

## **Thornhill Primary School Central Bedfordshire Council Admission policy for Academic Year 2026/27**

The Published Admission Number for the school is: **90**

The designated measuring point of the school is the: **School main gate**

If there are fewer applications than places available at the school all applicants will be admitted. If there are more applications than places available, the criteria below will be used to prioritise applications. The admissions criteria will be applied separately and sequentially until all places are filled. Priority is not given within each criterion to children who meet other criteria.

- 1) All looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear to the Council to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- 2) Children of staff
- 3) Children living in the catchment area with siblings at the school
- 4) Children living in the catchment area
- 5) Children living outside the catchment area with siblings at the school
- 6) Any other children

### **Tiebreaker**

Straight-line distance will be used as a tiebreaker in each criterion where required to determine the allocation of places. The distance the pupil lives from the school which is measured in a straight line, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. The Local Authority will measure the distance from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school, which is known as the designated measuring point. In the event of (a) two or more children living at the same address point (e.g. children resident in a block of flats) or (b) two addresses measuring the same distance from the school, the ultimate tie-breaker will be random selection, using the Synergy Admissions database to allocate the place.

### **Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan**

In accordance with the Education Act 1996, children with an Education, Health and Care Plan are required to be admitted to the academy/school named in the Plan and will be allocated a place ahead of those without an Education, Health and Care Plan in the allocation process. Thereafter the admissions criteria for each academy/school will apply to those children without an Education, Health and Care Plan. After allocations have been made, if an application is made late or is received as part of the in-year process, pupils who have an Education, Health and Care Plan are required to be admitted to the school, which is named on the Plan, even if the school is full.

### **Fair Access Protocol**

All Local Authorities must have a Fair Access Protocol which operates outside of the arrangements of co-ordinated admissions (i.e. those children being admitted to the point of entry at an academy/school) to ensure unplaced children, especially the most vulnerable are offered a suitable school place. Pupils identified for admission through the Fair Access Protocol will be admitted even if the school is full.

## **Unsuccessful applications**

### **Waiting List**

All unsuccessful applicants will be added to the waiting list, which will run until the end of the academic year (July 2026). Waiting lists are ranked solely by the published oversubscription criteria for the school. The list will be ranked each time a child is added to the waiting list.

### **Appeals**

If a place cannot be offered at Thornhill Primary School applicants have the right of appeal. An independent panel hears all appeals. Information regarding the appeal process will be sent to all unsuccessful applicants when notified of the outcome of their application.

## **Definitions of Admissions Criteria:**

### **'Looked after' children.**

A 'looked after' child is a child in the care of a local authority as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions, legislation a 'looked after child' is a child in public care at the time of application to a school.

### **Previously 'looked after' children**

A previously 'looked after' child is a child who was 'looked after', but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or a special guardianship order.

### **Children who appear to the Local Authority to have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.**

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.

### **Children of staff**

Permanent full or part-time staff who have either been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application or recruited to fill a vacant post where there was a demonstrable skill shortage. The relationship to the child is defined as by blood or adoption or with legal parental responsibility and living with the child in the same house Monday – Friday.

### **Catchment area**

A catchment area is a geographical area from which children are given priority for admission to the particular school. Please see [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) for more information on school catchment areas.

### **Sibling**

A sibling refers to a brother or sister, half brother or sister, stepbrother or sister, adopted brother or sister or fostered brother or sister where foster care has been arranged by a Local Authority or the child of the parent / carer's partner, and in every case, the child should be living at the same address. The sibling must be in the school at the time of application and be likely to remain in the school at the proposed date of admission. In the scenario where one twin or a child from multiple birth has an EHCP, the other twin or children from multiple birth will be considered as a sibling once the school named on the EHCP has been finalised.

### Nearest school

The nearest school will be identified by measuring the distance the pupil lives from the school. This is measured in a straight line, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, from the address point of the pupil's home to a point on the school site agreed with the governing body of the school. This is known as the designated measuring point.

Please see [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) for more information on the nearest lower/primary school (Leighton Buzzard area only).

Pulford VA Lower School will not be considered as a pupil's nearest school for the purposes of this policy as admission to Pulford is predominantly based on faith grounds rather than a pupil's address.

### Any other children

Pupils who do not meet any of the higher criteria will be prioritised by the distance with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority. Using their computerised measuring system, the Local Authority will measure the straight-line distance from the address point of the pupil's home to the designated measuring point for the school, as agreed with the school's governing body.

### Admissions into the Reception year

All admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. This means that where the school has offered a child a place, the following entitlements apply to the child:

- a) The child can take up a full-time place in the September.
- b) The child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year in which the offer was made (see below for more information on deferred entry).
- c) The child can attend part time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Children are not required to attend school until they reach compulsory school age. Children born from 1 April to 31 August known as summer born children do not need to start school until the September after their fifth birthday, a year after they could first have started school. Please see below for further information on this regarding the admission of summer born children.

### Deferred Entry

Places offered in the Starting School admissions round are for children to start in the Reception class (Year R) prior to their child's fifth birthday.

Parents/carers can choose to defer their child's entry to school or take up the place part time until they are of compulsory school age, providing this place is taken up within the same academic year.

| <b><i><u>Birthday between</u></i></b>                         | <b><i><u>Term in which child is statutory school age</u></i></b> | <b><i><u>Place can be deferred until</u></i></b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021-31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021 | Spring Term (January) Reception Year                             | Spring Term                                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022    | Summer Term (April) Reception Year                               | Summer Term                                      |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022     | Autumn Term (September) Year 1                                   | Summer Term                                      |

**To defer your child's place please put this in writing to the Head teacher once a place has been offered.**