



Arrangements for admission to Nursery

This document outlines the arrangements for admission to Nursery.

Admission into the Nursery does not guarantee your child a place in Reception. A separate application for a Reception place must be made to Cumbria County Council, who will allocate your child a Reception place for the September after their 4th birthday. Please see our separate Admissions Arrangements, available from our school website.

We admit children to our nursery class, in the term following their third birthday. Please see the table below, which shows when children become eligible to apply for a place:

Children born between:	Term of Entry (after 3rd birthday):	Closing date for applications:
01.04.2021 - 31.08.2021	September 2024	End of May
01.09.2021 – 31.12.2021	January 2025	End of September
01.01.2022 – 31.03.2022	April 2025	End of January

All children will be admitted, unless there are more applicants than places. In this case the Governors will make allocations using the following criteria. These are listed in order of priority.

1. Children who are in Public Care or who have been adopted but were formerly in Public Care. This also includes children who were previously in Public Care outside of England. A child in public care is defined as a child who is looked after by the Local Authority within the meaning of section 22 of the Children's Act 1989.
2. Children who have physical and/or medical needs who would be disadvantaged by travelling to another school. Written evidence from an appropriate professional would be required for the Governors to consider admission in this category.
3. Children living within the catchment area having a brother or sister attending our school at the time of their admission giving priority, if necessary, to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address including step, adopted and foster children.
4. Children living in the catchment area.
5. Children living outside the catchment area who, at the time of their admission, have brothers or sisters attending our school giving priority, if necessary, to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address including step, adopted and foster children.
6. Children living outside the catchment area.

The criteria outlined above will be strictly followed, there being one exception. If a child has a statement of Special Educational Needs naming St Thomas's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School then irrespective of the criteria the child will be admitted as in these circumstances the Governors have a statutory duty to admit the child concerned.



Tie Break: In some categories, where there are more applicants than places available, age will act as a determining factor but unless specified it will be distance. The distance is measured from the centre of the child's address to a common point on the school site as determined by the Local Authority. The Governors will use the Local Authority's computerised Geographical Information System (GIS) to ensure consistency of measurement. The closest addresses will have priority.

Address of Pupil: The address on the application form must be the current one at the time of application. Where a child can live at more than one address the home address is to be the one where the child sleeps and thus wakes up for all or the majority of the school week. Where there is any doubt the governors reserve the right to verify the information provided by the parent(s), for example, through the GP or the child benefit address.

In Year Admissions: In year admissions are those which occur outside the "normal" admission time. If you wish your child to attend St Thomas's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School you should visit our school and admission details will be provided if we have a vacancy in the relevant year.

Waiting List: Those children who are not offered a place may, if the parents so wish, be placed on a waiting list. The names will be placed on the list in the order of the admissions criteria. Late applicants will be slotted into the list according to the admissions criteria. It is thus possible for a child recently arrived in the area to have a higher priority than a child who has been on the waiting list for some time. Irrespective of whether an appeal has been submitted, if a place becomes available it will be offered to the child at the top of the list. The waiting list will remain open for the whole of the first term in the year to which it relates.