

# Thurrock Determined Admission Arrangements

## Primary schools 2016/17

If a school is oversubscribed, places are allocated in accordance with the school's published admission criteria (also known as admission policies or admission arrangements.)

The admission authority for a school or academy must set admission arrangements annually.

For community schools, the admission authority is the local council. For voluntary aided schools, academies, and free schools, it is the school's governing body or academy trust (please see individual school's websites for information on their determined admission arrangements.)

### **Oversubscription criteria – community and voluntary controlled schools**

When there are fewer applications for places in a particular school than the published admission number for that school all legitimate applications will be met with the offer of a place there.

Where there are more applicants than places, the following oversubscription criteria (admission criteria) will be used for deciding which applications have priority. These criteria are set out below in the order in which they are applied.

1. **Looked after children and previously looked after children** – Children in public care and children previously looked after will automatically be given first priority over other categories where priority is claimed on the application form and validated by the local authority.
2. **Special reasons** – Priority for admission may be given where there are exceptional social, medical or educational reasons for admission to a particular school. These reasons must be supported by evidence from a relevant professional (e.g. a doctor or a social worker) and must be submitted with the application for admission. The purpose of this criterion is to give priority to pupils with a specific need that can be met specifically at one school rather than another. The threshold for a successful application under this criterion is high and such cases are likely to be rare since all schools are able to offer support and facilities for a wide range of needs.
3. **Children transferring from partner infant schools** – This is for children transferring from an Infant School (Year 2) to a Junior School (Year 3) admission only.
4. **Catchment area siblings** – Children whose normal place of residence is in the catchment area of the school at the closing date for applications, and who will have a sibling at the school at the point of admission, in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.
5. **Catchment area children** – Children whose normal place of residence is in the catchment area at the closing date for applications in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.
6. **Non-catchment area siblings** – Children whose normal place of residence is outside the catchment area of the school at the closing date for applications and who will have a sibling at the school at the point of admission in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.
7. **Non-catchment area children** – Children whose normal place of residence is outside the catchment area at the closing date for applications in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.

## **Further information about admission criteria – community and voluntary controlled schools**

### **Distance**

The distance measurement used is the shortest straight line distance from home to school. For most schools the straight line distance measurement is taken from the front door of the home address to the main school gate. Addresses within the same apartment block will be regarded as a tie and resolved using the tie breaker.

### **Siblings**

For the purpose of allocating places siblings will be defined as:

- full siblings living at the same address
- step siblings living at the same address
- half siblings living at the same address
- long-term foster siblings living at the same address at the date of application and admission

### **Children attending a school nursery class**

Admission to or attendance at a school nursery class does not guarantee, or give any priority, for admission to the main part of a primary or infant school.

### **Multiple births**

When there are not enough places remaining in a particular criterion to allow all children from a multiple birth to be admitted within the published admission number, the local authority will admit the others as excepted pupils in the terms of the infant class size legislation so as to allow all children from that multiple birth to attend the same school.

### **Tie breaker**

In circumstances where more than one child is entitled to the same place the place will be offered using the random allocation system (a lottery). This process will be administered by the school admissions service and supervised by an independent witness.

### **Other offers**

Applications that are not met with an offer of a preferred school will receive an offer at the catchment school if there are vacancies or at the next nearest school with vacancies. Distance measurement used to assess the next nearest school is shortest walking distance.