

St. Thomas's C.E. Primary School,
Hodnet Drive,
Ashton-in-Makerfield,
Wigan.
WN4 8PQ



Admission Criteria for 2026/27 – Admission number 30

In the event that more applications are received than there are places available, priority will be given to:-

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children and children who appear to the Governing Body of St Thomas's CE Primary School to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care because they were adopted *
2. Children who have a brother or sister attending the school in the 2025 - 2026 school year ***.
3. Children who attend a Christian Church** or act of Christian public worship at least once a month and have done so for the past year.#
4. Other children living nearest the school. Distance will be measured as the crow flies from the centre point of the school.

Parents of children who attend churches or act of Christian public worship will need to provide evidence of this.

** Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order). Applications for previously looked after children must be supported with appropriate evidence i.e. a copy of the adoption order, residence order or special guardianship order. A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.*

*** Christian Church is defined as a church that is a member of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.*

****We will include:*

- Full brothers and sisters;
- Half-brothers and half-sisters;
- Stepbrothers and stepsisters; and
- Foster brothers and sisters;

Who live at the same address as part of the same family unit.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these admissions arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship

Tie Breaker

Where there are more children in one particular criterion than the number of places available, places will be allocated to the children who live nearest to the school. The distance will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address to the centre point of the school using the local authority Geographical Information System (GIS) which is based on ordnance survey.

In cases where there are two or more children with the same distance measurement (for example if more than one child lives in a block of flats), where to admit another child would breach the infant class size regulations, a system will be used to randomly pick who will be offered a place. Please contact the school if you would like more information about this.

If we offer the last place available to one of twins (or triplets and so on) we admit the other twin or triplet too.

Late Applications

Late Applications (those received after the closing date) will only be considered after those received by the closing date. The only exception to this is applications for looked after children that are received by Wigan Council will be included with on time applications.

Waiting lists

Places may become available at a school after the offer date. To decide which children have these places, we will:

- put all children who we refused a place on the waiting list for the school;
- keep the list in priority order, decided by the oversubscription criteria for the school only;
- offer places that become available to the next child on the waiting list; and
- Maintain the waiting list until 31st December 2026.

Important information about the waiting list: We cannot take into account the length of time a child's name has been on the waiting list, only the admission criteria for the school. This means that your child's position on the list may change if another parent asks to be put on the list and their child has higher priority in the admission criteria.

Deferred entry

Where parents wish, they can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Where entry is deferred, the place will be held open and not offered to another child. Parents cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted.

Part-time attendance

Where parents wish, their child can attend part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Nursery Classes

The admission criteria for schools are different than those for nurseries. Attendance at the nursery or a co-located children's centre does not guarantee admission to the school. Parents must submit an application for a place in Reception class by the closing date.

Child's home address

When considering your child's application, we will use the permanent home address we have for you at the closing date for applications.

If parents are separated and the child spends time at each parents' address, the address which will be used for admission to schools is the address where the child sleeps the majority of the school nights (Sunday to Thursday) during the week in term time. Where there is dispute or equal nights are slept, parent will be asked to provide proof of the address registered with the child's GP.

We may ask to see additional forms of evidence of your home address (photocopies are acceptable). This may include:

- proof of where you are registered for council tax
- your television licence
- wage/ salary slip
- proof of your child tax credits

Any evidence you provide must show that the parent or main carer lives at this address. We may seek evidence by other means if the parent/carer is unable to provide sufficient proof of their residence.