

Admissions Policy

The Catholic character and ethos of Thornton College, Convent of Jesus and Mary, lies at the heart of our existence as a school.

Our mission statement encapsulates our purpose

'To educate young people to meet the challenges of life courageously, to use their talents to the full and to live the values of Christ's Gospel'

Aims of this Policy

To ensure compliance with the school's charitable purpose as a Roman Catholic foundation and girls' school.

To set selection criteria and procedures that are consistent with this charitable purpose and fair to applicants.

To identify applicants whose needs can be met by the college and who will benefit from the ethos and standards set by the school community.

Selection

Admission preconditions are that:

- The applicant and her parents are in sympathy with the Roman Catholic ethos of the school and aware of the religious practices including Masses, compulsory R.E. lessons and assemblies which take place in the school. (applicants of all Christian denominations and from other faiths are welcomed at Thornton College. We recognise that our children come from many different faith traditions. We enable pupils to reflect on their own faith and to develop a deeper understanding and respect for other faiths.)
- The applicant's learning needs can be met within the classroom.
- The applicant has a successful day visit / overnight stay.
- The present school reports indicate satisfactory attitudes and conduct on the part of the applicant.
- Fees (if applicable) at the present school have been paid.

The preference factors in order of priority are:

- The applicant is a practising Roman Catholic and/or has attended a Roman Catholic preparatory or primary school.
- There is a sibling in the school.
- The applicant would benefit from the education offered by Thornton College
- The applicant's mother is a former pupil of Thornton College.

The applicant's race, nationality or ethnic or national origin, area of residence or socio-economic group will not be taken into account in the assessment of a pupil for admission.

The offer of a place

The parents of each applicant will be informed within two weeks of their daughter's Day Visit whether a place is being offered or not. The School will not be obliged to state its reasons for failing to admit an applicant.

Waiting Lists

- If no places are available, parents may if they wish place their child's name on the waiting list for the school.
- The school cannot guarantee when a place may become available.
- The waiting list is determined according to the Governing Body's priority of admission criteria.
- In the event of an application being received for a pupil who has a higher priority, as determined by the admissions criteria, this applicant will be placed on the waiting list, above those with a lower priority.

Appeals against a decision to refuse admission

- If an application for admission is unsuccessful, parents have the right of appeal. Such appeals against non admission will be heard by a Governors' Appeals Panel.
- Parents who intend to make an appeal against the Headmistress' decision to refuse admission must submit a notice of appeal within 21 days of receiving the refusal letter to:

The Clerk to the Governors
Admission Appeal
Thornton College
Convent of Jesus and Mary
Thornton
Milton Keynes MK17 0HJ

Normally, appeal hearings will be held within six weeks of the closing date for receiving the notice of appeal.