



Admissions Policy

2025/2026



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



St Thomas' Church of England School
Kenyons Lane
Lydiate
L31 0BP

ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Admission Number for the school 30.

(1) If there are less than 30 applicants, all children will be offered a place (on the national allocation date), which should be formally accepted by a given date.

(2) After this date, any additional children wanting the available places will be accepted in order of date of application until the number reaches 30. After this, names will be placed on a waiting list, with no guarantee of a place unless one of the already accepted places becomes available.

(3) The school will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan naming the school. Should there be a greater demand for places than the 30 available the following priorities for admission will apply.

Please note – a child may fall into a number of categories. If that is the case, you will be allocated a place based upon the first category the child falls into. For example: if a child attends St Thomas' nursery but also has a faith reference (category 3), they will be allocated a place based upon their faith reference.

Category 1

Children in Public Care

Looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order, or special guardianship order).

Category 2

Siblings

Children who have a sibling, including half-brother/sister, foster brother/sister, children living at the same address and considered to be part of the same family unit currently attending the school and who will still be there at the start of the academic year in which the child takes up his/her place.

Category 3

Faith Criteria

Children of parents who are regular worshippers at the United Benefice St Cuthbert and Thomas, Halsall, Lydiate and Downholland who attend church once a week over a period of the last twelve months prior to the closing date for applications with the relevant local authority.



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Category 4

Faith Criteria

Children of parents who are regular worshippers at a Christian church* who attend church once a week over a period of the last twelve months prior to the closing date for applications with the relevant local authority.

Category 5

Faith Criteria

Children of parents who are committed to the United Benefices St Cuthbert and Thomas, Halsall, Lydiate and Downholland and who attend church twice per month over a period of the last twelve months prior to the closing date for applications with the relevant local authority.

Category 6

Faith Criteria

Children of parents who attend the United Benefice St Cuthbert and Thomas, Halsall, Lydiate and Downholland on an occasional basis i.e. once per month over a period of the last twelve months prior to the closing date for applications with the relevant local authority.

Category 7

Faith Criteria

Children of parents who are committed to a Christian church* and who attend church twice per month over a period the last twelve months prior to the closing date for applications with the relevant local authority.

Category 8

Faith Criteria

Children of parents who attend a Christian Church (belonging to Churches Together in Britain & Ireland) on an occasional basis i.e. once per over a period of at least the last twelve months prior to the closing date for applications with the relevant local authority.

**Christian Church -Christian church means any church which is designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York or locally by the diocesan bishop, or is a member of churches Together in England, or the Evangelical Alliance, or a partner church of Affinity'.*

N.B For all faith categories, evidence for this should be submitted on St Thomas' supplementary faith reference form. "Worship" is defined involvement in the main church service.

Category 9

Staff Children

Children of St Thomas' staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.



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Category 10

Other Children

In the event of over subscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above, then the admissions committee will offer places first to children living nearest to the school measured by the shortest walking distance from the child's home to the nearest school gate using the methodology of measurement adopted by the Local Authority.

Evidence

In the event that the school is oversubscribed and Church attendance is the criterion to be applied applicants must submit a St Thomas' supplementary faith form from their vicar, priest, minister or pastor confirming that the criterion is satisfied.

Twins & Triplets

Where there are twins or triplets wanting admissions and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the governing body will exercise as much flexibility as possible with the requirements of infant class sizes. In exceptional circumstances we are now able to offer places for both twins and all triplets, even when this means breaching infant class size limits. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group.

Armed Forces

Children of armed forces personnel may be admitted in year under an "excepted pupil" category even if it takes the infant class over the 30 child legal limit.

In Year Admissions

Parents wanting their child to be accepted into the school in any year other than Reception will be offered a place in accordance with the local authorities 'in year admissions arrangements' if there are places available in that year group. Parents must liaise with Sefton Local Authority in this instance. (Infant class size legal limit 30).

Equality Duty

The Governors are aware of their duty to monitor equality. Adverse impact is probable or certain for particular groups, but the policy as a whole can be justified because as a voluntary aided church school the Governors can admit using faith criteria.

St Thomas' Supplementary Faith Form

For all faith categories, parents will be required to make an appointment with their vicar, priest, minister or pastor confirming which category of worshipper they belong to. Evidence for this will be submitted on St Thomas' supplementary faith reference form.

Parents/carers of 'summer born children' can, if they wish, make a decision that their child will not start school until the September **after their fifth birthday**, a full year after they could have first started school. Parents/carers **must** make a request for a child to start school in reception year, outside of their normal age group. The application form is available to download from <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/7472/parent-advice-starting-primary-school-outside-normal-age-group.pdf>



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