

St Thomas More RC College

Admissions Policy 2026

The school admission policy is rigorously applied and pupils are admitted up to the agreed **Published Admission Number**, which for the 2026/27 academic year will be 160.

If there are more applications than places, admission to St Thomas More RC College will be subject to the oversubscription criteria in the order of priority set out below.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan

If the college is named in an Education, Health and Care Plan, the Governing Body has a duty to admit the child to the school.

The duty to apply these arrangements rests with the Governors of the College. All preferences listed on the Local Authority Preference Form will be considered on an equal basis with the following set of oversubscription criteria forming a priority order where there are more applications for admissions than the college has places available.

1. Baptised Roman Catholic children who are looked after (LAC), or Baptised Roman Catholic Children who were previously looked after (PLAC), including those 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 (IAPLAC).
2. Baptised Roman Catholic children with exceptional medical or social needs. (Where evidence is provided from a child's doctor or other agency that he/she has exceptional needs which mean that admission to a particular school is essential, reference will be made to the Community Health Physician, Social Services, or Educational Psychologist, as appropriate. A panel of governors will make a decision as to whether to admit a child under this criterion using the evidence provided. All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.)
3. Baptised Roman Catholic children who live in a designated Parish.
4. Baptised Roman Catholic children who attend a designated Roman Catholic Primary School.
5. Baptised Roman Catholic children who will have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
6. Other children who are looked after (LAC), or other children who were previously looked after (PLAC), including those 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 (IAPLAC).

7. Baptised Roman Catholic children of staff 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.
8. Other Baptised Roman Catholic children.
9. Other children with exceptional medical or social needs. (Where evidence is provided from a child's doctor or other agency that he/she has exceptional needs which mean that admission to a particular school is essential, reference will be made to the Community Health Physician, Social Services, or Educational Psychologist, as appropriate. A panel of governors will make a decision as to whether to admit a child under this criterion using the evidence provided. All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.)
10. Other children who will have a brother or sister attending the school at the time of admission.
11. Other children who attend a designated Roman Catholic Primary School.
12. Other children of staff 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.
13. All remaining applicants.

Tie breaker definition:

If in any category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of proximity to the school.

Distance will be measured as a straight line from the child's home address, using the address point assigned by The National Land and Property Gazetteer, to the main gate to the school property. Measurements will be made using the local authority's school admissions data mapping software, which employs a Geographical Information System based on Ordnance Survey. In the event of distances being the same for 2 or more applications where this distance would be the last place/s to be allocated, the place will be allocated to the pupil that is nearer using walking distance as measured using the local authority's school admissions data mapping software.

The address from which distance will be measured will be the permanent residential address, at the time of application, of the parent with whom the child is normally resident. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the home address is the address from which the child travels to school for the majority of school days per week. If the number of days is exactly equal the home address will be that of the parent who receives the Child Benefit.

Designated Parishes:

The Designated Parishes are:

Holy Family, Denton
St Anne's, Audenshaw
St Mary & St John Fisher, Denton

Maps showing Parish boundaries can be consulted in the appropriate parish.

Designated Primary Schools:

The Designated Primary Schools are:

St Anne's RC Primary School, Audenshaw
St John Fisher RC Primary School, Haughton Green
St Mary's RC Primary School, Denton

Notes

- a) The governing body is the admissions authority. The admissions committee is composed of the following governors: chair of governors, parish priest, head teacher, parent governor & independent clerk.
- b) All applications for entry into Tameside schools in 2026 should be completed online and copies of "Moving On" will be available via download from the Tameside website. The online application process will enable parents to apply for up to 6 schools as equal preference. The closing date for all applicants is 31 October 2025. All applicants will be considered by the governors at the same time in a fair way according to the published criteria.
- c) Parents will be informed of the governors' decision by the LA on 2 March 2026. An offer of a place does not guarantee a place for brothers and sisters in subsequent years.
- d) "Roman Catholic" means a person/child who has been baptised into the Roman Catholic faith. If parents wish the admissions authority to consider their child as a "baptised Roman Catholic" under the relevant criteria they must submit a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) with their application which is available from the high school or the Local Authority.
- e) The term 'brothers and sisters' will be taken to include half/step brothers and sisters, foster children and children of partners living in the same household. In cases where twins, triplets or other multiple birth siblings would be split between St Thomas More RC College and another school when allocations take place, siblings will be offered a place at St Thomas More RC College, if that is the parents' wish.
- f) Late applications will be considered after all those that were received by the deadline.

- g) **Admission of children outside their normal age group:** Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group (younger or older), for example, if the child is gifted and talented. Any request for admission of a child outside their normal age group should be made in writing (including all relevant information) to the Chair of the Governors of the school at the same time as the admission application is made. The Admission Committee acting on behalf of the Governing Body will make its decision about the request based on the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. The Admissions Committee will take into account the views of the head teacher, including the head teacher's statutory responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school, and will take into account the views of the parents, and as necessary appropriate medical and educational advice.
- h) **Waiting List:** If the school is oversubscribed the governors will maintain a waiting list. The waiting list will operate until the end of the summer term 2027 for those parents who have submitted an appeal or who have opted to go on the list. All pupils on the waiting list will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria. Places will be offered, should any become available, to the highest ranked application received by the date the place becomes available. If new or late applications have a higher priority under the oversubscription criteria, they will be ranked higher than those who have been on the list for some time. A significant change of circumstances, such as a change of address, will be taken into account: evidence must be provided. Children who have been referred under the local authority's Fair Access protocol or who are the subject of a direction by the local authority to admit must be given precedence over any other children on the waiting list.

The school operates a waiting list for each year group in school for in-year transfer applications for Year 7-11, the waiting list is maintained for the full academic year until the end of the Summer Term, in order to keep a place on the waiting list for the subsequent academic year a new application must be completed the following year. When the school is oversubscribed and there are no places available for an in-year transfer the student is automatically added to the waiting list.

- i) **Appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel:** Any parent or guardian who is dissatisfied with the refusal of a school place has the right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. Parents/Guardians will be sent details of the appeal procedures with the letter refusing a place. Parents must be allowed at least twenty school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to submit that appeal.

If you wish to appeal, your written appeal request should be sent to:

Chair of Governors
c/o St Thomas More RC College
Town Lane
Denton
M34 6AF