

## **Consultation on proposed changes to St Thomas's C.E. Primary School's Admission Policy for 2026-27**

The Governing Board is consulting on proposed changes to its admission policy for 2026-27.

The Governors are proposing to amend their criteria to provide a clearer definition of 'churches' and to adapt the church attendance criteria with regards to frequency of church attendance and be more inclusive of other churches in the local area.

It is proposed to remove reference to 'church that is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland' and replace it with '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'.

The following criteria will be removed –

2. Children who attend St. Thomas's or St. Luke's Church or Sunday School at least twice a month and who have done so for the last 2 years.

3. Children who attend a Christian Church or Sunday School other than St. Thomas's or St. Luke's at least twice a month and who have done so for the last 2 years.

The following criterion will be amended –

From – Children who attend a Christian Church\*\* at least once a month and have done so for the past year.

To – 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.

The school's full proposed arrangements are below. If you have any questions about the school's proposed admission arrangements, please contact Suzanne Burgess at the school on 01942 201107.

### **Proposed Admissions Policy 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 other than St. Thomas's and St. Luke's 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.

\*\*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.

\*\*\* 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.

# 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
- keep the waiting list until the end of the autumn term.

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**

Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred 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**

Parents can request that their child attends 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**

You must give the correct permanent home address. This is where the child and parent, or the person who has care of the child or parental responsibility, normally live.

If you are separated and your child spends time at each parent's address, the address we use for admission to school is that of the main carer. We use the address of the parent who gets the Child Benefit for this.

St. Thomas's C.E. Primary School

Hodnet Drive, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 8PQ

☎ 01942-201107

**Supplementary Information Form**

Name of child .....

Date of birth .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Telephone No. ....

Mother's Name .....

Father's Name .....

Does your child attend St. Thomas's or St. Luke's Church? .....

If not, does your child attend any other church? If so, state which.

.....

How long has your child attended this church? (Please tick)

a) more than a year .....

b) At least 2 years .....

How frequently does your child attend? (Please tick)

a) fortnightly .....

b) monthly .....

# 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

**(If you attend a Church other than St. Thomas's or St. Luke's please provide, with this form, a letter from your Minister to confirm that the details provided on this form are correct)**

**If you have only recently become a member of this church will you please complete the details overleaf.**

Does the child named overleaf have any siblings (brothers or sisters) that already attend this school?  
If so please give details

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Any additional information.

**The section below needs to be completed if you have recently changed churches.**

Which church did your child used to attend? .....

How long did your child attend this church? (Please tick)

- a) at least 1 year .....
- b) More than 2 years .....

How frequently did your child attend? (Please tick)

- a) fortnightly .....
- b) monthly .....

(Please provide with this form, a letter from your past Minister to confirm that the details provided on this form are correct)