



The Minster
JUNIOR SCHOOL
Prospectus

A musically-focused education for children aged 7 to 11

BEN CHALONER - HEAD TEACHER

The Minster Junior School is an unique “school within a school”, providing the highest quality education to musically talented junior school pupils and to the choristers of Southwell Minster Cathedral.

We provide something truly out of the ordinary: a primary education (Years 3 to 6) augmented by significant additional music learning, designed to support the pupils of the school to develop their musical talents and aspirations.



The Minster School was established more than 1000 years ago to educate the choristers of the cathedral and we are very proud that our junior school continues that tradition to this day, with a number of children fulfilling the role of chorister and supporting the weekly pattern of worship through music-making of world-class standard.

DERRICK DRING - HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

In addition to the unique musical opportunities available at the Minster Junior School, our pupils are well supported in the more typical aspects of primary school life. As Head of Junior School, I work with two primary specialist teachers to make sure pupils learn well in the core curriculum areas and flourish in their studies. We ensure that pupils develop the skills and essential learning behaviours to work independently and with

others, encouraging them to become responsible for their learning. Pupils benefit from specialist teaching including music, PE, Spanish, science and technology. The weekly experience within the Junior School is further enhanced by access to the secondary school facilities as well as bespoke Junior School classrooms.



HANNAH WALLIS-WINDLE - DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Minster School has a rich musical heritage which is woven into daily life for all our Junior students. Established more than 1000 years ago to educate the choristers of Southwell Minster, the school continues to work in close partnership with the cathedral, offering a unique musical provision.



Our Junior music provision is designed to offer students significant musical opportunities and to support our talented students as they embark on their individual musical journeys. We welcome students with a passion and aptitude for music and aim to create an environment in which students can thrive.

PAUL PROVOST - RECTOR CHORI

Southwell Minster Choir has a reputation for excellence thanks to the hard work and commitment of our boy and girl choristers. When they join aged 7, they are at the start of an exciting journey that will see them develop musically and personally into young professionals. As the head of a dynamic team, it is my joy to see young choristers grow in

confidence and maturity, nurtured by our excellent and experienced staff. You are always very welcome to see what we do, and to explore further the life of a chorister.



SUCCESS IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every student is supported to succeed at The Minster Junior School. Our curriculum is designed to make sure all pupils make excellent progress in reading, writing and maths. The curriculum is carefully mapped out to ensure Junior School pupils receive the full curriculum experience, including specialist provision in many subjects provided by teachers from the main school.

Homework is a part of the school's expectations and this largely focuses on the development of the core skills needed to succeed at the end of Key Stage 2, including practising maths problem-solving, reading and learning spellings. The school has a track record of success with the majority of pupils consistently exceeding the national standards at the end of their time in Junior School.



Pupils in the Junior School enjoy lessons in:

- Maths
- English
- Music
- Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Design and Technology
- Science
- RE
- Art
- PE
- Computing
- RSHE

Many of the lessons are taught by subject specialists.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE...

The Minster Junior School day begins at 8.40am and ends at 3pm. Choristers attending rehearsals before school are accompanied on the school site. In the morning, the curriculum generally focuses on the core learning needed to succeed in English and Maths with lunch afterwards. In the afternoon, other curriculum areas are addressed and music takes the lead for two afternoons every week.

Peripatetic music lessons take place every day and our school's position adjacent to the music department minimises any disruption to the timetable. Uniquely, Minster Junior School pupils have access to extensive facilities in school, not normally available to primary children. There is a large fully-stocked library used by the pupils every week. PE lessons take place in our modern facilities including a large sports hall, technology lessons take place in workshops and computing in ICT suites. The music facilities, next door to the Junior School, include a state-of-the-art recording studio, recital hall, multiple practice rooms each with a piano, computer suite and classrooms.

Contact:

Mr Derrick Dring - Head of Junior School
d.dring@minsterschool.org.uk



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THE JUNIOR SCHOOL HAS A YEAR 3/4 CLASS AND A YEAR 5/6 CLASS, EACH HAVING AN AVERAGE OF 20 PUPILS. EACH CLASS IS TAUGHT BY PRIMARY SPECIALIST TEACHERS.

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MUSIC IN THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



The Minster School has a long tradition of excellence in music and, because of their individual talents, the pupils in the Junior School make a significant contribution to the celebration of music in the school. A unique feature of the Junior School is the musical atmosphere which pervades the department. To enhance their national curriculum music, pupils have choral and orchestral sessions each week and time is given to aural training and music theory. Singing is an essential feature of life in the Junior School.

Instrumental and vocal tuition is offered to enrich and extend the pupils' musical experiences. All pupils in the Junior School are expected to learn the piano and encouraged to play an orchestral instrument. The school is fortunate to have a wide range of peripatetic instrumental tutors and benefits from the services of qualified and experienced teachers from Nottinghamshire's instrumental music tuition service. Currently peripatetic music tuition offered to Junior School pupils includes: piano; upper and lower strings; brass; woodwind; guitar; voice; percussion and harp.

“ ALL PUPILS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE MUSIC EXAMINATIONS. PUPILS CAN BE ENTERED FOR ABRSM (ASSOCIATED BOARD OF THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC) EXAMS AT SCHOOL IN ONE OF THREE EXAM SEASONS EACH ACADEMIC YEAR.

Contact:

Mrs Hannah Wallis-Windle - Director of Music
music@minsterschool.org.uk



WIDER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Free tuition is made available to all Junior School pupils for one instrument for the duration of their time in the Junior School, with the loan of instruments often possible to support practice at home. Choristers also receive free tuition in a further instrument, along with regular chorister vocal tuition and support.

Pupils are expected to participate in the relevant extra-curricular opportunities to help them extend their skills playing or singing in ensembles. The Junior School has its own instrumental group and choir, and beyond this is a wealth of other groups. Junior School pupils are frequently members of the main school junior chamber choir, orchestras, woodwind groups, brass groups and string groups. They also feature in the concert band and our new harp ensemble.



Pupils are provided with ample opportunities to perform; from weekly “Tootle” concerts to large scale concerts in Southwell Minster. We believe it is important to support and encourage pupils as performers and musicians.



CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS



School and cathedral work together to support the choristers' musical development. Each week the boy and girl choristers play a pivotal role in the acts of worship in the cathedral through music making of the highest standard. They are highly committed and develop as the highest quality singers and musicians. The musical foundation of the cathedral supports the choristers through professional training including voice coaching.



Cathedral choristers can expect, along with the usual pattern of worship, to play an important role in major civic events.

They make frequent broadcasts on national radio, in particular BBC Radio 3, make professional recordings and tour other countries. In recent years the choristers have toured The Netherlands, Hungary and France. The choristers of Southwell Minster Choir are nationally recognised.



Alongside a first class musical education, choristers learn many life skills, including independence, resilience, organisation and determination. Life as a chorister complements and enhances academic studies. Some choristers move into professional music but many others successfully pursue other goals, having learnt a great deal through their time in the choir. In recent years choristers have gone on to become broadcasters, opera singers, attend Oxbridge Universities and successfully embark on careers in wider professions.



Find out more about life as a chorister:

Southwell Minster website: www.southwellminster.org

Contact the Rector Chori, Paul Provost: paul.provost@southwellminster.org.uk

LOOKING AFTER OUR PUPILS

The well-being of Junior School pupils is of paramount importance. We know that happy children succeed, not only academically but also in wider aspects of their school experience. Our Junior School is a warm, happy and safe environment where pupils thrive due to their positive relationships with staff.

As a small community there is a strong sense of belonging. Alongside that close-knit community are opportunities for pupils to be part of the wider school, including as representatives on the whole school council and participating in whole school acts of worship. Older students in the school demonstrate the school's values by looking after Junior School pupils every day.

Rewards are used to encourage the very best behaviour alongside our code of conduct which clearly outlines expectations for pupils, thereby creating a climate in which all can learn. Any consequence for a pupil due to inappropriate behaviour is used as an opportunity to reinforce our whole school values and parents & carers are involved, working with school for the benefit of the children.

Partnerships with parents & carers are fundamental to pupil success. We encourage parents to support the work of the school and share their views through formal and informal mechanisms, including parent forums and parents' evenings. The Head of Junior School is always pleased to discuss any arising matters.

Parents & carers support the school through fundraising and organising special events for the children. We are grateful to them for their efforts and for their ongoing support of the Junior School.



APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited for Year 3 to the Minster Junior School. Applications are co-ordinated by Nottinghamshire County Council and must be made to your home local authority. In addition you will be asked to complete the Minster Junior School supplementary application form.

All applicants are required to undertake a test of musical aptitude. Those who meet the minimum requirement for part one will be invited to take part in part two of the test. The highest scoring candidates will then be offered places. If there are more successful applicants than places available the over-subscription criteria will be applied. Full details can be found on the school website and the Local Authority website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Conditions of entry:

Age range: Applications for intake to Year 3 in line with the primary co-ordinated scheme. Further auditions may be offered to Years 4, 5 and 6 in order to fill any remaining places available.

Tests: These are aimed at discovering musical aptitude and will be conducted in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. For potential cathedral choristers, a representative of the Cathedral Choir will be in attendance for part 2 of the aptitude test. Both parts of the audition will last approximately 20 minutes.



ADMISSION TO THE 40 PLACE JUNIOR SCHOOL IS SELECTIVE, ON THE BASIS OF MUSICAL APTITUDE. APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR ENTRANCE INTO YEAR 3 IN LINE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CO-ORDINATED SCHEME. IF PLACES REMAIN UNFILLED, FURTHER AUDITIONS WILL BE OFFERED TO APPLICATIONS FOR YEARS 4, 5 AND 6.



Aptitude Test Part 1

All candidates will be asked to take a test which comprises of listening and responding to a number of notes, chords and rhythms.

Aptitude Test Part 2

Instrumental or vocal candidates will be asked to perform their choice of music which can be played or sung. Potential cathedral choristers must sing as part of their performance.





THE MINSTER JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Minster Trust
For education



**Southwell
Minster**