For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of baptism or reception into the Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their Parish Priest who, after consulting with the Diocese, will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the laws of the Church.

2. Certificate of Catholic Practice means a certificate issued by the family's parish priest (or the priest in charge of the church where the family attends Mass) in the form laid down by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child, if he or she is over seven years old) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least five years (or, in the case of a child, since the age of seven, if shorter). It will also be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance. A Certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstances which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. Further details of these circumstances can be found in the guidance issued to priests [appendix 5 of the Diocesan Guidance on Admission to Catholic Schools <http://rcdow.org.uk/education/governors/admissions>]

3. Looked after child has the same meaning as in s.22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social service functions at the time of making an application to the school). A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if it appears to the Admission Authority that they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

4. Adopted refers to a child who is adopted under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 s.46 (adoption orders).

5. Child Arrangements Order means an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.8 settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live. Children 'looked after' immediately before the order is made qualify in this category.

6. Special Guardianship Order means an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 s.14A which defines it as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s).

7. Sibling is defined as a brother or sister of whole or half-blood, or an adopted brother or sister who permanently resides at the same address.

8. Sibling of a former pupil is defined as a brother or sister of whole or half-blood, or an adopted brother or sister, of a former pupil who completed at least one full year of education at the School.

9. Member of Staff at the School means an employee of the School who works at the School at the time of the application and has done so continuously for at least two years before making the application.

10. Catechumen means a member of the catechumenate of a Catholic Church. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of reception into the order of catechumens.

11. Eastern Christian Church includes Orthodox Churches, and is normally evidenced by a certificate of baptism or reception from the authorities of that Church.

NOTES ON CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Extract from the current Code of Canon Law, promulgated by Pope John Paul II on 25th January 1983. For members of Eastern Catholic churches the relevant CCEO canons will apply.

MASS ATTENDANCE

Canon 1246. Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, is to be observed in the universal Church as the primary day of obligation. The following feast days are also to be observed as holydays of obligation: the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Apostles Peter and Paul and All Saints

Canon 1247. On Sundays and other holydays of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. They are also to abstain from such work or business that would inhibit the worship to be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the due relaxation of mind and body.

Canon 1248. The obligation of participating in the Mass is satisfied by one who assists at Mass wherever it is celebrated in the Catholic rite, either on the holyday of obligation itself or on the evening of the previous day. If it is impossible to participate in a Eucharistic celebration, either because no sacred minister is available or for some other grave reason, the faithful are strongly recommended to take part in the liturgy of the Word, if there be such in the parish church or some other sacred place, which is celebrated in accordance with the provisions laid down by the diocesan Bishop; or to spend an appropriate time in prayer, whether personally or as a family or as occasion presents, in groups of families.

BAPTISM

Canon 867. §1 Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptised within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their candidate, and to be themselves duly prepared for it. §2 If the infant is in danger of death, it is to be baptised without any delay.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Canon 226. §1 Those who are married are bound by the special obligation, in accordance with their own vocation, to strive for the building up of the people of God through their marriage and family. §2 Because they gave life to their children, parents have the most serious obligation and the right to educate them. It is therefore primarily the responsibility of Christian parents to ensure the Christian education of their children in accordance with the teaching of the church.

Canon 793. §1 Parents, and those who take their place, have both the obligation and the right to educate their children. Catholic parents have also the duty and the right to choose those means and institutes which, in their local circumstances, can best promote the Catholic education of their children. §2 Parents have moreover the right to avail themselves of that assistance from civil society which they need to provide a Catholic education for their children.

Canon 796. §1 Among the means of advancing education, Christ's faithful are to consider Schools as of great importance, since they are the principal means of helping parents to fulfil their role in education. §2 There must be the closest cooperation between parents and the teachers to whom they entrust their children to be educated. In fulfilling their task, teachers are to collaborate closely with the parents and willingly listen to them; associations and meetings of parents are to be set up and held in high esteem.

Canon 798. Parents are to send their children to those Schools which will provide for their Catholic education. If they cannot do this, they are bound to ensure the proper Catholic education of their children outside the School.