



St Michael with St Thomas CE Primary School

The Three Saints Academy Trust

Admission Arrangements 2024-25

"If you can believe, all things are possible to those who believe."
Mark 9:2

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024-25

St Michael with St Thomas C.E. Primary School is situated in the Diocese of Liverpool and Halton Local Authority. The school is an academy, part of a Multi Academy Trust; The Three Saints Academy Trust.

Admission arrangements are determined by the Trust of the schools in consultation with the Diocesan Board of Education, the relevant Local Authority and other admission authorities in the relevant area.

The Admission Number for the 2024 reception year intake at St Michael with St Thomas Church of England Primary School is 30.

Making an Application

Applications for Primary 2024 opens on 12th September 2023. Application information can be found via for via www.halton.gov.uk/schooladmissions for Halton residents.

Applications for reception year in September 2024-25 should be made online via the Halton Parent Portal.

Applications must be submitted by **15/01/2024**

All applications will be considered at the same time and after the closing date.

Parents will be able to view their allocated school place online on **16/04/2024**. Letters will only be sent out to those who submitted a paper copy of the preference form.

Late Applications

Applications submitted after the closing date will only be considered alongside those who applied on time when they are received before the allocation procedures begin. However, as this date cannot be predicted, parents have no guarantee that any application received after the closing date will be included.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA

After the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan which names the relevant school and where there are more applications than places available the Directors of the Trust will apply the following over-subscription criteria

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 order¹ including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.²
2. Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of likely admission. This includes full, half or stepbrothers and sisters, adopted and foster brothers and sisters or a child of the parent/carer's partner, and in every case who is living at the same address and is part of the same family unit.

3. Children whose parent(s) regularly attend a Church of England church. (A parent is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child.) Regular attendance shall be defined as public worship for at least once a month and for at least 2 years before application. This would need to be confirmed in writing by a member of the clergy or a church officer and submitted by the parent with their application form.

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.

4. Children whose parent(s) regularly attend another Christian church that is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (www.ctbi.org.uk) or a place of worship which is associated with the UK Interfaith Network (www.interfaith.org.uk). (A parent is any person who has parental responsibility or care of the child.) Regular attendance shall be defined as public worship for at least once a month and for at least 2 years before application. This would need to be confirmed in writing by a member of the clergy or a church officer and submitted by the parent with their application form.

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.

5. Children whose home address is within the Catchment Area of the Academy, with priority given to those children that live nearest to the Academy by distance.

6. Other children.

¹ A looked after child is a child who is ((a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) is being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

² A child is regarded as having been in state care in a place 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. Applications must be supported with appropriate evidence that the child has been adopted from state care.

Tie Break

In the event of any over-subscription in the number of applications made under any of the categories above then the Admissions Committee will offer places first to children whose family home is nearest the school. The measurement shall be done by the Local Authority in a straight line using a Geographical Information System (GIS) based on Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) data and the National Grid co-ordinates for the family home and the school.

Where the tie break does not distinguish between applicants e.g children living in the same block of flats random allocation will be used. This will be done by drawing lots and supervised by someone independent of the school.

Definition of Home Address

This is the confirmed address (before allocation procedures begin) where the child and parent, or person with parental responsibility, normally live. If you are separated and your child spends time at each parent's address, the address we shall use is that of the main carer. We use the address of the parent who is in receipt of child benefit for this. It may be necessary for the Governing Body to carry out checks to confirm that addresses given are genuine. You may, therefore, be asked to produce documentary evidence of your child's address e.g. Council tax or utility bills.

Please note:

Any change in your home address after you have completed the application form must be notified to the Admissions Section and supported by documentary evidence. Similarly, if you are unsuccessful in your application for your preferred school(s) and subsequently move address, you should notify the Admissions Section as this may affect your child's position on the waiting-list(s).

**St Michael with St Thomas C.E. Primary School
How places were allocated in September 2023**

Admission Number	Number of initial applications	How places were allocated		Final number of places allocated including any upheld appeals
30	40	Categories		19
		1	1	
		2	8	
		3	0	
		4	0	
		5	10	

Deferred Entry

Where parents want their child to be educated outside of their chronological age group, an application should be made in writing to Michelle Slingsby, Headteacher, at the same time as the application for a place. This should explain why the parents wish for their child to be educated outside of their chronological age group and enclosing any evidence that supports it. The views of the headteacher will also be considered. Parents will be notified of the decision on the application, which will be based on the circumstances of the case and what is in the best interests of the child, in writing once it has been made. This decision is separate from the decision on whether a place is granted.

Waiting List

During the normal admissions round, if a place is refused because the school is oversubscribed your child's name will automatically be placed on the waiting list. The Academy will maintain a waiting list until 31 December¹ in the academic year of admission. Every time a child is added to the list, it will be re-ranked in accordance with the oversubscription criteria with no priority given to the date of the application.

Children who are the subject of a direction by the local authority to admit or who are allocated to a school in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on the waiting list.

Fair Access Protocol

The Trust has a duty to comply with the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol and may have to admit above its published admission number, even if the year group concerned is full.

All schools must participate in their Local Authority's protocol. For that reason, admission appeal panels will not view the fact that the school is obliged to admit over its admission number as an indication that it can do so for all in year transfers without causing prejudice to the efficient provision of education or efficient use of resources.

¹¹

In Year Transfers

Applications for a place in reception year after the waiting list has closed or years 1 – 6 should be made on the Local Authority's in year common application form. The application will then be processed in accordance with Halton's in year co-ordinated admission scheme.

Parents will normally receive a written response to their application within ten school days. Details of how to make in year applications can be found on the school website – www.smwst.co.uk.

Appeal Procedure

Where parents are unsuccessful in applying for a school place, the decision letter will give reasons why the application was refused (in light of the published admission arrangements) notification of the right of appeal, including details of how, and to whom, to make an appeal and where to obtain further information.

Parents should be aware that legislation limits infant class sizes to 30 pupils and restricts the grounds upon which an appeal can be upheld. You would have to show that the decision was one which in the circumstances no reasonable governing body would have made, or that your child would have been offered a place if the governors' admission arrangements had been properly implemented.

Withdrawing Places

In certain circumstances the Trust may decide to withdraw a place offered if one of the following circumstances occurs:

- Where a parent has not responded to the offer of a place, even after chasing;
- Where fraudulent or intentionally misleading information is used as part of the application;
or
- Where the offer has been made in error.