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ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2026

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Statutory Framework

St John's CE Primary School is a member of the Cranmer Education Trust (CET). CET is the Admission Authority, with the administration and implementation of the policy being delegated to the trust's Admissions Committee.

The Committee applies the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend one of its schools. Schools comply with the provisions within the Schools Admissions Code and the Schools Appeal Code, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academy-admissions>

Published Admission Number (PAN)

All schools within CET are inclusive and welcome children from all backgrounds and abilities. The only restriction placed on entry is number. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, each school has oversubscription criteria which are applied by the local committee.

The Published Admission Number for St John's is 30.

Infant Size Legislation

Infant classes (those where the majority of children will reach the age of 5, 6 or 7 during the school year) must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single teacher, as defined in Section 4 of the SSFA 1998. Additional children may be admitted under limited exceptional circumstances. These children will remain an 'excepted pupil' for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.

Application Procedures

The application period runs from 01 September 2025 to 15th January 2026.

Applications for admission to the Reception Year in September 2026 should be made to the local authority in which the applicant lives using the common application form (CAF) on the local authority's [website](#). Completed applications should be returned to the local authority in which the applicant lives by the closing date advised by the local authority. Details of all the applications made will be forwarded to the school.

Applications received after the appropriate closing date will be regarded as late unless, in the judgement of CET, there are significant and exceptional reasons for the lateness. Proof of special circumstances will be required. Late applications are not considered until all on-time applicants have been allocated places.

In-Year Admissions Applications

Anyone who wishes to apply for a place in Reception Year after the first school day in September, or to any other age group at any time, will apply directly to the school. The allocation of places is in accordance with the admissions criteria. Preference will be given to children moving into the area from outside the Local Authority area who do not have a school place. Evidence will need to be provided that the child has recently moved in.

Oversubscription Criteria

If no more than 30 applications are received for admissions to Reception Year, all applicants will be offered places.

All schools are required by section 324 of the Education Act 1996 to admit to the school a child with a statement of special educational need or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that names the school. This is not an oversubscription criterion and all children with statements or EHCPs naming a school will be admitted before other children are offered a place.

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, it will be necessary to determine which pupils can be offered a place by applying the following oversubscription criteria in priority order.

Criteria 1 - Children Looked After, Children Previously Looked After and Internationally Adopted Children Previously Looked After

This includes any Children Looked After (CLA) or children previously looked after, and any child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence or special guardianship order. 'Looked after' means that the child was:

- (a) in the care of a Local Authority, or;
- (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions.

This criteria also includes children looked after and all previously looked after children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.

Criteria 2 - Faith-based: Children living within the Parish of St John's Thornham who attend St John's Church, Thornham

Regular attendance at public worship, together with a parent/legal guardian or close family member, at St John's Church of England Thornham of children living within the parish of St John's Thornham. Attendance will be established by information provided on the Supplementary Information Form (Appendix 1) completed by a member of the clergy or other designated church officer. For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'regular' means and will be prioritised as follows:

2:1 attendance at least twenty-four (24) times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application

2:2 attendance at least twelve (12) times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application

Criteria 3 - Siblings

See Note (b) below. Siblings of pupils attending the school during the academic year to which the child would be admitted. 'Sibling' means a natural brother or sister, a half brother or sister, a legally adopted brother or sister or half-brother or sister, a stepbrother or sister, or other child living in the same household who, in any of these cases, will be living with them at the same address at the date of their entry to the school.

Criteria 4 - Faith-based: Children living within the Parish of St John's Thornham who attend at public worship in any other Christian church.

For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'other 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 [Designated Churches.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/designated-churches)

A parent or parents wishing to apply against this criterion must show, that together with a parent/legal guardian or close family member, the child has attended regularly their place of worship. Attendance at public worship (or its specified equivalent for faith bodies which are not a Christian church where that is provided for in the admissions arrangements) will be established by information provided on the Supplementary Information Form (appendix 1), including verification by the relevant Minister/Faith Leader or their designated officer. For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'regular' attendance means and will be prioritised as follows:

4:1 attendance at least twenty-four (24) times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application

4:2 attendance at least twelve (12) times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application

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.

Criteria 5 - Distance from school

If sufficient places remain available within the Published Admission Number (PAN), up to **four** places will be allocated to any children based on the proximity to the school. Proximity to the school is based on the shortest, suitable safe walking distance between home and school, using Rochdale Local Authority's system (computerised GIS Mapping Software: Route finder), which uses the Ordnance Survey integrated network to measure the safe walking distance between the centre point of the child's family home to the main gate of the school.

Walking routes are deemed to be along recognised lit, paved routes which, in general, are overlooked by houses and as such are likely to be relatively safe to walk. Unlit, unmade-up shortcuts are not taken into account in calculating walking distances, even if they are public rights of way. Nationally, the suitable walking distance for primary age children up to 8 is up to 2 miles and for children over 8 it is up to 3 miles, with the assumption that the journey can be undertaken on foot, accompanied as necessary.

The child's home is defined as the place where the child sleeps for the majority of the week. The child's home address will be determined by address checks as indicated below in the section titled 'Address Definition'.

Criteria 6 – Faith-based: Children who do not live in the Parish of St John's Thornham who regularly attend public worship at St John's Church Thornham.

Regular attendance at public worship, together with a parent/ legal guardian or close family member, at St John's Church Thornham Church of England church of children living outside the parish of St John's Thornham. Attendance will be established by information provided on the Supplementary Information Form (appendix 1) completed by a member of the clergy or other

designated church officer. For the purposes of these admission arrangements 'regular' means and will be prioritised as follows:

6:1 attendance at least twenty-four (24) times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application

6:2 attendance at least twelve (12) times in the twelve months immediately prior to the date of application

Criteria 7 - Children eligible for the service premium

Children eligible for admission under the Service Premium are those where:

- One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces
- One of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years
- One of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) and the War Pensions Scheme (WPS).

Families of UK service personnel are subject to frequent movement within the UK and from abroad, often at relatively short notice. For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to the area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in the area, when considering applications against the oversubscription criteria the school will accept an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address for a service child, even if there is uncertainty about the exact future address.

Criteria 8 - Social and medical need

Those children who are considered to have exceptional medical or social reasons as to why they should attend a particular school. Parents will be required to submit evidence to support their application under this criterion (see note (a) below).

Criteria 9 - Any other children

If there are places available after fulfilling Criteria 1-8, priority will then be given to those living the shortest, suitable, safe walking distance from school. If the distance between home and school does not distinguish between two or more applicants with equal priority for the remaining place, random allocation will be used as the final tie-breaker. This will be supervised by someone independent of the school.

Notes

- a) Exceptional reasons for priority over other applicants: decisions must be consistent and based on objective evidence, which must be provided in writing by an appropriate professional, e.g. a doctor or a social worker. Such evidence must set out the particular reasons why the school is the most suitable for the child and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school.
- b) Siblings: CET accepts that in some family units (1 or 2 parents/carers and children), the children may not be natural brothers and/or sisters. Other children from the same family unit can be considered as a sibling link under this criterion provided that proof is available to demonstrate that the children are permanently resident at the same address and part of the same family unit.
- c) Geographical Proximity: Should it be necessary to distinguish between applicants with equal priority within any of the above criteria, the distance is measured as a straight line from the child's home address to the school property measured between the two central data points of the home postcode and school post code. Measurements are calculated

using Geographical Information System mapping software based on Ordnance Survey and Postcode data.

Permanent Address

The only address CET can consider is the address of the adult with whom the child is permanently resident. Where a child stays with another parent for part of the week, further enquiries may be made in order to determine where the child is permanently resident. Proof of residence will be required.

Any allegations received by the admission authority of people providing false accommodation for school places will be fully investigated and, if found to be true, allocated places may be withdrawn.

If a childminder, grandparents or another member of the family cares for the child on a daily basis at another address, CET cannot consider this address for the purpose of its admission process to school.

Intention to Move to A New House

An intention to change address cannot be considered until such a move has actually taken place and proof is available to substantiate the change of address. Proof of change of address will be accepted up until the latest reasonable date prior to the final allocation of school place usually in April. For children of UK service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area proof of posting is all that is required.

Twins or Triplets

In cases where twins, triplets, or other multiple birth siblings are split when allocations take place, they will be allocated a place over the Published Admission Number and will remain excepted pupils for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.

Flats

In the event of two or more children living equal distant from the school, e.g. blocks of flats, the place will be decided by drawing lots. The first name drawn will be offered the place.

Deferred Admissions

Children are entitled to a full-time place in school in the September following their fourth birthday. Once they have been offered a place at the school, the child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school 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 the application was made. 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.

Admissions Outside the child's normal age group

Where a parent of a summer born child (1st April – 31st August) wishes to defer entry to the following September but enter in the Reception Year out of the child's chronological cohort, a fresh application must be made under the Coordinated Primary Admissions Scheme for that year of entry.

Parents requesting admission out of the normal age group must put their request in writing, addressed to the Headteacher at the school, together with any supporting evidence that the parent wishes to be taken into account. The governors who have the authority delegated by the Admission Authority will make decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; any information provided about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The governors will also take into account the views of the Headteacher. When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the governors will set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

Where the governors agree to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and governors must process the application as part of the main admissions round, unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible, and on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. The admission authority must not give the application lower priority on the basis that the child is being admitted out of their normal age group.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school, but it is not in their preferred age group.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date will be placed last in the criteria in which they fall unless the Admission Authority is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented the application from being submitted on time. Supporting evidence, including that provided by the required Supplementary Information Form, must also be supplied by the closing date for applications, unless it is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances which reasonably prevented it being submitted on time. In the absence of such supporting evidence, the allocation of places will be made on the basis of the application alone.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists are maintained by the Admission Authority and it will be open to any parent to ask for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list following an unsuccessful application. Waiting lists are held in order of the published admission criteria and reordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves it. The waiting list will operate until 31st December at the end of the autumn term following admissions in September.

Appeals

Parents / legal guardians have the right of appeal to an independent panel set up under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988 as amended by the Education Act 2002 and subject to the School Admissions Appeal Code 2022.

Parents / legal guardians should notify the Business Manager at the school within 20 school days of being refused a place of their intention to lodge an appeal.

Parents / legal guardians have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and to attend to present their case. Parents / legal guardians will normally receive 10 school days' notice

the hearing. Further information about any appeal will be provided by the independent Clerk to the Appeals Panel.

The right of appeal against the school's decision does not prevent parents or legal guardians from making an appeal in respect of any other school.

Fraudulent Applications

Where the Governing Board discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the Admission Authority has the right to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

Privacy Notice

In making an application for admission, parents / legal guardians provide personal, sensitive information in relation to their child and themselves. This information will be stored in accordance with the trust's privacy notice, a copy of which can be found on the school website.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Supplementary Information Form- Faith Based

Appendix 2: Social or Medical Information