

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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ADMISSIONS POLICY 2025 - 2026

Applications for admission to Year 7 in September 2025 should be made online between 1st September 2024 and 31st October 2024.

Parents **must** complete their home Local Authority application form, stating three preferences. Lancashire residents can apply online at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/> For families who are unable to apply online, application forms can be requested from, and returned to, Pupil Access Team, Area North Lancashire, PO Box 606, White Cross Education Centre, Quarry Road, Lancaster LA1 3sQ (Telephone 01524 581148).

It is not normally possible to change the order of your preferences for schools after the closing date.

Parents who wish their application to this Church of England Academy to be considered against the faith criteria **must also** complete our supplementary form (found at the end of this policy). The supplementary form should be returned to the Academy by 31st October 2024. If the Academy is oversubscribed, a failure to complete the supplementary form will result in your application for a place being considered against lower priority criteria as the Governing Board will have no information upon which to assess the worship attendance.

For parents applying online emails informing parents of whether or not their child has been allocated a place will be sent out by the Local Authority on 3rd March 2025. Parents of children not admitted will be informed of the reason and offered an alternative place by the Authority. Parents applying by hard copy forms will be informed by letter.

Admission procedures

Arrangements for admission have been agreed following consultation between the Governing Body, the Diocesan Board of Education, Local Authorities and other admissions authorities in the area. **The number of places available for admission to Year 7 in September 2025 will be a maximum of 290.** The Governing Body will not place any restrictions on admissions to Year 7 unless the number of children for whom admission is sought exceeds this number.

The Governing Body operates a system of equal preferences under which they consider all preferences equally and the Local Authority notifies parents of the result. In the event that there are more applicants than places, after admitting all children with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming this Academy, the Governing Body will rank applications using the criteria below, which are listed in order of priority:

1. **Children in public care and previously looked after children.**

This means a 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order, including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted (please see definitions below).

A 'looked after child' is a child who is (a) in the care of the local authority or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989) at the time of making an application to the school.

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who are adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with

whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individual's to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians). A child is regarded as having been in state care outside of England if they were in the care of or were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other provider of care whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

2. Children of staff

This applies to all staff, full and part time, who are employed on a permanent contract of employment in either or both of the following circumstances:

- a) where the member of staff has been employed at Ripley St Thomas for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made, and/or
- b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

3. Places will then be ranked using the following points system which reflects the fact that Ripley St Thomas is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Academy:

Points will be given:

- a) for attendance by the parent or child* at public worship (or, in the case of a child, Sunday School) at a Trinitarian church which is a member of one of the following on 1st September in the year of application for admission to the Academy: Churches Together in England, Free Churches Group, Evangelical Alliance, North West Partnership of Churches, or is included on a list of other churches approved by the Governing Body (to a maximum of 30 points as detailed in the table below). Attendance must be current at the point of application.

** This **does not** include attendance with school where this is part of the normal school day.*

	Over 2 years	Between 1 and 2 years	Between 6 months and 1 year
Weekly/Fortnightly	30	25	10
Once per month	20	15	5

The list of Churches Together in England can be found on the website www.cte.org.uk. Membership of the equivalent bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are accepted. Members of the Free Churches group can be found at www.freechurches.org.uk. Members of the Evangelical Alliance can be found at www.eauk.org. Members of the North West Partnership of Churches can be found at www.northwestpartnership.com.

Other churches approved by the Governing Body are: Capernwray Evangelical, Kings Community Church, Morecambe Community Church, Morecambe Full Gospel Church.

Church attendance must be verified by 31st October 2024 through the submission of a supplementary form, which is available from the Academy and which must be completed by the parent together with the appropriate member of the clergy and counter-signed by the latter. Separate supplementary forms should be completed for all churches attended on a regular basis in the last three years.

In the event that during the period specified for attendance at worship the church has been closed for public worship and has not provided alternative premises for that worship, the requirements of these arrangements in relation to attendance will only apply to the period when the church or alternative premises have been available for public worship.

- b) to children who attend any Church of England Primary School at the point of application (5 points).
- c) to children who attend any Primary School which is a member of the Bay Learning Trust (5 points). If the school is a Church of England School, that is in addition to the 5 points awarded under 3b above. The list of schools which are part of the Bay Learning Trust can be found here: <https://www.baylearningtrust.com/our-academies-2/>

- d) to siblings of those children who are on roll at Ripley St Thomas Academy in Years 7 to 12 at the point of application (5 points). This is a one-off points allocation regardless of the number of siblings currently on roll. Note: "sibling" includes step, half, foster and adopted siblings living at the same address.

Where two or more applicants achieve the same number of points under criterion 3, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the Academy and the home measured in a straight line will be used as the final determining factor, nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones. This address point is within the body of the property and usually located at its centre. Where two addresses have the same distance, or the cut-off point is for addresses within the same building, then the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).

4. **In the event that places remain unfilled after the application of criteria 1 - 3, remaining places will be ranked according to the straight line distance from home to the Academy,** nearer addresses having priority over more distant ones, as above.

For the September 2024 intake there were 1011 applications (391 first preference, 374 second preference and 246 third preference) for 290 places.

2 children with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school were admitted.

The Admissions Committee applied the admissions criteria and offered the remaining places to:

- 10 children under criterion 1
- 5 children under criterion 2
- 273 children under criterion 3
- 0 children under criterion 4

The last child to be offered a place achieved 30 points and lived at a distance 178.3781 miles from school. (This was somebody who lived out of district; their address at the time of application was used to determine their rank position).

Late applications for admission

Where there are extenuating circumstances for an application being received after the last date for applications, and it is before the Governing Body has established their ranked list, then it will be considered alongside all the others. Otherwise, applications which are received after the last date will be considered after all those received on time and placed on the waiting list in order according to the criteria.

Waiting list

Where we have more applications than places, the admissions criteria will be used. Children who are not admitted will, on request, have their name placed on a waiting list. The names on this waiting list will be in the order resulting from the application of the admissions criteria. Since the date of application cannot be a criterion for the order of names on the waiting list, late applicants for the school will be slotted into the order according to the extent to which they meet the criteria. Thus it is possible for a child who moves into the area later to have a higher priority than one who has been on the waiting list for some time. If a place becomes available within the admission number, the child whose name is at the top of the list will be offered a place. This is not dependent on whether an appeal has been submitted. Looked After Children or Previously Looked After Children allocated a place at the school in accordance with a Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those on a waiting list.

The waiting list will operate until 31 December 2025.

Address of pupil

The address used on the school's admission form must be the current one at the time of application, i.e. the family's main residence. If the address changes subsequently, the parents should notify the school. Where the parents live at different addresses, and there is shared parenting, the address used will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings. If there is any doubt about this, then the address of the Child Benefit recipient will be used. Parents may be asked to show evidence of the claim that is being made for the address, e.g. identity cards of various sorts showing the child's address

as the one claimed. Where there is dispute about the correct address to use, the Governing Body reserves the right to make enquiries of any relevant third parties, e.g. the child's GP, Council Tax Office, Electoral Registration Officer, utilities provider. For children of UK Service personnel and other Crown Servants returning to the area proof of the posting is all that is required.

Twin/Triplets etc

Where there are twins wanting admission and there is only a single place left within the admission number, then the Governing Body will exercise as much flexibility as possible. If places for twins or all triplets, etc cannot be offered, the family will be advised accordingly. This may also apply to siblings who are in the same year group. If only a single place can be offered for twins, then the Local Authority's system for a random draw will decide which pupil receives an offer.

Fraudulent applications

Where the Governing Body discovers that a child has been awarded a place as the result of an intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example a false claim to residence or of involvement in a place of worship) which effectively denies a place to a child with a stronger claim, then the Governing Body is required to withdraw the offer of the place. The application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may wish to seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, to a higher year group if the child is particularly able academically or to a lower year group if the child has experienced problems such as ill health. Parents make a formal request in writing with any supporting evidence they wish to be considered.

- Requests for early/delayed entry into Year 7 should be made to the Local Authority before 31 October in the previous academic year in order to give sufficient time for the case to be considered prior to the offer of school places on 1 March.
- Requests for in-year admission outside of the normal age group should be made on the normal in-year application form.

Appeals for routine admissions

Where the governors are unable to offer a place because the school is over-subscribed, parents have the right to appeal to an independent admission appeal panel, set up under the School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, as amended by the Education Act, 2002. Parents will have the opportunity to submit their case to the panel in writing and also to attend in order to present their case. **Please use the Local Authority weblink for appeals: [Lancashire County Council Admission Appeals](#).** This should be submitted **within 20 school days of receiving the letter refusing a place.**

Appeals which are received after the deadline will be slotted into the schedule where this is possible. There is no guarantee that this will happen and late appeals may be heard after the stipulated date at a second round of hearings. The schedule is subject to change depending upon the availability of appeal panel members, clerks, venues and the number of appeals for each school (which will vary year on year).

Please note that this right of appeal against the governors' decision does not prevent you from making an application or an appeal in respect of another school.

You will normally receive 14 days' notice of the place and time of the hearing. Where possible, the appeals will be heard in person although some are now heard through a digital format.

Non-routine (In-Year) admissions

In-year admission is the process of applying for a school place during the school year. Any applications for the intake made after the start of the autumn term will be treated as an in-year application.

The in-year admission process is managed by the school. Parents are required to complete the in-year application form, which is available from the school website.

Where a place cannot be secured, parents will be offered a legal right of appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Lancashire County Council administers the appeals process on behalf of the school. Parents can complete the school's [appeal form](#) on Lancashire County Council's website.

Sixth Form Admissions

Each year, up to 220 students are admitted to the Sixth Form. In each year group, up to 80 of these may be external applicants.

Students should apply online via the school website: <https://apply.thesixthform.com/> after the sixth form open evening.

In the event that applications exceed the number of places available, after admitting all children who meet the entry requirements and have an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school, Sixth Form places will be allocated in the following priority order:

1. Looked after children and previously looked after children (please see point 1 on page 1 for definition) who meet the entry requirements
2. Ripley St Thomas Church of England Academy Year 11 students who meet the entry requirements
3. Students from other schools who meet the entry requirements

The entry requirements for Sixth Form and the individual courses are published on the Sixth Form website <https://ripleystthomas.com/sixth-form>. GCSE results will be used as an over-subscription criterion should this prove necessary.

The admission number may be exceeded if demand for courses can be met.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

Child's Surname Child's Forename(s)

Date of Birth

Address (ie where the child wakes up for the majority of Monday to Friday mornings):

.....
..... Post Code

Name and address of Primary School child currently attends:

.....

Parent/Guardian with whom the child normally resides:

Surname Forename(s)

Is the parent a member of staff at Ripley St Thomas CE Academy **YES / NO**

Please give the name(s) and tutor group(s) of any brothers or sisters who currently attend Ripley St Thomas Academy in Years 7 to 12

.....

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SECTION TOGETHER WITH YOUR VICAR, PRIEST, MINISTER ETC. You must refer to the Admissions Policy before completing this part of the form.

Name & address of place of worship

Name of vicar / priest / minister / faith leader / church officer

Dates of attendance: **From (MM/YYYY)** **to (MM/YYYY)**

How often has the parent **or** child attended **public worship** at this church or Sunday school on average? Please tick the appropriate box. **NB. Do not include attendance with school where this is part of the normal school day. Please complete for EITHER the parent OR the child (not both). Please tick one box only.**

	Over 2 years	Between 1 and 2 years	Between 6 months and 1 year
Weekly/Fortnightly			
Once per month			

Signed (Parent) **Contact Tel No**

Clergy: I confirm the information provided above is correct. (Please add your signature next to any amendments made)

I confirm the above church is a member of the following (please tick appropriate box)

Churches Together in England Free Churches Group freechurches.org.uk Evangelical Alliance eauk.org North West Partnership of Churches northwestpartnership.com None

Countersigned (Vicar/Priest etc) **Date**

..... Office held **Contact Tel No.**

Email

PTO

The information on this form will be a key factor in determining admissions to the school. It is the responsibility of the parent to complete the form in the presence of their Vicar, Priest etc. THE INCUMBENT SHOULD THEN COUNTERSIGN IT AND RETURN IT TO THE SCHOOL BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER AND 31 OCTOBER 2024.

Please note that separate supplementary forms should be completed and attendance claims verified by the appropriate incumbent or church authority for all Churches that you have attended on a regular basis in the last 2 to 3 years.