



St Thomas More Language College

Admission Policy 2026 – 2027



Introduction

St Thomas More Language College is a Catholic school within the St John Southworth Academy Trust and was founded to provide education for Catholic pupils. The school is conducted by the academy company in accordance with its Trust Deed and articles of association.

'Catholic' means a member of a Church in full communion with the See of Rome. This includes the Eastern Catholic Churches. This will normally be evidenced by a certificate of baptism in a Catholic Church or a certificate of reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. For the purposes of this policy this includes a looked after child in the process of adoption and living with a Catholic family, where a letter from a priest demonstrates that the child would have been baptised were it not for his/her status as a looked after child. For a child to be treated as Catholic, evidence of Catholic baptism or reception in the Catholic Church will be required. Those who have difficulty obtaining written evidence of baptism should contact their parish priest who, after consulting with the diocese will decide how the question of baptism is to be resolved and how written evidence is to be produced in accordance with the law of the Church.

The academy company is the admission authority and has responsibility for admissions to the school. As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. As a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. All applicants are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school.

Parents/guardians¹ who make an application to the school are invited to attend one of the school's Secondary Transfer Open Evenings, and priority will be given to applicants who are a Catholic child with a Certificate of Baptism.

¹ Parent/Guardian is defined as the person or persons who have legal responsibility for the child.

How Places will be Allocated

The admission authority intends to admit the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) of 120 pupils in Year 7 each school year and, in doing so, will endeavour to preserve its comprehensive character by establishing a balanced intake across the ability range in the ratio 25:50:25 meaning 25% upper ability, 50% middle ability and 25% lower ability. This will be achieved by the use of standardised verbal and nonverbal tests. Governors will apply the following criteria in order of priority to all applicants if oversubscribed starting from Criteria 1.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Catholic looked after children and Catholic children who have been adopted (or made subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after, including those children who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted².
2. Catholic children with a Baptismal Certificate.
3. Other previously looked after children who have been adopted (or made subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after, including those children who have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted².
4. Catechumens and members of an Eastern Christian Church.
5. Children of other Christian³ denominations whose membership of their faith, and that of their parents/guardians, is supported either by a certificate of baptism or equivalent.
6. Any other applicants.

² A 'looked after child' means a child in the care of the local authority or being provided with accommodation by a Local Authority in the exercise of their social services functions, within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children's Act 1989 at the time of making an application to a school. 'Adopted' means children who were adopted under the Adoption Act 1976 Section 12 and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 Section 46. 'Child Arrangements Orders' is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 Section 8, as amended by Section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. 'Special Guardianship Order' is an order under the terms of the Children Act 1989 Section 14A which defines it as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian(s). A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

³ "Children of other Christian denominations" means children who belong to other churches and ecclesial communities which, acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. An ecclesial community which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition, is included if it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to working in the spirit of the above.

All members of Churches Together in England and CYTŪN are deemed to be included in the above definition, as are all other churches and ecclesial communities that are in membership of any local Churches Together Group (by whatever title) on the above basis.

Priorities

Should there be an oversubscription of children within a criterion listed above, the Governors will first allocate places in the following order:

- a. To an application, where compelling evidence is provided at the time of application, from an appropriate professional such as a doctor, priest or social worker, of an exceptional social, medical or pastoral need of the child, which can only be met at this school.
- b. Then to a sibling who will have a brother or sister⁴ on the school roll at the time of admission or who is in the current Year 11 cohort at the time of applying.
- c. Then to children who attend the primary schools of the Saint John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust ([SJSCAT](#)) by the closing date for applications: St Augustine's Catholic Primary School W6 8QE, St John XXIII Catholic Primary School W12 7QT, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School SW3 2QT and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School W9 1DF.
- d. Then to children whose parent is employed by St Thomas More Language College for two or more years at the time of application.
- e. Then others by means of a lottery which will take place in front of an independent witness – all applicants are randomly selected via a tombola method and numbered in order of selection, the first applicant to be selected will precede the other applicant(s).

⁴ Siblings, 'brother or sister' include:

- (i) all natural brothers or sisters, half brothers or sisters, adopted brothers or sisters, stepbrothers or sisters, foster brothers or sisters, whether or not they are living at the same address; and
- (ii) the child of a parent's partner where that child lives for at least part of the week in the same family unit at the same home address as the child who is the subject of the application.

Applications from twins or multiple births

If the offer of places result in the admission of one pupil of a multiple birth/twin and not others, the Governors reserve the right to offer places to all pupils of the same multiple birth/twin.

Pupils with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHC)

The admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) is dealt with by a completely separate procedure. Children with this school named in their Education, Health and Care Plan will be admitted, details of the procedure are set out in the DfE Special Educational Needs Code of Practice. The parents of children with an EHC have access to a separate appeal mechanism (the SEND Tribunal) and not to the independent Appeal Panel established by the College's Governing Body.

Application Procedures and Timetable

How places were offered last year (figures will include pupils with an EHC Plan).

Applications received: t.b.a Places offered: 120 Appeals Lodged: t.b.a Successful Appeals: t.b.a

Timetable

Closing date for applications: 31st October 2025

Banding Test: 20th November 2025 (to be confirmed)

Offers of place posted: 1st March 2026 by the Home Borough

Application Form

To apply for a place at this school you should complete and return two separate forms by Friday 31st October 2025. In order to make a full application you should complete the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) attached to this policy and return it to the Governors' Admissions Panel via the school office, together with all other relevant paperwork required for your application. Alternatively, you can complete the online version of our SIF using this link: [STMLC 2026-2027 SIF](#)

You must also complete a Common Application Form (CAF) from your Local Education and return it to them. If you do not complete both the CAF and SIF and return them by the 31st October 2025 the admission authority may be unable to consider your application fully against the oversubscription criteria and it is very unlikely that your child will get a place at the school.

Waiting Lists

Where an applicant is unsuccessful, parents/guardians may ask, in writing, for the child's name to be placed on a waiting list. The waiting list will be updated each term as and when vacancies occur and/or parents who have not previously made an application to the school submit an application. Length of time on the waiting list will not influence a child's chance of gaining a place. All applications on the waiting list, including late applications, will be judged against admission criteria as vacancies occur. Parents whose applications are unsuccessful are entitled, under the School Standards & Framework Act 1998 to appeal against the governing body's decision.

When a vacancy arises the school will allocate the place according to the oversubscription criteria and according to the band in which the vacancy has arisen.

Admission Appeals

An independent admission appeals panel will be established to hear appeals concerning non admission to the school in accordance with the provisions of the 'Admission Appeals Code'. Parents/Guardians will be sent information regarding their right to appeal.

In-Year Admissions

Applications for In-Year Admissions must be made via the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. If a place is available and there is no waiting list then the local authority will communicate the offer of a place to the family. If more applications are received than there are places available then applications will be ranked by the admission authority in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. If a place cannot be offered at the time then you may ask us for the reasons and you will be informed of your right of

appeal. You will be offered the opportunity of being placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be maintained by the admission authority in the order of the oversubscription criteria and not in the order which the applications are received. The waiting list is open to applicants all through the academic year. Names are removed from the list at the end of each academic year. When a place becomes available the admission authority will re-rank the list so that the LA can inform the parent that the school is making an offer.

Fair Access Protocols

The school is committed to taking its fair share of children who are vulnerable and/or hard to place, as set out in locally agreed protocols. Accordingly, outside the normal admissions round the admission authority is empowered to give absolute priority to a child where admission is requested under any locally agreed protocol. The admission authority has this power even when the child would mean exceeding the published admission number.

Children Educated Outside Their Chronological Age Group

Any application for a child to be educated out of his/her age group will be considered by the admission authority on an individual basis and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Parents should write to the Chair of Governors during the Autumn Term in the (academic) year of application, giving reasons and providing compelling professional evidence.

Serving God, Striving for Excellence