



St Thomas CE Academy Birmingham Admissions Policy 2023 - 2024

Reviewed 1 November 2021

| ST THOMAS CE ACADEMY | |
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| Great Colmore Street Birmingham B15 2AT Tel: 0121 622 2151 www.allsaintsmat.school DFE No: 330 3314 | Age Range: 4-11 Approx. Number on Roll: 236 Ward: Ladywood Type: Academy Published Admission Number: 30 |

Our admissions process is part of the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme. Applicants must apply to their home Local Authority by the closing date.

The St Thomas CE Academy admission number is 30. Where the number of applications is lower than the St Thomas CE Academy's admission number, all applicants will be admitted.

How to apply for Reception Class

An application must be made online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by using the local authority preference form. If applying under admission priority 3 or 4 below, you must **also** complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for this school, which is appended to this Policy and is also available from the school website. The SIF must be returned to the school directly by the Local Authority's closing date for applications. **(Both forms must be completed for an application to be considered under priority 3 or 4).**

Oversubscription criteria

If the number of applications for a particular year group exceeds the number of places available, each application will be given a priority and places will be allocated in the following order:

Admission criteria

Priority 1:

Children looked after by a Local Authority (in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school and children who were previously looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order immediately following having been looked after. This includes 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.

Priority 2:

Children with sibling(s) at St Thomas Academy at time of entry.

Priority 3:

Children who both live within the parish of St Luke's Great Colmore Street (www.achurchnearyou.com), and whose parent/guardian regularly* attends the local Church of England Parish Church (St Luke's Church, Great Colmore Street).

Priority 4:

Children who both live within the parish of St Luke's Great Colmore Street, and whose parent/guardian regularly* attends another Christian Church **.

Priority 5:

Children who live nearest the school.

* In each case of a faith claim under priority 3 or 4 above, regular church attendance means attending at least twice a month at public worship for 12 months immediately preceding the Local Authority's deadline date for applications. This must be confirmed by the relevant minister completing the relevant part of the school's Supplementary Information Form (available from the school website:

<https://www.allsaintsmat.school/page/?title=Admissions&pid=46>).

** For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'Christian church' means a church which is Designated under the Ecumenical Relations Measure 2018, nationally by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, or locally by the diocesan bishop, or which is a member of Churches Together in England, or affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance or a Partner Church of Affinity. The list of nationally Designated churches can be found at:

www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/list_of_designated_churches_3_oct_18.pdf

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

Notes:

1. Children with an EHC Plan that names St Thomas CE Academy will be offered a place first. This may reduce the number of places available.
2. Under priority 2, a brother or sister must live at the same address and could be:
 - i. A brother or sister sharing the same parents;
 - ii. A half-brother or sister, where two children share one parents; a stepbrother or stepsister, where two children are relate by a parent's marriage or civil partnership (a formal arrangement that gives same-sex couples the same legal status as married couples);
 - iii. The separate children of a couple who live together; or
 - iv. An adopted or fostered brother or sister.
3. For the purposes of education law, the Department for Education considers a 'parent' to include:
 - all biological parents, whether they are married or not;
 - any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative;
 - any person who, although not a biological parent and not having parental responsibility, has care of a child or young person. A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.
4. A child's home address is the place where the child is permanently resident with his or her Parent(s). When a child lives between two addresses, the address used for offering a school place will be where the child lives for most of the school week (Monday to Friday). If care is split equally, the parents can choose which address will be used. [In the event of a dispute between parents who each have parental responsibility, the matter may ultimately need to be resolved by the courts.]
5. If offering places within any one of the criteria would cause the school's admission number to be exceeded, then children living nearest will be offered first. Distances are measured by the Local Authority using a computerised system based on ordnance survey coordinates. The calculation of distance is on the basis of a straight-line measurement between the applicant's home address and the centre point of the school. If two or more applicants share the same distance to a school and only one place is available, the applicant to whom the place will be offered will be determined by the Local Authority by random selection (unless this involves multiple births, in which case, all the siblings will be admitted).
6. Applications received after the Local Authority's designated closing date for receipt of applications will be deemed to have been made late and will be considered after applications with the same priority that were received on time.
7. **Waiting lists** are produced in strict order of priority, against the over-subscription criteria. Waiting lists are kept until the end of the autumn term in the year of admission. Addition of a child to the waiting list will require the list to be re-ranked.
8. **In-Year applications:** Applications made outside the normal admissions round should be made directly to the Academy. On receipt of an in-year application, the Academy will notify the local authority. Parents must also complete the Supplementary Information Form, as above, if applying under priority 3 or 4.

The Academy will notify parents of the decision in writing within 15 school days and will notify the local authority of both the application and its outcome to allow the Local Authority to keep up to date with figures on the availability of school places in their area.

9. **Appeals:** Parents who wish to appeal against a decision of the Governors to refuse their child a place in the Academy may apply in writing to the Chair of the Governing Board, via the school office. Appeals will be heard by an independent Panel.
10. **Fair Access Protocol:** The Governing Board recognises its duty to participate in the Local Authority Fair Access Protocol.
11. **Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry:**
- 10.1 A child is entitled to a full-time place at school in the September following their fourth birthday. The child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the Academy until later in the school year, but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which application was made.
- 10.2 Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.
- 10.3 Compulsory school age is the prescribed day on or following the child's fifth birthday. The prescribed days are **31 December, 31 March and 31 August**; e.g. For a child born between 01 September and 31 December, their prescribed day will be 31st December and therefore the child must be in compulsory education by the 31st December. For a child born between 01 January and 31 March, the child must be in compulsory education by 31 March. For a child born between 01 April and 31 August, the child must be in compulsory education by the beginning of the final term of the school year (unless the provisions relating to summer-born children below are applied).
11. **Admission of children outside their normal age group**
- 11.1 Parents may seek a place for a child outside of their normal age group in special circumstances, for instance if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Such applications should be made in writing to the Chair of the Governing Board of the Academy setting out the reasons for the request. A decision will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.
- 11.2 **Summer-born Children** (those born between 01 April and 31 August)
- 11.2.1 Parents of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to school until the September following the child's fifth birthday, when they will apply for the child to enter Year 1. There is no guarantee that a place will be available at the Academy at this stage, as the year group may well already be full.
- 11.2.2 Parents of a summer born child may, *at the same time as making an application to the LA for Reception in the child's normal age group*, make a request of the school's Governing Board that the child may **reapply** to be admitted instead to the Reception Class in the September following the child's 5th birthday. The request should be made in writing to the Chair of the Governing Board of the Academy, setting out the reasons for the request. The Governing Board will make its decision on the basis of the individual circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned and will set out clearly the reasons for the decision.
- If the Governing Board agrees to the parent's request, the existing application for the Reception place may be withdrawn and the parent must then make a **new** application for a place in Reception which will be considered against the normal oversubscription criteria **as part of the main admissions round the following year**, (and there is no guarantee of a place being offered at this Academy at that stage). If the Governing Board does not agree to the parent's request, the parent must decide whether to accept any offer of a place for the normal age group, or to

refuse it and make an in-year application for admission to Year 1 for the September following the child's fifth birthday (when, again, there is no guarantee of a place being available at this Academy).

11.3 A decision made by one admission authority in respect of admission of a child out of their normal age group is not binding on any other admission authority. Therefore, a child educated out of their normal age group at this Academy may not be accepted out of their normal age group when moving to a different Academy or from primary to secondary school.

11.4 Parents' statutory right of appeal against a decision to refuse admission does not apply if the child is offered a place at the school but it is not in the parent's preferred age group.

If parents are considering submitting an application for their child to be admitted into a class outside of their normal age group, it is strongly recommended that they read the DFE guidance to be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school/Academy-admission>