



**Admissions Policy**  
**For Academic Year**  
**September 2021/22**



Thornleigh Salesian College is an 11-18 co-educational Roman Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Salesians of Don Bosco and maintained by Bolton Local Authority. As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Body of Thornleigh Salesian College is the Admissions Authority and is responsible for taking decisions on applications for admissions. The co-ordination of admission arrangements is undertaken by the Local Authority.

For the school year commencing September 2021, the Governing Body has set the Year 7 admission number at 270.

Our identity as a Catholic Salesian school and the inspiration we receive from the life of St John Bosco shapes our ethos and spirit, placing the developing child at the centre of everything we do. We aim to provide a vibrant experience of Christian community where everyone can flourish. Cooperation, consideration, mutual respect and care for each other determine the quality of our relationships.

The Governors recognise that the first responsibility of the school is to serve the Roman Catholic community for which it was established. This is focused on the nominated parish communities and the associated Roman Catholic primary schools which are partners in providing for those communities. In establishing the oversubscription criteria, the Governors have also taken note of the emphasis placed on supporting children in public care, as detailed in the Code of Practice produced by the Department for Education.

Thornleigh Salesian College's nominated parishes are as follows:

- Holy Infant & St Anthony (Astley Bridge)
- Parish of Corpus Christi (St Brendan, St Columbas, St John the Evangelist)
- St Osmund (BRIGHTMET)
- Parish of St Cuthbert (St Joseph (Halliwell) & St Thomas of Canterbury)

Thornleigh Salesian College's associated Roman Catholic Primary Schools are as follows:

- Holy Infant & St Anthony (Astley Bridge)
- St Brendan (Harwood)
- St Columba (Tonge Moor)
- St John the Evangelist (Bromley Cross)
- St Joseph (Halliwell)
- St Osmund and St Andrew (BRIGHTMET)
- St Thomas of Canterbury (Heaton)

Allocation of places will be in accordance with parental preference as far as possible. The limitations on this will be those provided for by Section 86(2) of the Education Act 1998, which states that an authority need not comply with the parental preference for reasons which include:

- where to admit the child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources;
- where the child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools.

It is obviously inefficient to have first year groups at one school overcrowded while other schools have spare places.

All preferences listed on the Local Authority Preference Form will be considered on an equal basis.

Where Thornleigh Salesian College receives more applications than it has places available, the following oversubscription criteria will be applied in order of priority once, within the Published Admission Number, places have first been allocated to children who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which names the school.

- (a) Roman Catholic children who are looked after children or previously looked after children *[See notes 1 & 2]*
- (b) Roman Catholic children who live in a nominated parish, and attend an associated Roman Catholic primary school
- (c) Roman Catholic children who live in a nominated parish
- (d) Roman Catholic children who attend an associated primary school but do not live in a nominated parish
- (e) Roman Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission *[See note 3]*
- (f) Other Roman Catholic children
- (g) Other children who are looked after children or previously looked after children *[See note 2]*
- (h) Other children in an associated Roman Catholic Primary School
- (i) Other children with a sibling in the school at the time of admission *[See note 3]*
- (j) Other children

The sibling link in categories (e) and (i) above does not apply if the older child is in the Sixth Form and has transferred after Year 11 from another 11-16 school.

Decisions on admission to the school in Year 7 for September 2021 will be made in accordance with the above criteria. Late applications will be considered in the light of whether any places remain available. *[See notes 4 & 5]*

If in either category there are more applications than places available, priority will be given on the basis of proximity to the school. This will be determined using the straight line route provided by the Local Authority.

If there are two or more children equidistant and only one place remaining the school will either:

- use a random lottery, picking names out of a hat in the presence of an independent witness, as the final tie-breaker; or
- where twins, triplets or children from other multiple births are resident at the same address, and allocating the final available place to one of them would mean some sibling(s) being excluded, then all will be allocated a place at the school.

For children who are the subject of shared parental custody the school will use the address where the child benefit is paid as their main place of residence.

Parents should check carefully whether they are resident within the parish boundary of one of the nominated parishes.

Parents who change address before their child takes up the place allocated, and who would consequently prefer a different school, should inform the School Admissions Team immediately on 01204 332137. If the move has not been completed, supporting evidence such as a solicitor's letter or a letter from the Housing Department will be needed.



**Thornleigh Sixth Form Admissions** (Please refer to our separate Sixth Form Admissions Policy)

#### Notes:

- (1) A 'Roman Catholic' child is one who has been baptised into the Roman Catholic Church or who has subsequently been formally received into the Roman Catholic Church. In both instances, evidence of such baptism or reception will be required.
- (2) 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 their social services functions (see definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989). A previously looked after child is one who has ceased to be looked after because they were adopted or have become subject to a residency order or special guardianship order.
- (3) Sibling is defined as a brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as the sibling. Older children can be considered to 'qualify' a younger child under the sibling link in priorities (e) and (i) of the criteria provided proof is available to demonstrate that the children are permanently resident at the same address and part of the same family unit.
- (4) If in any year Thornleigh Salesian College receives more applications for places than there are places available the Local Authority will operate a waiting list on behalf of the school. All unsuccessful applications will be automatically added to the waiting list. The child's position on the waiting list will be determined solely in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out above.
- (5) Parents/Carers have a statutory right to submit an appeal for a place at their preferred school if their application for a place has been unsuccessful. An appeal form should be automatically sent by the Local Authority if they have been refused a place. See link to Bolton Council for full information on the admissions and appeals procedures:

<http://www.bolton.gov.uk/website/pages/admissions.aspx>