



THE NELSON THOMLINSON SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Signed by Headmaster:

Date: 21st April 2016

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Date: 21st April 2016

Reviewed by Pastoral & Community Committee:
Next Review:

28th January 2016
January 2018

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ADMISSIONS POLICY

Half of our Year 7 pupils are drawn from primary schools in Wigton and surrounding rural communities; half come from further afield as a result of parental choice. The Nelson Thomlinson School also serves as the centre for sixth-form education in the area and a number of pupils join our Sixth Form from Beacon Hill School, Aspatria, and Solway School, Silloth, at the age of 16.

The School welcomes into its community in each year pupils with a broad spread of abilities and from many different backgrounds. Any parents who would like to see the school at work and to discuss admission before making a final decision are very welcome to contact the school to arrange a visit. Because of low birth rates in the area, we have managed in recent years to find a place for every applicant. Whether or not the number of applicants increases, we are obliged to follow the guidelines laid down by Cumbria LA in admitting pupils. The order of priority for admission can be summarised as follows:

1. Children looked after and who were previously looked after, i.e. in public care, giving priority, if necessary, to the youngest child(ren) - see note 1.
2. Children living in the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) at the time of their admission - see notes 2 and 3.
3. Children living outside the catchment area who, at the time of their admission, have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) who were allocated a place at that school by the Local Authority either (a) in the absence of a place being available in the catchment area school due to oversubscription and the school was identified by the Local Authority as the next nearest with a place available or (b) the school is named in the sibling's Statement of Special Educational Need/Education, Health & Care Plan - see notes 2, 3 and 4.
4. In relation to Church of England Voluntary Controlled Schools, children living in the catchment area who, with a parent/carer, regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance - see notes 5 and 6.
5. Other children living in the catchment area giving priority to those living closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA - see note 6.
6. Children living outside the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) at the time of their admission - see notes 2 and 3.
7. In relation to Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools, children living outside the catchment area, who, with a parent/carer, regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance - see notes 5 and 6.
8. Children living outside the catchment area, giving priority to those who live closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA - see note 6.

Applications will be prioritised on the above basis. An exception will be made under the Authority's policy for the education of children with special needs (i) where a child holds a Statement of Special Educational Needs, or and Education, Health & Care Plan or (ii) is currently undergoing a co-ordinated assessment, and in either case it is considered that attendance at a particular school is necessary to meet the identified needs of that child.

The school's intake number is 240.

The Nelson Thomlinson School In-Year Admission Policy

The Local Authority has responsibility to co-ordinate the main admission round (from Year 6 to Year 7). The School is required to co-ordinate in-year processes. Parents will be able to approach The Nelson Thomlinson School direct for in-year admissions.

The School will inform the Local Authority of any admissions and refer all those who are not offered a place to the Local Authority.

The School will participate fully in line with fair access protocols. The Nelson Thomlinson School In-Year Admission form has been created for this purpose.

For further information about Cumbria's School Admissions process, please click on the following link:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lss/schooladmissions.asp>

Explanatory Notes (These notes are part of the policy)

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in public care, who is looked after by a local authority within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Children previously looked after are children who were looked after, but have ceased to be so because they were adopted (under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order (Children Act 1989). The provision to give the highest priority to looked after and previously looked after children applies to all children who have been adopted from local authority care.

Note 2

In criteria 2, 3 and 6, priority will be given to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address and includes step and foster children. Priority will only be given where it is known at the time of allocating places that a sibling will be attending the school [excluding a nursery class] at the time of admission.

Note 3

Where reference is made to 'associated' infant and junior schools, this is to describe those situations where infant and junior schools share the same catchment area.

Note 4

If parents/carers believe they qualify for consideration under criterion 3, they should indicate this on their preference form in the place provided for this purpose.

Note 5

To be considered under criteria 4 or 7 parents/carers must provide proof with the completed form that they regularly attend a church in membership of Churches Together in Britain or the Evangelical Alliance. 'Regular' is defined as at least twice a month. Attendance may be at more than one church but should be for at least two years prior to the application date. In criteria 4 or 7 applications will be prioritised using the distance measurement methodology set out at note 6 below, with those living closest to the school, measured by the shortest straight line distance, given priority.

Note 6

Distance measurements will be undertaken using the Local Authority's computerised Geographical Information System [GIS]. This measures a straight line measure between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the LA.

Adopted: July 2013

Reviewed by the Pastoral Committee:

Review: January 2016

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