

## St Thomas More Catholic School Admission Policy 2010

**Croftdale Road  
Blaydon, Tyne and Wear NE21 4BQ**

### **Admissions Arrangements for St Thomas More School in September 2010**

#### **1. Admission numbers**

##### 1.1 Admission into Year 7, September 2010

The School will admit 235 pupils in Year 7 in September 2010.

##### 1.2 Admission into year 12, September 2010 **20**

The projected number of pupils for admission into Year 12 in September 2010 is 195. This is made up of an estimated number of 175 pupils moving into year 12 from St Thomas More School and 20 external applications from pupils in other schools.

#### **2. Applications for entry into Year 7**

2.1 Applications procedures and timetables will follow the locally agreed co-ordinated scheme with Gateshead LEA.

2.2 If there are more places than applicants then all applicants will be accepted.

2.3 If there are more applications than places available then the Governors will apply the oversubscription criteria as outlined on the attached sheet.

2.4 If there are more applicants than available places the School will treat all applications equally, regardless of the order of preference given by the parents. All the applications are placed in order using the oversubscription criteria. Allocation of places is then coordinated by the Local Authority.

2.5 Late applications can be made and will be handled as in the Co-ordinated Scheme.

2.6 The Governors reserve the right to declare an application null and void or to withdraw an offer of a place if any of the information submitted is false.

2.7 Applicants refused admission to year 7 are entitled to appeal to an independent appeals panel.

#### **3. Waiting List**

3.1 If the school has reached its admission number a Waiting List will be maintained from 1st April 2010.

3.2 Any parent can request that their child be placed on the waiting list.

3.3 Children will be placed on the waiting list according to the oversubscription criteria.

3.4 The date of application to be placed on the list will not be used in any selection process.

3.5 The school will continue to maintain the waiting list during the corresponding school year and outside the normal year of entry.

3.6 pupils who are allocated a place at the school under the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol must take precedence over all those on the waiting list.

#### **4. Repeat Applications**

4.1 Repeat applications for entry into a particular year group in the same academic year will not be considered unless there is a material change in the circumstances of the child or parent. An application may be made for a subsequent academic year. A material change in circumstance may be a change of address or a change in the baptismal status of the child.

**5. Admission into year 12**

5.1 The minimum entry requirement for admission into year 12 is dependent on the course of study that a student wishes follow. In general, the minimum requirement for a GCE AS/A2 course is 6+ grades A\*-B at GCSE or equivalent. For a student to study at GCE AS/A2 a subject that they studied at GCSE they must have achieved at least a grade B in that subject at GCSE where the subject requires previous study.

For a 12 unit vocational course the minimum entry requirement is 6+ grades A\*-C GCSE or equivalent with a merit in a suitable Subject.

5.2 Details of the specific entry requirements and courses available may be obtained from the School.

5.3 Applicants refused admission to the Sixth Form are entitled to appeal to an independent appeals panel.

5.4 For a student to continue a course of study in Year 13 they must be pass the course in Year 12.

**6. Feeder Schools and Feeder Parishes**

| School                             | Parish(es)   |
|------------------------------------|--|
| St Agnes', Crawcrook               | St Agnes', Crawcrook   |
| SS Mary and Thomas Aquinas, Stella | SS Mary and Thomas Aquinas, Stella                               |
| St Joseph's, Blaydon               | St Anne's, Winlaton<br>St Joseph's, Blaydon                      |
| St Philip Neri, Dunston            | St Philip Neri, Dunston<br>Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lobley Hill |
| St Mary's, Whickham                | St Mary's, Whickham  |
| St Joseph's, Highfield             | St Joseph's, Highfield<br>Our Lady of Lourdes, Chopwell          |
| Corpus Christi, Gateshead          | Corpus Christi, Gateshead<br>Holy Rosary, Gateshead              |
| Sacred Heart, Byermoor             | Sacred Heart, Byermoor   |
| St Matthew's, Prudhoe              | Our Lady and St Cuthbert, Prudhoe<br>St Mary's Hexham            |

## 7. Oversubscription Criteria

| Order of Priority | Oversubscription Criteria   | How Verified   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 1                 | Looked after Roman Catholic children.   | LA records.  |
| 2                 | Roman Catholic children from the feeder primary schools who have been baptised before September 2008 at the time of admission.  | Information from the feeder primary schools.               |
| 3                 | Roman Catholic children who have an older brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.   | Information held by the school.                            |
| 4                 | Other Looked After children.  | LA records.  |
| 5                 | Other children who have an older brother or sister in the school at the time of admission.  | Information held by the school.                            |
| 6                 | Other practising Roman Catholic children who live within the feeder parishes.   | The school will seek verification from the priest.         |
| 7                 | Children who are practising members of another Christian faith and live within the feeder parishes.   | The school will seek verification from the Vicar/Minister. |
| 8                 | Non-Catholic children in the feeder school who have attended a catholic primary school since the beginning of Year 3.   | Information from the feeder primary schools.               |
| 9                 | Other practising Roman Catholic children who do not live within the feeder parishes.  | The school will seek verification from the priest.         |
| 10                | Children who are practising members of another Christian faith and who do not live within the feeder parishes.  | The school will seek verification from the Vicar/Minister. |
| 11                | Roman Catholic children who can furnish proof of baptism, but who do not meet the Sunday Obligation criterion and whose parental address lies within the feeder parishes. | From the Application Form.                                 |
| 12                | All other applications.   |  |

If your child has Special Educational Needs but does not have a "statement" of need then your application will be considered on the basis of the school's admission criterion.

The parish boundaries are available for viewing in school, on the school's website:  
**[www.stthomasmore.org.uk](http://www.stthomasmore.org.uk)**

We can consider individual applications involving medical or social needs. This kind of

application must be supported in writing from a registered professional i.e. a doctor or a social worker. The supporting evidence should set out the particular reasons why our school is the most suitable school and the difficulties that would be caused if the child had to attend another school. To assess this objectively we will require the professional from whom you have submitted independent evidence to confirm that no other school is able to provide the support required for your child and we will also

seek an independent opinion of the evidence provided from the Gateshead LA Admission officer. The criteria ranking for children who have independently proven exceptional medical or social grounds are placed after priority 7 but before those children in priority 8, unless of course they qualify in a higher priority which they would normally have been placed, had no such exceptional circumstances applied.

### **Important Further Notes on the Criteria:**

The school will require to see the Baptismal Certificate of all children claiming to be Roman Catholic, please include a copy of the Baptismal Certificate with your application.

For your child to receive priority because of a brother or sister in the sixth form of the school, the brother or sister must have been at the school at the start of year 11.

For a Roman Catholic child to be considered "practising" they, and at least one parent, will: Have been baptised prior to September 2009 and be currently fulfilling the obligation to attend Sunday mass, which will be verified by the named priest.

For a child to be considered "practising members of another Christian Faith" they, and at least one parent, will: Been initiated into that church prior to September 2009, the school will need to see documentary evidence of baptism/initiation; Be currently attending at least two thirds of the church's Sunday services, which will be verified by the named minister of religion.

For categories 6, 7, and 11 where the child must live within the feeder parishes, verification of address will be required.

For categories 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, parents will be requested to give the following information on the supplementary form:

- Names of any older brothers/sisters in the School.
- Baptismal status.
- Whether your child, and at least one parent, are practising Catholics or practising members of another Christian faith.
- The Name, Address and telephone number of the priest/vicar/minister who will be able to confirm attendance at church.
- Copies of Baptismal certificates or other evidence of initiation should be included with your supplementary form.

### **8. Tie Breaker**

In the event of the School reaching capacity within categories 1-9 and 11, the School will use the distance, as the crow flies, from the front door of the home to the main entrance of the school.

Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the 'home' address will be decided using the same criteria as the LEA.

### **9. School Uniform**

The school enforces a strict uniform code. Details of the uniform are contained in the School Prospectus, which can be obtained from the school, or downloaded from the school website at [www.stthomasmore.org.uk](http://www.stthomasmore.org.uk) in PDF format. Financial assistance is offered by the school for parents whose children who are eligible for free school meals or are entitled to the maximum level of working tax credit. Parents wishing to ask about such assistance should contact the Personal Assistant of the Head Teacher, at the school.