

## Thorns Primary School Admission Criteria – September 2026

(Thorns Primary although an Academy, follows Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Admission Criteria)

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Thorns Primary School</b>		
<b>School Address</b>	<b>Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, DY5 2JY</b>		
<b>Head Teacher</b>	<b>Rebecca Jordan</b>	<b>Telephone No</b>	<b>01384 266930</b>
<b>Admission Number</b>	<b>30</b>		

All preferences, regardless of ranking, will be assessed against the following criteria to allocate the available places at those community and voluntary controlled primary schools that are oversubscribed i.e. receive more applications than can be accommodated.

<b>First Priority</b>	First priority for admission shall be given to relevant looked after children or children who were previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement order, or special guardianship order.
<b>Second Priority</b>	Second priority for admission shall be given to children with a "serious and ongoing medical condition" where the preferred community or voluntary controlled school is the most appropriate school to meet the condition.
<b>Third Priority</b>	Third priority for admission shall be given to children who have a brother/sister, half-brother/sister (where the children share one common parent), or step-brother / step-sister, living at the same address and who will still be attending the preferred school in the academic year 2026/27.
<b>Remaining places</b>	Any places that remain available once the above applicants have been admitted will be filled according to those children who live closest to the school, determined by a straight-line measurement in metres, from the home address to the main entrance of the preferred school.

### Notes:

- Relevant looked after children means children who are looked after by a Council in accordance with section 22 (1) of the Children Act 1989 and who is (a) in care of a Council, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a Council in the exercise of their social services functions.
- 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.
- An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoptions and Children Act 2002. A Child Arrangement Order is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a special guardianship order as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

- In accordance with legislation, a child with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) will be offered a place at the school named in the EHCP as the most appropriate to meet the child's individual needs, this may reduce the number of places available for children who do not have an EHCP.
- If applying under the medical criterion, parents must provide supportive information from their child's Medical Consultant at the time of application in order to be considered under this criteria. This supportive information should include information about the needs of the child and should detail the difficulties the child would experience if they attended another school. Parents should also indicate why the preferred school is the most appropriate to meet their child's medical condition rather than any other school. The Council will not seek to obtain medical evidence on behalf of parents.
- Any Dudley child not obtaining a place at Thorns Primary School will be allocated a place at the next nearest school with a place available and will be advised about the independent appeals process.
- Definition of brother or sister also relates to adopted or fostered children living at the same home address.
- The home address is considered to be the child's (along with their parents') genuine principal place of residence at the time of the allocation of places i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than guardianship), the friend's or relative's address will not be considered for allocation purposes.
- Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes. At least one item of proof must demonstrate where the child lives. It is expected that parents will agree on school places before an application is made, and it may be necessary to request evidence from the parents to confirm that this is the case. The Council is not in a position to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.
- Special conditions will apply in the event that one child from a set of twins or triplets does not gain admission to the preferred school through the admissions criteria. The Council will exceed the admission number for the school concerned to prevent separation of twins / triplets.
- Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in category (d) above to decide who has the highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same.

### **Late Applications:**

Preferences that are received after the closing date for receipt of applications will only be considered after applications that were received within the deadline have been dealt with. Only in exceptional circumstances will a late application be considered alongside those applications that were made within the deadline. Supportive documentary evidence must be provided by the parent / carer at the time of application.

### **Waiting Lists:**

If a school is oversubscribed and children have been refused admission because other children have a higher priority for admission under the published admissions criteria, then those applicants who are unsuccessful will be asked if they wish to be placed on a waiting list. Children on the waiting list will be ranked in accordance with the published admissions criteria and the list will operate from the point of allocation until the 31st August 2027. After this point the waiting list will no longer be in operation and places 6 that become available will be allocated on a first come first served basis. If more than one application is received at the same time, the oversubscription criteria, as detailed on pages 5 and 6, will be used to determine which applicant will have the place. Inclusion on a school's waiting list does not mean that a place will eventually become available there. A child's position on a waiting list is not fixed and is subject to change during the year i.e. they can go up or down the list, depending on other children's' applications. Places that become available between the point of allocation and 31 August 2027 will be offered to children according to their ranking on this list i.e. those ranked highest will be offered first.

The complete parent guide to Dudley School Admissions can be found using this link

[Admission Arrangements | Dudley Council](#)

### **How to apply:**

If you live in the Dudley borough, you should either apply online at [www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions) or complete a paper application which is available on request from the School Admissions Service. You should state all of your school preferences up to the maximum number allowed in rank order. Who makes the application? The person who has parental responsibility should submit the application for the child's school place. If you need further advice about who should apply for your child's school place, please contact the School Admissions Service at [admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk) . If there are persons with parental responsibility not residing at your child's address, it is your responsibility to notify and/or consult with those other persons before expressing a preference for a primary school. Please note the School Admissions Service will only accept changes from the person who made the original request.

### **In Year Admissions**

If you move into the area or need to move your child to another school for some reason. You will need to complete an in-year admission form. Details of in year admissions can be found using this link

[in-year-scheme-24-25-final \(1\).pdf](#)