

CRITERIA OF ADMISSION:

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Admission of children to St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Grays, will be considered based on the application of the following criteria.

All applications must be registered with the Local Authority.

The Governors of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School, Grays intend to admit the school's standard number of 90 to the Reception Year, each academic year.

Applications for admission will be considered from parents who desire for their children a Catholic Education. Preference will be given to applicants according to the following criteria, in the following order:

1. 'Looked after' children from Catholic families.
2. Baptised Catholic children of practising Catholic parents, whose Parish Priest can confirm regular practice, (weekly Sunday obligation Mass attendance and Holy Days of obligation).
3. Baptised Catholic children.
4. Other 'looked after children'.
5. Baptised children of practising (non-Catholic) Christian parents who desire a Catholic education for their children and who accept the Catholic ethos and practices of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School, Grays and whose Minister can confirm regular practice. According to Canon Law, dedications will not be recognised as being equal to baptisms in this criterion.
6. Children of practising (non-Catholic) Christian parents who desire a Catholic education for their children and who accept the Catholic ethos and practices for St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School, Grays and whose Minister can confirm regular practice.
7. Non-baptised children of parents of other faiths, whose religious leader can confirm are practising regularly in their faith community and desire for them a Catholic education, and who accept the Catholic ethos and practices of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School, Grays.
8. Children who do not fit any of the above criteria.

* 'Looked after children' has the same meaning as in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, and means any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by them (eg children with foster parents).

PLEASE NOTE: in case of over-subscription:

1. Applicants with children already in the school have first priority within the applicable category. For the purpose of allocating places, the following will be classified as siblings: full siblings, step siblings and half siblings living at the same address. Also, long term foster siblings living at the same address at the date of application and admission. Siblings must be attending the school at the time of admission of the younger child.
2. The Governing Body may increase the priority of an application within a category where evidence is provided at the time of application of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child, which can be most appropriately met at this school.
3. Children living closest to the school, measured in a straight line in metres by a digital mapping system, will be given higher priority. The straight line distance measurement is taken from the front door of the home address to the main school gate.

Please attach a copy of your child's birth certificate and Baptismal certificate. Completing an application form, does not guarantee a place for your child at this school. The only guarantee of a place, is the receipt of a formal offer of a place, from the Local Authority.

The formal offer of a place must then be accepted in writing. Otherwise the offer of a place may be withdrawn.

If your application is unsuccessful you have the right to appeal.

Arrangements for making an application for a place at St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic School, Grays

1. Complete the application form available from the LA.
2. Discuss your application with your parish priest/minister who must counter sign your application.
3. Return your application to the LA. (A copy of birth certificate and Baptismal certificate, if appropriate) returned to the school.

Pupils with a statement of special educational need

The admission of pupils with a statement of special educational needs is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. This procedure is integral to the making and maintaining of statements by the pupil's home local authority. Details of this separate procedure are set out in the special educational needs code of practice.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, you should contact the Headteacher at the school, The Headteacher, St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Ward Avenue, Grays, RM17 5RW or the LA Admissions Department.

Arrangements for admitting pupils to Reception Classes:

The children will be allocated to a Reception Class. In consultation between the class teacher and parent a date for starting school will be agreed. By mutual consent, children, if it is felt they can cope, are permitted to stay for both morning and afternoon sessions.

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Grays, Essex.
Governors' Admission Criteria & Procedures for Admission.