



St Matthias CE Primary School: Admissions Criteria 2026/27

St Matthias Church of England Primary School has a distinctive Christian character and ethos which is at the heart of this School and provides an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children learn and flourish. This is driven by our school's distinctive Christian vision: **Our identity, Our world, Our voice, Our Future**. At St Matthias we are committed to empowering our children to become independent life-long learners who: Know who they are, ask questions about the world around them, use their voices to make a difference and aspire to greatness. Our Christian values nurture a safe, caring and inclusive environment where together we have 'faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love'. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

We welcome applications from all members of the community, and we ask all parents to respect the Christian character of our school and its importance to our community.

All applications for children from Reception age to Year 6 should be made via Hackney Education's Admissions Page. <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/section/admissions-and-transfers>

Nursery applications should be made via the school. They can be made at any time, though enrollment will only begin the term after the child's third birthday.

St Matthias School will admit 30 pupils to each year group. In the event that the school receives more applications than places available, the priorities listed below will be applied.

Children who have the school named in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHP) are required to be admitted to the school and will be counted against the admission number.

Criteria for admissions

- I. A looked after child or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangement or special guardianship order. A looked after child (LAC) 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) at the time of making an application to the school.
- II. Children who have brothers and sisters (this includes step/half/foster/adopted brother and sisters who live at the same address) on the current roll at the time of attendance.
- III. Children whose parent(s) **regularly**¹ worship at St Matthias Church.
- IV. Children whose parent(s) are committed members of, and **regularly**² worship in local churches and chapels of other Christian denominations.
- V. Children living within the Parish of St. Matthias. A map of the parish boundary is available from the School or Hackney Education or below.
- VI. Children living outside the Parish of St Matthias.

Tie Break Decisions

¹ Attend St Matthias Church regularly is defined as attends Church at least once or twice a month for two years

² Attend any other Church of another Christian denomination regularly is defined as attending at least once or twice a month for two years

For tie break decisions for priorities i to v, distance will be used as described in priority vi above. If two children live exactly the same distance, random allocation via the drawing of lots will be used, which will be verified by an independent witness. When deciding between applicants who have equal entitlement to admission under the criteria, the Governors will offer the place to applicants who live nearest to the main entrance of the school, measured in a straight line, using the Hackney Education's GIS system. If two children live exactly the same distance, random allocation via the drawing of lots will be used, which will be verified by an independent witness.

Siblings from a multiple birth

If the last child to be offered a place is one of a twin, triplet or from another multiple birth, the governing body will consider offering the other child/children places above numbers.

Waiting List

All unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list which is compulsory under the Admissions Code, and children will be ranked on the list in accordance with the above admission policy. If children are added to the waiting list, it will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria. If there is a vacancy, this must be offered to the family at the top of the waiting list irrespective of whether there are any appeals outstanding at the time.

Waiting lists are time limited and parents will be removed from the list at the end of the relevant academic year, when the waiting list will restart, unless they put in writing to the school that they wish to remain on the list.

Right to Appeal

Parents have a Right to Appeal being placed on the waiting list, and can do so via the local authority, Hackney Education's website <https://education.hackney.gov.uk/content/appeals>.

In-Year Admissions

Applications for In-Year admissions are made in the same way as those made during the normal admissions round. If a place is available and there is no waiting list then the local authority will communicate the governors' offer of a place to the family. If more applications are received than there are places available then applications will be ranked by the governing body in accordance with the oversubscription criteria with children without an offer of a school place are given priority immediately after other 'looked after' or 'previously looked after children' children.

Children entering Reception Classes

Where a place has been offered:

- It is for a full-time place from the September following the child's fourth birthday;
- The place may be deferred until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age (the term after the fifth birthday) This means that parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may request that their child is not admitted until later in the school year 2026/27, but no later than the term after the child's fifth birthday, when s/he reaches compulsory school age. For children born between 1 April and 31 August, this is not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made. The school will hold any deferred place for the child
- Where parents wish a child may attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age
- For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2026 and 31 August 2027, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026-27, but to be admitted in September 2027 for school year 2027-28, should discuss this with the school at an early stage by writing a letter to the Chair of Governors at the time of application. Parents must then submit an application in the normal way. This application will be treated in the same way as all other applications and there is no guarantee that an offer will be made.

Education, Health and Care Plans

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHP) naming St Matthias CE School will always be offered places, though the school may consult with the local authority if it has justifiable reason to believe that it may not be able to meet the needs of the child.

St Matthias Church of England Primary School

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Executive Principal: Sian Davies • Headteacher : Lucy Blewett



Church Attendance Form

For use if parents are applying under criteria iii and/or iv
To be completed and signed by the vicar or religious leader at your place of worship.

Child's full name: _____

Parent's full name: _____

Address: _____

Do the parent(s) attend this Church at least once/twice a 1. month?	YES/NO
2. How long have they been attending this Church for?	

To the best of my knowledge and belief this is a reliable statement of the involvement of the family concerned in the life of my congregation.

Church name: _____

Church address: _____

IMPORTANT: Please insert church official stamp. If stamp is not available, please attach compliment slip

Map of St Matthias Parish

