

Thorn Grove Primary School



Nursery Admissions Policy 2019-2020

Inspiring individuals, creating success

For Admissions in Academic Year 2019 - 2020

Our Nursery class takes place every morning from 9am to 12 noon, term time only, in our Early Years Foundation Stage Unit. The School has places for 30 children in the Nursery class.

Thorn Grove has one intake into its Nursery class which is the September following a child's third birthday. Entry into the Nursery class in September 2018 will be for those children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.

Thorn Grove Primary School and Nursery offers 15 hours Free Early Education and does not offer the additional 15 hours to provide 30 Hour Childcare provision. (Little Acorns Pre School offering the additional 15 hours and will collect children from our Nursery).

Allocation of a Nursery place is strictly subject to the applicant's guarantee that the first 15 hours of Free Childcare Funding will be directed to this school. This guarantee should be made on the Parent Declaration Form (available on our website).

Information leaflets will be sent to parents by HCC in the Autumn term.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

All Schools/Nurseries are now responsible for their own Nursery Admission arrangements as well as for allocating places. **Parents must apply for a place directly to this school** on the school's application form available from the school website or collect a form from the school office. This application must be submitted before Friday 15 March 2019 (see timeline below).

The Admissions timetable for all schools is no longer laid down by HCC. Thorn Grove and other local schools aim to use the following timeline for processing applications to their schools:

- **Monday 4 February 2019** Applications open to apply for a place in our Nursery class
- **Friday 15 March 2019** The application system closes
- **Monday 22 April 2019** Thorn Grove will offer places directly to parents by email
- **Wednesday 1 May 2019** Deadline for parents to accept places

The Governing Body will apply their Admissions arrangements using the information submitted by parents in the School's application form. If your application form is not completed correctly this may result in the application being given a lower priority.

An offer of a Nursery place does not guarantee an offer of a Reception place. The process of applying for a school place happens one year later.

The offer of a Nursery place will be ONLY for a full time place (3 hours daily in the morning), 5 days per week, 38 weeks a year (Term time only).

There is no right of appeal against non admission to the Nursery class.

Please note that the information in this policy is correct for the year shown. Policies for future years may well be different.

HOW PLACES ARE OFFERED

In the event of there being more applications than available places, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied by the governors, in order:

Rule 1: Children looked after and children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order)*.

Rule 2: Medical or Social-Children for whom it can be demonstrated that they have a particular medical or social need to go to the school*.

A panel of officers will determine whether the evidence provided is sufficiently compelling to meet the requirements for this rule. The evidence must relate specifically to the school applied for under Rule 2 and must clearly demonstrate why it is the only school that can meet the child's needs.

Rule 3: Linked School (*This rule only applies to pupils who are currently attending an infant school which has a linked junior school¹.*) In the case of junior schools, children who attend the linked infant school at the time of their application.

Rule 4: Sibling-Children who have a sibling on the roll of the school or linked school at the time of application*. *This applies to reception through to Year 5 in infant, junior and primary schools; and from reception through to Year 3 in first schools; and from Year 5 to Year 7 in middle schools.*

Rule 5: Nearest School Children for whom it is their nearest community or voluntary-controlled school or an own admitting school or academy² using Hertfordshire County Council's admission rules.

Rule 6: Distance-Children who live nearest to the school. *Children not considered under rule 5 will be considered under rule 6.* This will be a distance measurement provided by Hertfordshire County Council's "find a school" service on the hertfordshire.gov.uk website. These rules are applied in the order they are printed above. If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available, a tie break will be used by applying the next rule to those children.

Where the application of the above criteria results in a situation where there are more children with an equal right to admission to the Nursery class than the number of available places, the tie-break will be **distance from the School**.

Where there is a need for a tie-breaker where two different addresses measure the same distance from a school, in the case of a block of flats for example, the lower door number will be deemed nearest as logically this will be on the ground floor and therefore closer. If there are two identical addresses of separate applicants, the tie break will be random.

Notes

- a. We apply these rules in the order they are printed. If more children qualify under a particular rule than there are places available we use a tie-break by applying the next rule to those children. Residence within the area defined in criteria 3 does not give an automatic right to a place in the school.

- b. The Children's Act 1989 defines a child who is 'Looked After' as a child or young person who accommodated by the local authority (Section 20) or a child or young person who is the subject of a full care order (Section 31) or interim care order (Section 38).

An 'adoption order' is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence order' is an order setting out the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children's Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children's Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians)

- c. In respect of 'Children Looked After', Home address and 'sibling' the governors use the same definitions as HCC. (Please note that evidence of permanent residency at the quoted address may be sought. If no evidence is forthcoming the address to which Child Benefit is paid will be used.)
- d. A sibling means the sister/brother, half brother/sister, adopted brother/sister, or a child of the parent/carer or partner, who lives in the same house as the child for whom the application is being made, from Monday to Friday.
- e. Every effort will be made to accommodate twins and other 'multiple birth' applications provided that this does not breach maximum class size regulations.

CONTINUING INTEREST (WAITING) LIST AND 'IN YEAR' APPLICATIONS

In the event of more applications than available places the governors will maintain a continuing interest list (waiting list). These and late applications will go onto this list in a position determined by the criteria. If a place becomes available in the school it will be offered to the child that best meets the published admission rules.

Parents are requested to inform the governors if they wish their child's name to be removed from the waiting list.