

St Thomas More High School Admission Arrangements 2019

8 th November – 20 th December 2017	Consultation
24 th January 2018	FGB meeting consider outcome of consultation and ratify arrangements
28 th February 2018	Final Determined Admission Arrangements, School on behalf of FGB Send to LA (Chrissy Papas) for inclusion in composite prospectus
15 th March 2018	School publication on website of determined arrangements and LA Publication of Composite Prospectus of Determined Arrangements
16 th March – 15 th May 2018	Window for Objections to the School Adjudicator
12 th September 2018	Final arrangements for 2019 are published by LA in booklets and on school websites (note: draft Secondary booklet published at risk 1 st July)

St Thomas More Catholic High School is a six form, 11-18 bi-lateral school for boys, with a co-educational Sixth Form. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children from Catholic families. The partnership between home, parish and school is the basis of the school's existence as a centre for the education of all Catholic boys of secondary age in the area. In addition to applications for Catholic children, the Governors welcome applications for practising Christian children and children whose parents wish for them a Catholic education.

Our dedicated staff is committed to the progress of all students, setting targets with them and supporting achievement through active learning and teaching.

Students are encouraged to enter wholeheartedly into the life of the school; to work hard, to respect the needs of others and to develop those skills and competencies that will be essential in their future lives.

St Thomas More is a forward looking school with a strong and successful tradition of Catholic Christian education and inclusive ethos where all students participate in the religious life of the school.

Admission limit for years 7 & 8: 180 and years 9-11: 150

To enable the school's Governing Body to apply its admissions criteria, it will be necessary for parents to complete the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) in addition to the Local Authority form. Where appropriate, the SIF should be supported by a Certificate of Catholic Practice obtained from the applicant's Parish Priest (or another Priest who knows the family well).

If at the time of admission there are more applications than there are places the Governors will apply the following oversubscription criteria to rank applications in priority order.

Oversubscription Criteria

- 1) Up to 30 places will be offered to boys who have passed the 11+ Exam Selective Test as administered by the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (of which the school is a founder member), and whose normal place of residence lies within the postcode areas of SS0, SS1, SS2, SS3, SS4, SS5, SS6, SS7, SS8 and SS9 (map below). If two or more boys tie for the final selective place, then it will be awarded using the oversubscription criteria.
- 2) "Looked after" boys from Catholic families and boys who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted by Catholic families (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- 3) Baptised, practising* Catholic boys living in the parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh on Sea; St. Helen's, Westcliff on Sea; Sacred Heart, Southend on Sea; St. Georges, Shoebury; St. Peter's, Eastwood; St. John Fisher, Prittlewell; St. Teresa's, Rochford; Holy Family, South Benfleet; Our Lady of Ransom, Rayleigh and Our Lady of Canvey, Canvey Island.
- 4) Other baptised, practising* Catholic boys.
- 5) Baptised Catholic boys

- 6) Other “looked after” boys and boys who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted by families (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order).
- 7) Practising* Christian boys attending Catholic primary schools. In allocating places, the Governors will consider priority to applications that are supported in writing by their Minister.
- 8) Practising* Christian boys whose parents desire for them a Catholic education. In allocating places, the Governors will consider priority to applications that are supported in writing by their Minister.
- 9) Families who desire a Catholic education for their son.

Notes:

Preference will be given within each category to

- I. Boys with a sibling** at the school or at St Bernard’s at the time of admission
- II. Proximity of the child’s home to the school as measured by Southend LA; those living closest to the school being accorded the highest priority. In the case of over subscription in any one category “straight line” distance will be used to measure the distance between the pupil’s home (including flats) and the nearest pupil entrance to the school. If the pupil’s home is a flat the distance will be measured to the main external entrance of the building. If the same distance is shared by more than one pupil and only one place is available, the place will be awarded on the basis of a computerised random allocation process (supervised by someone independent of the Council/Governing body)

Explanatory notes for admission arrangements:

Looked after children and Previously looked after children – Children who are in the care of local authorities as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. In relation to school admissions legislation a ‘looked after child’ is a child in public care at the time of application 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 arrangements order or special guardianship order).

Looked after and previously looked after children are given the appropriate priority for each relevant age group in line with the admission criteria.

Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) and Education Health and Care Plan

(EHCP) – A Statement of Special Educational Need is a statement made by the local authority under Section 324 of the Education Act 1996, specifying the special educational provision required for that child. If the school is oversubscribed, the admission of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan where the school is named in the Statement or Plan, is mandatory.

Distance where parents have separated

The distance is measured the same for all applications. Only one application can be received. The LA should not have the details of both parents or know of the marital status of the parents. If more than one application is received from parents, applications will be placed on hold until such time that:

- an application is made that both parents agree to; or
- written agreement is provided from both parents; or
- a court order is obtained confirming which parent’s application takes precedence’.

Details on address checks and which address is relevant are also provided in the admission booklet. In all cases the child’s normal place of residence is applicable for the purposes of the application

Waiting lists

Children’s names will automatically be on the waiting list for the school if the school is a higher preference than the offer made and a place has been refused.

Waiting lists for all year groups are held for the full school year.

Over and Under age applications

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

Details are provided in the Admission Scheme 2019/20 for the main rounds and requests submitted from parents are coordinated by the LA and follow the requirements in the School Admissions Code. Applications for over or under age applications in-year will be handled in line with the School Admissions Code 2014, 2.17 (a & b).

Such requests for Schools in Southend-on-sea are made directly to the school and the school advises the LA of their decision. Requests for year 6 must have been submitted by the parent and considered by the admission authority before the closing date for applications to year 7, i.e. 31st October of any given year. Admission authorities must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include documenting the following:-

- the parent's views;
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely.
- They must also take into account the views of the head teacher of the school concerned.

When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the admission authority must set out clearly the reasons for their decision. (2.17a School Admissions Code 2014)

In circumstances where a child transfers from another school already 'outside of normal age group', the school will support any over or under age application where the above has been met and the school is satisfied that the child should continue to be educated out of normal age group.

Home Address

For all applications the address used will be the child's habitual normal place of residence as at the closing date for applications, i.e., 31st October. Changes to address will be updated after all on time applications have been processed.

In-Year Admissions

To apply for a Year 7 school place after the normal admission cycle or for admission into Years 8-11, parents will need to complete an In-Year application form and Supplementary Information Form (both available from the school office).

Appeals

Parents unsuccessful in securing a place for their child have the right to appeal to an Independent Admissions Appeal Panel. Details of how to do this can be found on the Academy's website.

*The definition of practising being:

- If your son is a practising Catholic you have enclosed or arranged for a **Certificate of Catholic Practice** to be submitted to the school. (Catholic applicants).
- If your son is a practising Christian you should obtain a letter which states that your son is practising his faith, from your Minister to be submitted to the school. (Non-Catholic applicants).

**The definition of sibling being:

Siblings are considered to be a brother or sister, half-brother or half-sister, step-brother or step-sister, adopted brother or sister, living at the same address, who attends St. Thomas More High School or St. Bernard's High School at the time of application with a reasonable expectation that he or she will still be attending at the time of the proposed admission.

Admission to the Sixth Form

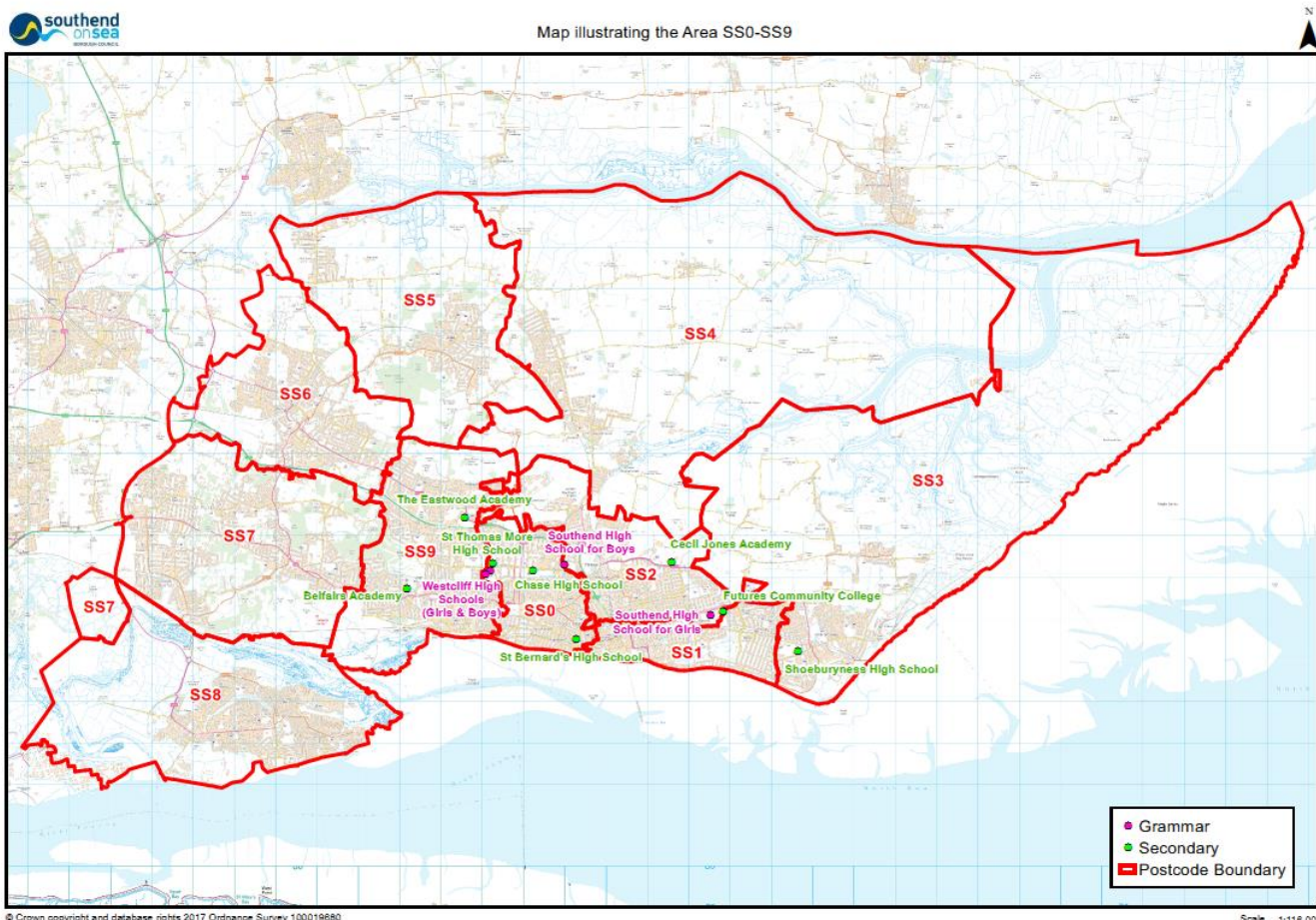
Admission to the Sixth Form is by individual application using the School's Sixth Form application form (available on the school website). Applications are welcomed from students outside the school.

Prospective Sixth form students are encouraged to visit the school in the autumn term. Application details, including a prospectus, can be obtained via the school. The date for applications is the end of the autumn term. However late applicants can be considered. Prospective Sixth Formers will be invited to a meeting in the spring term. Students should complete the appropriate application form and return it to the school.

Up to 170 students can be accepted into Year 12 of the Sixth form providing they achieve the entry requirements detailed below and in the prospectus, subject to available places on the courses.

Places on A level and other courses can, subject to availability, normally be offered to applicants who meet the minimum course requirements. Our Sixth Form entry requirement is usually based on a minimum of 6 GCSEs at grades 9-5, including a 5 in English and Maths, with the minimum subject requirements that are specified in the sixth form options booklet. This minimum subject requirement is usually a grade 8, 7 or 6 in the chosen or related subject. However, the sixth form options booklet should be consulted for specific details for each course.

Should there be more candidates of the required level than places available, selection will be based on rank ordering the GCSE grades. 'Looked-After' children are to be given the highest priority in the oversubscription criteria.



Drill down map and a postcode look up table are available on www.southend.gov.uk/admissions