Proposed Admission Arrangements for

THORNTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

NURSERY ADMISSIONS POLICY

(September 2026)

Thornton Primary School is a two form entry Academy, with a pupil admission number (PAN) of 60 pupils and a 60 place Nursery (30fte).

In order to make admissions to our Nursery as fair as possible for all children wishing to attend it is necessary to have an admission policy.

Thornton Primary School Nursery Vision:
At our Nursery, children and their families are at the heart of an encouraging and challenging environment, where everyone recognises and celebrates differences, actively communicates the importance of learning and believes everyone can achieve.

Admissions criteria
Children will be eligible to be admitted to National Education Fund (NEF) places for the equivalent of 15 hours a week subject to availability in the term after their 3rd birthday. We have intakes in September, January and April.

Children attend Nursery part-time and will be admitted to Nursery in a term after their third birthday. There are 30 places in Nursery at any one time, but as these are part time, it means that effectively, 60 children can attend Nursery.
Our Nursery sessions are as follows:

1. Mornings: Monday to Friday 8.45-11.45am
2. Afternoons: Monday to Friday 12.15-3.15pm
3. Beginning of the week: Monday 8.45am to Wednesday 11.45am, this would equate to 16 hours per week as this includes lunch on Monday & Tuesday.
4. End of the week: Wednesday 12.15pm to Friday 3.15pm, this would equate to 16 hours per week as this includes lunch on Thursday & Friday.
5. 30 hours places for eligible children. Full time in Nursery would equate to 32.5 hours as this includes lunch.

To cover the cost of staffing at lunchtime parents will be charged £2 per lunchtime. This will apply to options 3, 4 & 5.

In the event of Nursery places being over- subscribed, the over-subscription criteria described below will be applied. Parents will be informed of the decision by the school.

When applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below.

A place offered, where the parent has named the school based on:

1. Looked after children or children who were previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order, including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be state care as a result of being adopted. (See note 1).

Note

A "looked after child" is a child who, at the time of making the application is: in the care of a local authority, or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions. A "previously looked after child" is a child who is no longer looked after because they were adopted or became subject to a Special Guardianship order or a Child Arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live. Evidence will be required on a case by case basis

2. Children who have exceptional social or medical needs, where it is deemed essential by an independent professional written recommendation from the child's paediatrician/consultant, a Director of the Local Authority, Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) etc. The letter must explain why Thornton Primary is the **ONLY** suitable school to meet the child's needs and why no other school could provide the appropriate support. The Governors will consider all requests on these grounds.

3. Children who have sisters and brothers (siblings) of statutory school age attending the school (where the child currently attending will be continuing in the school during the year for which the application is made)

4. Children who live near to the proximity of the school. Priority being given to those living closest to the school as the crow flies, from the main entrance of the school to the home address building (proof of residency may be requested before places are offered)

Please Note
Siblings mean brothers and sisters who live at the same address. Foster children and step sisters and step brothers are also included.
The address is defined as being the home where the child lives on a regular basis with his or her parents/carers.

Multiple Births
Where parents of multiple births (twins, triplets etc) request admission and only one of the siblings can be offered a place, the remaining siblings will also be offered a place above the admission number.

Children from Split Families
'Home address' refers to the child's permanent home address at the date of admission. Where the child lives with split parents who have shared responsibility, it is for the parents to determine which address to use when applying for primary school. Proof of residency may be required at any time during or after the allocation process.

Tie Break
When demand exceeds places in any of the following policies, the distance between the child's home and school, measured by a straight line distance from the Ordnance Survey address point of the home to the main entrance to the school building, will be used to decide who is given a place; those living nearest being given the available places. Where the offer of places to applicants with equi-distant addresses would lead to over subscription, the decision of who will be offered the place will be made by random selection.

Admissions to Thornton Primary School: It is worth noting that children who attend Thornton Primary School Nursery are prioritised for places in Reception if applications are made through the correct procedure. Please see our Admissions Policy and Arrangements to the school.