THAMESMEAD SCHOOL
ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2026-2027

ADMISSION

The Governing Body of Thamesmead School is committed to the principles of comprehensive education and to a continued policy of open admission. The Governing Body has carried out all the necessary requirements, as detailed in legislation and guidance, to ensure that the school's published admission arrangements comply with the mandatory requirements of the Department for Education School Admissions Code, pursuant to Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Parents must complete their Home Local Authority Application Form and return it to their Home Local Authority by the closing date.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA (1 – 7)

Where applications for admission **exceed** the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied for those who put Thamesmead School as a preference, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit.

1. Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Looked after and previously looked after children will be considered to be:

- children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, e.g. fostered or living in a children's home, at the time an application for a school is made; and
- children who have previously been in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and who have left that care through adoption, a child arrangements order (in accordance with Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014) or special guardianship order (in accordance with Section 14A of the Children Act 1989); and
- 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. A child will be regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society. The parent/carer will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that the child was in state care outside of England and left that care as a result of being adopted.

2. Sibling

Where the child:

- at the time of admission has a brother or sister at Thamesmead who is another child of the same parents, (including children adopted by both parents) whether living at the same address or not, or
- at the time of admission has a brother or sister at Thamesmead who is a half-brother or sister or a step-brother or sister, or foster child, living at the same address, or
- has a brother or sister, half-brother or sister or a step-brother or sister, or foster child, who has been a former student at Thamesmead within 5 years of the anticipated date of entry.

3. Feeder Schools

Where the child attends either of the two Shepperton Primary Feeder Schools, St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School or Saxon Primary School.

4. Performing Arts

Thamesmead School will offer up **to a maximum of 10% of admissions on aptitude in performing arts, i.e. maximum of 21 places being offered under Drama and/or Music** in the September 2026 Year 7 intake**.** Applicants will be prioritised by a score system following aptitude testing.

If you are applying for your child under Drama and/or Music you must complete a Year 7 Performing Arts Supplementary Application Form and return it to the school by 12 noon on Friday 10th October 2025 at the latest indicating which subject or subjects you are applying under. This is in addition to completing the Local Authority Application Form. The Supplementary Application Form can be found on the School's website or obtained from the School Office. Your child will be invited into the School to take part in aptitude test/s on Tuesday 14th October 2025 (Drama) or Wednesday 15th October 2025 (Music). Parents will be notified of the result of the aptitude test/s in advance of the closing date for completing the Local Authority Application Form.

NB: Children who attend aptitude tests in both subjects of Drama and Music, and who achieve high ranking scores, will be offered a place under the subject in which they achieved the highest score. Should children achieve the same high-ranking score in both of the subjects they will be offered a place under the subject they listed as the highest preference on the Supplementary Application Form.

5. Children of Staff at the school

Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or

The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

Note: A person will be child's parent for the purpose of this criterion if they are living in the same family unit as the child at the same address and are:

- Their mother or father
- Any other person who has parental responsibility, such as an adoptive parent, step-parent, a special guardian or person names in a child arrangements order
- Any other person who does not have parental responsibility but otherwise has the care of the child, such as a foster carer

A member of staff applying under this criterion should obtain a Staff Supplementary Form from the Admissions Officer, or via our website. The completed form for the September 2026 Year 7 intake must be returned to the school by Friday 24th October 2025 at the latest. This is in addition to completing the Local Authority Application Form.

6. Local Proximity

Where a child does not attend a Shepperton primary School but **permanently** resides within the Shepperton Post Code area of TW17. NB: Evidence of proof of residency will be requested.

7. Proximity

Proximity of the child's **permanent** home to the School.

Information to Note:

1. Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that named the school are given priority outside the oversubscription criteria.

2. **Tie Breakers:**

   Where oversubscription occurs in any criteria, with the exception of criterion 4 (see below), proximity to the school will be used in order to prioritise pupils, with those living closest to the school gaining priority. The distance is measured in a straight line from the address point of the child's house, as set by Ordnance Survey, to the nearest school gate available for students to use. This is calculated using the School Admissions Geographical Information System which you can visit at http://findaschool.surreycc.gov.uk.

   The address on the application must be the **child's current permanent place of residence**, usually the parents' address.
   - Where the child is subject to a child arrangements order and that order stipulates that the child will live with one parent/carer more than the other, the address to be used will be the one where the child is expected to live for the majority of the time.
   - In other cases where the parents do not live together, the address is where the child spends most of their time. In cases, where the child spends an equal time between their parents/carers, it will be up to the parent/carers to agree which address to use.
   - Where a child spends their time equally between their parents/carers and they cannot agree on who should make the application, we will accept an application from the parent/carer who is registered for child benefit (where applicable). If neither parent/carer is registered for child benefit we will accept the application from the parent/carer whose address is registered with the child's current school.

   We will generally not accept a temporary address if the main carer of the child still possesses or rents a property that has previously been used as a home address, nor will we accept a temporary address if we believe it has been used solely or mainly to obtain a school place when an alternative address is still available to the child.

   Where two children live equidistant from the school, the School will draw lots to determine which child should be given priority. This process would be duly witnessed and recorded.

   If oversubscription occurs in criterion 4, places will be prioritised by the scores achieved in the aptitude tests. Where children have achieved the same score, the School will draw lots to determine which child should be given priority. This process would be duly witnessed and recorded.

   Where multiple applications are received from one family, e.g. twins, triplets or other multiple births, for a single remaining place in the oversubscription criteria, the School will admit both/all children, even if it means going over the PAN. An offer of a place based on where the child lives is conditional on the child being resident at this address at the closing date of application, unless a change of address for good reason has been accepted by the Home Local Authority.

3. Governors reserve the right to withdraw the offer of a place if the information contained in the application is found to be incorrect, fraudulent or intentionally misleading.

4. Late applications for the initial intake to Year 7 will be considered in accordance with Surrey's Secondary Coordinated Admissions Scheme.

5. In the event of oversubscription, waiting lists will be drawn up and ranked in the same order as the Oversubscription Criteria (1 – 7). Waiting lists for the initial Year 7 intake will be maintained until the last day of the Autumn term when they will be cancelled. Parents wishing to remain on the Year 7 waiting list after this date must write to the school by 31st December 2026. After 31st December 2026, parents whose children are not already on the waiting list but who wish them to be so must submit an In Year application (see In Year applications, below).

6. **In Year Applications** – parents wishing to apply for a place for their child in current Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 should visit the Admissions page of our school website for guidance and **complete the In Year Admission form**. You can also contact the Admissions Officer via phone or admissions@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk for advice. In Year waiting lists will be drawn up and ranked in the same order as the Oversubscription Criteria (1 – 7).

   Please note all in year waiting lists will be cancelled at the end of the summer term each year i.e. in year applications submitted during the 2026-2027 academic year, will remain on the waiting list until the end of the summer term in 2027, at which point they will expire.

7. Thamesmead School's policy is for children to be educated within their correct chronological year group, with the curriculum differentiated as necessary to meet the needs of individual children. This is in line with DfE guidance which states that 'in general, children should be educated in their normal age group'. If parents/carers believe their child(ren) should be educated in a different year group they should, at the time of application, submit supporting evidence from relevant professionals working with the child and family stating why the child must be placed outside their normal age-appropriate cohort.

   - Applicants who are applying for their child to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, Governors agree for the child to have a decelerated entry to the school the place cannot be deferred and instead the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the decelerated cohort.

   - Applicants who are applying for their child to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If, in liaison with the Headteacher, Governors agree for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry to the school, the applicant will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort.

   Decisions will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and what is in the best interests of the child concerned.

8. The Governors of Thamesmead School have agreed that there should be no authorised absence granted for holidays during school term time.

Published Admission Number (PAN): 210