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Admissions Arrangements for Entry to School 2027/28

Name of School: Thurcroft Junior Academy
Admissions Authority: Aston Community Education Trust

DATE: December 2025
APPROVED BY: Trustees

Thurcroft
JUNIOR ACADEMY

Excellence Equity Empowerment

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Admissions Authority: Aston Community Education Trust

PAN: The agreed PAN for Y3 in September 2027 at Thurcroft Junior Academy is 70 *Admissions to Thurcroft Junior Academy are controlled by the Local Governing Body (LGB) and administered on behalf of the LGB by Rotherham Local Authority.

School Admissions Code 2021

The Local Governing Body / Trust Board of an Academy is the Admissions Authority for their school. Places will be allocated using the admissions criteria given below and will be coordinated by the Local Authority. Places will be offered by the Local Authority on behalf of the Governing Body / Trustees.

The Local Authority Admission to Junior School 2027 booklet contains information on all Rotherham schools and is a guide for parents/carers to the admissions process.

Parents/carers are strongly advised to read the booklet and familiarise themselves with the process and the admission criteria given below prior to submitting their application. The Admission to Junior School 2027 booklet is available to view online: https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/school-admissions-3/starting-primary-school

A hard copy of the booklet can be posted to parents/carers on request by contacting the Local Authority Admissions Team here:https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/xfp/form/1515

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications

For Admission to Junior School in September 2027, the Government has deemed that the National Closing Date for receipt of applications will be 15th January 2027.

Parents/carers should submit their Junior school application by 15th January 2027.

How to Apply for a Junior School Place

Parents of children resident in Rotherham MUST apply via Rotherham Authority. However, for a looked after child, the application must be submitted by the social worker via the Local Authority responsible for the child's care rather than the foster carer.

Rotherham Authority operates an online admissions service to enable parents to submit an application for their preferred school(s) via the Authority's website: https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/schools-schooling/moving-infant-junior-school

Parents who are unable to apply online or would simply prefer to complete a paper application form can contact the Admissions Team to request a paper copy: https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/xfp/form/1515

Admissions Criteria

A) Children with Special Educational Needs:

A small number of children will have an Education Health Care Plan that names the school and these children must be admitted to the school if named as part of that process. The majority of children with special educational needs will not require an Education Health Care Plan. Applications for children who have special educational needs but no Education Health Care Plan, will be considered on the basis of the Admission Authority's published admissions criteria, as outlined below.

B) For all other applications places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

1 Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children (see note (a) below).

2 Children who, on the specified closing date for Junior admissions, live in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Admission Authority and it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of this school in Years 3 -Y6 at the start of the academic year 2027 (see notes (b) and (c) below)

3 Children who, on the specified closing date for Junior admissions, live in the catchment area of this school as defined by the Admission Authority (see note (b) below)

4 Children who, on the specified closing date for secondary admissions, it is expected will have an older brother or sister on the roll of this school in Years 3 –Y6 at the start of the academic year 2027 (see notes (c) below)

5 Children who, on the specified closing date for junior admissions, are on the roll of one of our associated infant catchment area schools as identified by the Admission Authority. (see note below)

6 Children who, on the specified closing date for Junior admissions, live nearest to the school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as the measurement "as the crow flies").

Notes

Where the published admission number for the school is likely to be reached, in the event of any oversubscription within any criterion preference, priority will be given to children who live nearest to the school as the crow flies. Distance measurements are calculated using GIS which applies seed points as determined by Ordinance Survey. Measurements are taken from the seed point of the ordinary place of residence to the seed point of the school. Where the school has more than one seed point, the seed point closest to the geographical centre of the school site is used. In the event of two distances being equal, lots will be drawn by a representative independent of the Admission Authority.

Where applications are received for twins, triplets, siblings born in the same academic year etc. these will be treated equally as there is nothing within the admission criteria to distinguish between them.

Shared parental responsibility and split residency - For the purposes of school admissions, the home address is the address at which the child is ordinarily resident at the time of application and admission. Where a child lives with parents/carers who have

shared parental responsibility and resides at more than one address, the address used will be the one at which the child resides for the majority of the school week (i.e. where the child usually sleeps between Monday and Friday). Where the child resides equally at both addresses and we are unable to determine a main address based on the information provided, parents will be required to agree which address should be used. The Admissions Authority may request supporting information where necessary to verify the child's ordinary residence.

Places will be allocated in accordance with the Admission Authority's co-ordinated admissions schemes. In assessing preferences, the Admission Authority will operate an 'equal preference' system, which means that no priority will be given according to the ranking of the preference, except where a potential offer can be made in respect of more than one school. In that situation, the final offer of a place will be made at the highest preferred school as named on the application form of the potential offer schools.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Families may seek a place for their child outside of his/her normal age group under various circumstances such as ill health, if the child is gifted and talented or when the child has experienced problems. Requests must be made in writing to the Principal at the time of application, explaining the reasons for the request. The decision will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and ACET will ensure parents receive a response to their request before national offer day.

Catchment area

Information on the catchment area for the school can be obtained by contacting the School Organisation Team on (01709) 254831 or on the Local Authority website at: RMBC Mapping (Rotherham.gov.uk)

Notes

a) A 'relevant looked after child' is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the school.
Previously looked after children are children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangement order or special guardianship order). All references to previously looked after children in the Code mean such children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangements orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after and 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.

b) Places will be allocated based on your residential address. Therefore, you must notify the Admissions Authority in writing if you change address. You may be asked to provide proof of residence (e.g. utility/council tax bill). Documentary evidence of ownership or rental agreement may be required together with proof of actual permanent residency at the property concerned. The Admissions Authority reserves the right to request an affidavit where there is uncertainty regarding a child's ordinary place of residence. Where residency is split equally between two people with shared parental responsibility, the Admission Authority will determine the child's ordinary place of residence, as at the closing date for receipt of applications, as follows: Whichever parent is claiming child benefit - this address

will be used. The address outlined in a court arrangement instruction as main address. Stated in a Solicitor or Notary affidavit.

c) For a child to be considered a sibling, one of the following conditions must exist: (you may be asked to provide proof e.g., Birth Certificate and proof of residence)

- brother/sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
- stepbrother/stepsister to be permanently resident at the same address.
- half-brother/half-sister to be permanently resident at the same address.
- brother/sister who do not live at the same residence but, who share the same parents.
- child of the parent/carer's partner to be permanently resident at the same address.
- adopted brother/sister permanently resident at the same address
- foster brother/sister resident at the same address

Associated Infant School for Thurcroft Junior Academy – Thurcroft Infant School

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces)

For families of service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area, or crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, Admission Authorities must allocate a place in advance of the family arriving in the area provided the application is accompanied by an official letter that declares a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address when considering the application against their oversubscription criteria. This must include accepting a Unit postal address or quartering area address for a service child. Admission Authorities must not refuse a service child a place because the family does not currently live in the area, or reserve blocks of places for these children.

Waiting Lists

On the National Offer Day of 16th April 2027, the Admissions Authority will establish a waiting list where the number of applications for those schools has exceeded the available places in FS2 (Reception).

The Local Authority Admissions Team will administer the waiting list on behalf of this academy which will operate until the 31 December 2027, when it will cease.

The child's name will automatically be put on the waiting list for a school where they have not been made an offer of a place and where that school is named as a higher preference than the school at which an offer has been made.
Children's positions on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria, with no reference to the date of receipt of the application. The waiting list will be re-ordered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria whenever anyone is added to or leaves the waiting list. Should a place become available it will be allocated to the child whose name is at the top of the waiting list on the day that the Local Authority receives written confirmation of the vacancy.

In-year Admissions – Transferring school during the School Year

Any application for an in-year school transfer should be made via the Local Authority Admissions Team in the first instance. The Local Authority will co-ordinate in-year transfers for the admissions authority, Thurcroft Junior Academy. Further information and the relevant application form is available on the Local Authority website: https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/xfp/form/1132

A paper copy of the application form can be requested from the Admissions Team.

If you are moving homes, please apply in advance of your move to reduce the risk of your child being out of school while your application is processed. You will need to provide details of your new address and when you intend to move.

You are advised to discuss your transfer request with a member of staff at your child's present school.

The Local Authority Admissions Team will record all in-year transfer applications and will forward your application via secure email for consideration by the relevant Admissions Authority.

- Applications received will be forwarded to preferred schools on the day of receipt of application where possible, or the following working (school) day.
- Applications received during a weekend, bank holiday or during school holidays will be forwarded to the preferred schools on the next working (school) day.

It is not possible to process any applications during school holidays and your application will be considered as soon as schools re-open. Schools are required to respond to in-year transfer requests within a maximum of 15 school days from receipt of the application therefore, although in-year applications may be forwarded to schools during school holiday periods, it is unlikely that you will be notified of the outcome of your application until schools re-open and the 15 school day response time commences.

In many cases a child will transfer to a new school only at the beginning of a new term, unless there is agreement by all concerned that the transfer should take place earlier. Until the transfer arrangements have been approved it is expected that your child will continue to attend their present school.
Parents can make applications up to one term before the date when they would like their child to start at the preferred school. Parents can apply from the 1st May onwards for Admission in the following September. Any application for admission in the following September which is received prior to this date will be considered as having been received on 1st May.

You will be notified in writing of the outcome of your application. This decision will usually be sent on behalf of the Governing Body (as the Admissions Authority) by the Local Authority Admissions Team. An admissions meeting with members of the leadership team will be convened prior to a student taking up their place at the Academy.

It should be noted that it is the Admissions Authority position that repeat applications made for entry to the same year group at the same school will not be considered unless there has been a significant and material change of circumstances which is relevant to the application for admission.

You have the right to appeal should you be unsuccessful.

Further information is available on the Local Authority website:
https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/schools-schooling/school-admission-appeals

Email schoolappeals@rotherham.gov.uk

Find your catchment area school

You can use the catchment map to find your catchment areas school:

- Visit RMBC Mapping : https://maps.rotherham.gov.uk/mapping/
- Close the disclaimer
- Type your postcode in the address bar to search
- Select a property from the list (if yours is not shown press MORE)
- Click or tap on the property to select it
- The property will be shown on the map
- Select What would you like to do? in the top left corner
- Select Map features
- Select Education
- Tick the Primary & Secondary catchment boxes as required
- Click or tap the map and catchment area school/s will appear in a pop-up box

USEFUL CONTACTS

ADMISSIONS – THURCROFT JUNIOR ACADEMY Green Arbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9DD 01709 543194

ADMISSIONS TEAM https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/xfp/form/1515

SCHOOL APPEALS SERVICE Rockingham Professional Development Centre
Roughwood Road, Rotherham S61 4HY
Tel. 01709 822722 or Email: schoolappeals@rotherham.gov.uk