

Giffards Primary School

Admission Arrangements 2025/26

All our school admissions are managed by Thurrock Local Authority and we operate under their strict admissions policy. The admission of all children, including those with disabilities will be managed in accordance with this policy which can be found at www.thurrock.gov.uk/school-admissions. Applications for admission to this school must be made to Thurrock Council and this can be done online or you can request a hard copy from them or from this school.

The school has an agreed admission number of 60 for entry to the Reception year.

If the school is oversubscribed, the oversubscription criteria below will be applied.

All children are admitted to the school's Reception classes full time from the September following their fourth birthday. There is a careful induction programme for children when they start school, with a phased introduction to full days during September, usually over 2 weeks. Experience has shown this leads to a more settled, happier start to school life.

All parents who wish their children to attend our school must apply to Thurrock Council's Admissions Department early in the year (a date is published) preceding the Academic Year that the child is due to be admitted into school.

The Local Authority encourages all applications to be made on the Thurrock Council Website.

Admissions to our school are in line with Thurrock Admission arrangements as follows:

If there are not more requests for places than the published number, the local authority is able to agree all requests. Where there are more applicants than places, the local authority is required to have criteria for deciding which requests have priority. This criterion is set out below in priority order.

Oversubscription criteria

Where there are more applicants than places, the following oversubscription criteria (admission criteria) will be used for deciding which applications have priority. These criteria are set out below in the order in which they are applied.

1. **Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children** – a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously 'looked after' but immediately after being 'looked after' became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order (90) including those 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 will automatically be given first priority over other categories where priority is claimed on the application form and validated by the local authority.
2. **Special reasons** - The admission authority may also give priority for admission to a child where there are other exceptional social, medical or educational reasons for admission to a specific school. In particular where there are specialised facilities or expertise appropriate to the child's needs exist within the school applied for. These reasons and any supporting evidence (e.g. from a doctor, social worker or educational psychologist, etc) **must** be submitted with the application for admission.
3. **Catchment area siblings** – Children whose normal place of residence is in the catchment area of the school at the closing date for applications, and who will have a sibling at the school at the point of admission, in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.
4. **Catchment area children** – Children whose normal place of residence is in the catchment area at the closing date for applications in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.
5. **Non-catchment area siblings** – Children whose normal place of residence is outside the catchment area of the school at the closing date for applications and who will have a sibling at the school at the point of admission in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.
6. **Non-catchment area children** – Children whose normal place of residence is outside the catchment area at the closing date for applications in distance order with those living closer having higher priority.

Definitions for oversubscription criteria

Siblings

For the purpose of allocating places siblings will be defined as

- Full siblings living at the same address;
- Step siblings living at the same address;
- Half siblings living at the same address;
- Adopted brother or sister
- Long-term foster siblings living at the same address at the date of application and admission.

Distance

The distance measurement used is the shortest straight line distance from home to school. For our school the straight line distance measurement is taken from the front door of the home address to the main school gate.

Looked After Children

A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to a school.

Previously Looked After Children

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 arrangements order or special guardianship order).

Catchment Area

Our catchment area as defined by our Local Authority can be found at: <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/catchment-areas/school-catchment-areas>

Please contact Thurrock Admission directly for further information on catchment areas or you can contact the school on 01375-672138