

THUNDERSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Admissions Policy

2026 - 2027



Member of staff Responsible	<i>Emma Dawson</i>
Policy produced	<i>March 2015</i>
Policy agreed/last reviewed	<i>Consultation December 2024</i> <i>Last review Autumn 2024</i>
To be reviewed	<i>Autumn 2025</i>
Other Policies Related	<i>Teaching and Learning Policy, Equalities Policy, SEND policy; Anti-bullying policy</i>

The Published Admissions Number (PAN) for Thundersley Primary School is **60**.

All children will be admitted full time in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Where entry is deferred, the school will hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child.

The parent would not, however, be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted. Where parents choose to defer entry, the child will start at the beginning of the new school term/half term.

Parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. For parents opting to take up a part-time place this would be for mornings only.

The Local Authority coordinates all admissions to the school.

Over Subscription

There is no guarantee of a place for children living in the priority admissions area.

Under the s324 of the Education Act 1996, the governing body is required to admit a child with an Education and Health Care Plan that names the school.

In the event of over subscription, the following criteria will be applied to determine priority:

1. Looked-after children (as defined below)
2. Children with siblings attending the school at the time of admission
3. Children living in the priority admissions area
4. Remaining applicants

The over subscription criteria will be applied in number order. In the event of over subscription within any of the above criteria, priority will be determined by straight line distance from home to school, those closest given the highest priority. This will be based on measurements provided by the Local Authority.

Looked After Children

A 'looked after Child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to adoption, residence or special guardianship order will be given first priority in oversubscription ahead of all other applicants in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of the Local Authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in exercise of their social services function (as defined in Section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989).

Siblings

For applications made in the normal admission round a relevant sibling is a child who has a brother, sister, adopted brother or sister or stepbrother or stepsister living in the same family unit in the same family address who attends the preferred school in any year group excluding the final year. Biological siblings who attend the preferred school in any year group, excluding the final year will also be treated as siblings irrespective of place of residence. Children residing in the same family such as cousins will not be treated as siblings.

Priority Admissions Area

Please contact the school for details of the priority admissions area.

Waiting Lists

Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. The criteria for the waiting list will comply with the published over subscription criteria set out in this document. Waiting lists will be maintained for the duration of the Early Years Foundation Stage Year and any mid-year admissions will be in line with the criteria above. Waiting lists will be kept 'live' for one year.

Appeals Against Admissions Decisions

Parents and carers have the right to appeal against admissions decisions to an Independent Appeal Panel, as specified in the Code of Practice. Please contact the school for further details of the appeals process.

Admissions Arrangements

The Governing Body will apply the admissions arrangements in accordance with the co-ordinated scheme for Essex.

Summer born children

Parents of summer-born children may be concerned that their child is not ready to start school in the September following their fourth birthday. If this is the case, parents can request to defer their child's entry to school by a whole year until they reach compulsory school age and be admitted to **Reception** rather than **Year 1** with their chronological peers. This means that a summer born child would not start school at all during the academic year after their fourth birthday. The law only provides the right to apply for reception deferment to the following September; it does not guarantee that this will be granted. Parents should send an email to admissions@essex.gov.uk stating that they want to defer their child's entry into school by a whole year and the reasons for this request.