

Thorn Primary School

Admissions Policy 2026-2027



1. Introduction

Thorn Primary School is a community primary school located in Bacup, Lancashire. We are proud to serve our local community by offering a welcoming, inclusive, and high-quality education to children aged 4–11. This policy outlines the procedures and criteria for admission to the school for the academic year 2025–2026.

2. Published Admission Number (PAN)

The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of **45 places** per year group. This applies to Reception and all subsequent year groups.

3. Our Vision

At Thorn Primary School, we believe every child deserves a safe, inclusive, and inspiring learning environment. We are proud to serve the Bacup community and welcome families who share our commitment to nurturing confident, curious learners.

4. Admissions Overview

Thorn Primary School is a **community primary school** governed by **Lancashire County Council**. We admit children aged 4–11 and follow the council's coordinated admissions process.

- **Published Admission Number (PAN):** 45 places per year group
- **Reception Intake:** September 2025
- **Application Deadline:** January 2025 (exact date published by Lancashire County Council)
- **Notification Date:** April 2025 (National Offer Day)

The school participates in the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme and all dates within that scheme that must be adhered to. You should use the opportunity to express a preference for more than one school. Proof of residence will be required.

As required by the Regulations of 2005 the school will give top priority to applications on behalf of children in public care (Children in Care). Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Children (IAPLAC) will have the same priority based on the new regulations in the 2021 School Admissions Code.

5. How to Apply

Reception Places

Apply online via the Lancashire County Council Admissions Portal by the published deadline.

In-Year Admissions

For children joining outside the Reception intake, applications must be made through Lancashire County Council's **in-year admissions** process.

6. Oversubscription Criteria

If applications exceed the PAN of 45, places will be allocated in the following priority order:

1. **Looked After Children / Previously Looked After Children**
2. **Children with Exceptional Medical or Social Needs** (supported by professional documentation)
3. **Siblings** (including step-, half-, and foster siblings living at the same address)

4. **Proximity to School** (measured by straight-line distance from home to school entrance)

Tie-breaker: If multiple children meet the same criteria, priority will be given to the child living closest to the school.

7. Waiting List

- Maintained until the end of the autumn term
- Ranked according to the oversubscription criteria
- Not based on date of application

8. Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants have the right to appeal to an independent panel. Details are available via Lancashire County Council.

9. Starting School

Children may start school in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents may request:

- **Deferred entry** (later in the academic year)
- **Part-time attendance** until the child reaches compulsory school age

10. Admission Outside Normal Age Group

Requests for admission outside the child's chronological age group will be considered individually. Supporting evidence may be required.

11. Contact

For questions about admissions, please contact:

☎ Thorn Primary School Office: 01706874027

✉ Email: bursar@thorn.lancs.sch.uk

🌐 Website: thorn.lancs.sch.uk