

CHIJ St. Joseph's Convent

1. Published DSA categories and criteria

2026 Direct School Admission Secondary (DSA-Sec)

(For Admission to Sec 1 in 2027)

Talent-area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Debate and Theatre	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate a flair for theatre or debates; ○ Display a high level of confidence when conversing about social issues; ○ Demonstrate a genuine interest in current affairs or national, community issues and be able to articulate their thoughts in a clear and organised manner; ○ Have some prior experience in either debates and/or theatre (i.e., have had experience related to debating or acting in productions, especially in the presence of an unfamiliar audience); ○ Possess a strong command of the English Language as reflected in their written and oral communication; ○ Be keen to adapt to SJC's culture which focuses on the pursuit of excellence in holistic education; and ○ Be able to fully embrace the values-centric approach to development in SJC and uphold high standards of behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Debate</i>: participate in a group discussion on recent issues/ deliver a short presentation elaborating personal views on a recent social issue. <i>[Applicants will be assessed based on their mental agility, critical thinking and argumentative skills, as well as their clarity of articulation and diction.]</i> ○ <i>Theatre</i>: perform a short dramatic monologue (either from school's suggested list or of student's choice). <i>[Applicants will be assessed based on their awareness of dramatic elements such as characterisation, spatial awareness and interpretation of the dramatic monologue.]</i> 2. All shortlisted Debate and Theatre applicants will need to compose a 200-word essay expressing why they have chosen SJC as well as what they hope to achieve in SJC. 3. Face-to-face group interviews with Drama/ Debate club teachers-in-charge and DSA Selection Panel

Note: Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.

Talent-area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Leadership	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate initiative and resilience, amongst other leadership dispositions; ○ Have clear evidence of leadership experiences, such as specific leadership roles within school platforms and/or outside of school; ○ Display a high level of confidence when speaking to a group or crowd; ○ Possess the capacity for critical thought; ○ Be keen to adapt to SJC’s culture which focuses on the pursuit of excellence in holistic education; and ○ Be able to fully embrace the values-centric approach to development in SJC and uphold high standards of behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-site group sessions where situational/ teamwork activities which are designed for them to demonstrate their leadership dispositions will be carried out. 2. Individual/ group conversations where applicants’ critical thinking and leadership qualities will be observed during their discussion and interaction. 3. Face-to-face group interview with DSA Selection Panel.
<p>Note: Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.</p>		

Talent-area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Netball	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate a passion and aptitude for the game; ○ Have represented her primary school and competed skillfully in various youth netball competitions; ○ Have a rigorous standard of personal fitness; ○ Be keen to adapt to SJC’s culture which focuses on the pursuit of excellence in holistic education; and ○ Be able to fully embrace the values-centric approach to development in SJC and uphold high standards of behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare for a trial to demonstrate proficiency in netball skills. <i>[Applicants will be assessed based on their individual skills on the court as well as their ability to coordinate with others.]</i> 2. Produce documents indicating their experience in netball outside of the school curriculum. 3. Face-to-face group interview with DSA Selection Panel.
<p>Note: Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.</p>		

Talent-area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Volleyball	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate a passion and aptitude for the game; ○ Have represented her primary school and competed skillfully in various youth volleyball competitions; ○ Have a rigorous standard of personal fitness; ○ Be keen to adapt to SJC's culture which focuses on the pursuit of excellence in holistic education; and ○ Be able to fully embrace the values-centric approach to development in SJC and uphold high standards of behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare for a trial to demonstrate proficiency in volleyball skills. <i>[Applicants will be assessed based on their individual skills on the court as well as their ability to coordinate with others.]</i> 2. Produce documents indicating their experience in volleyball outside of the school curriculum. 3. Face-to-face group interview with DSA Selection Panel.

Note: Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.

Talent-area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Table Tennis	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate a passion and aptitude for the game; ○ Have represented her primary school and competed skillfully in various youth table tennis competitions; ○ Have a rigorous standard of personal fitness; ○ Be keen to adapt to SJC’s culture which focuses on the pursuit of excellence in holistic education; and ○ Be able to fully embrace the values-centric approach to development in SJC and uphold high standards of behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare for a trial to demonstrate proficiency in table tennis skills. <i>[Applicants will be assessed based on their individual skills on the court as well as their ability to coordinate with others.]</i> 2. Produce documents indicating their experience in table tennis outside of the school curriculum. 3. Face-to-face group interview with DSA Selection Panel.

Note: Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.

Talent-area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Choir	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate a flair for music and talent in singing; ○ Display a high level of confidence singing in front of others; ○ Have some prior experience in either formal choir performances or other modes of performances involving singing. Other music experiences such as the ability to read scores, and some knowledge of music theory are relevant as well. ○ Be keen to adapt to SJC's culture which focuses on the pursuit of excellence in holistic education; and ○ Be able to fully embrace the values-centric approach to development in SJC and uphold high standards of behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance tasks: Students will need to prepare a song of their choice (no longer than 2 minutes, with neither backing track nor live accompaniment). We will be looking for their display of intonation, musicality, vocal technique and sight-singing. We will also assess their aural ability by asking them to sing back a short musical passage after it has been played on the piano. 2. Produce documents indicating their experience in choir/singing performances outside of the school curriculum and experience in musical education. 3. Face-to-face group interviews with choir teachers-in-charge and DSA Selection Panel.
<p><i>Note: Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.</i></p>		

Talent-area	Selection Criteria	Selection Process
Concert Band	<p>Applicants should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate a flair for music and talent in playing either a specific or a range of band instruments; ○ Display a high level of confidence Performing in front of others; ○ Have some prior experience in either formal concert band performances or other modes of performances involving music. ○ Be keen to adapt to SJC's culture which focuses on the pursuit of excellence in holistic education; and ○ Be able to fully embrace the values-centric approach to development in SJC and uphold high standards of behaviour. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance tasks: Shortlisted applicants will be required to bring their own instruments and perform a short musical piece of their choosing (not more than 1 minute long) in front of the teachers-in-charge and DSA selection panel. Then they have to perform an unseen piece prepared by the panel in order to showcase their sight reading skills. The panel may also require applicants to perform together with other applicants. 2. Produce documents indicating their experience in concert band/instrumental performances outside of the school curriculum. 3. Face-to-face group interviews with concert band teachers-in-charge and DSA Selection Panel. 4. The range of instruments for which we are auditioning is limited to the following: Woodwind instruments such as the clarinet, flute and saxophone. Percussion instruments such as different types of drums, glockenspiel and xylophone. Brass instruments such as euphonium, French horn, trumpet, trombone and tuba. <p>(Traditional ethnic instruments such as guzheng, seruling and veena are not relevant to our current repertoire. Please call or write in to clarify any questions pertaining to the range of relevant instruments)</p>
<p>Note: Meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/ given an offer.</p>		

Application Procedure

1. Application for DSA-Sec can be submitted through the online DSA-Sec Portal. The application is free-of-charge and will be open from:

6 May 2026, 11am to 2 Jun 2026, 4.30pm.

For more details, please refer to MOE website – www.moe.gov.sg/dsa-sec.

2. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to arrange for an audition on one of the following dates. Applicants will be shortlisted based on the direct relevance of their past experiences to our relevant DSA talent areas. All interviews will be recorded. These recordings will be for internal use only.

Applicants who do not have prior experience may also apply. The school will assess applicants based on the selection criteria, which may include assessing the potential of the applicants.

Audition dates: (These dates are subject to change based on the number of candidates short-listed)

Monday, 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

Wednesday 22 July

Thursday 23 July

Friday 24 July

Applicants will be informed of the time and venue at least **5 working days prior to their specific date of audition.**

You will receive notification from the school by **13 July 2026**, if your child has been shortlisted to undergo Direct School Admission (DSA) selection.

All applicants will be notified of their results **between 17 Aug and 28 Aug 2026.**

Please note that meeting all the criteria does not guarantee the student will be shortlisted/given an offer.

Parents and students are encouraged to choose schools wisely based on the student's aptitudes and strengths, bearing in mind the schools' academic and non-academic requirements, and the programmes available to develop the area of talent.

Students who are successfully admitted to the school via DSA are required to honour their commitment to the school and participate in the activities related to the talent they are selected for from year 1-4.