



Dane Bank Primary School

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2025/26 ACADEMIC YEARS

INTRODUCTION



These arrangements are based on the Department for Education (DfE) School Admissions Code and the DfE School Admissions Appeal Code and apply to the admission of children to Dane Bank Primary School in the normal admissions round for the academic year 2025/26.

As an academy, the school is required by its funding agreement to comply with these codes, and with the law relating to admissions as set out in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. This policy complies with the Articles of Association. The school will take part in the Admissions Forum set up by Thameside Metropolitan Borough Council (TMBC) and have regard to its advice; and will participate in the co-ordinated admission arrangements operated by TMBC and the local in-year Fair Access Protocol. TMBC will operate an equal preference scheme. These arrangements do not apply to those being admitted for Nursery provision.

Children in Thameside are eligible for a Reception place from the beginning of the school year in which they become 5 years old. However, they do not become of compulsory school age until the start of the term after their fifth birthday. Parents may therefore request that their school place be deferred until later in the school year and if they do, this the place will be held for the child. However, they cannot defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday. Parents of summer-born children can request that their child is placed outside their age range if they feel that their child will not be ready for school. Parents can also request that their child attends on a part-time basis until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Parents of children who are admitted for Nursery provision must apply for a place at the school if they want their child to transfer to the Reception class; attendance at a Nursery does not guarantee admission to the school.

APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION PLACE AT DANE BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2025

If you are a Thameside resident you must make your application online to Thameside Local Authority, even if you wish your child to attend a school in another Local Authority area.

It is the parents' responsibility to apply for a school place. This is done online. Details of how to apply and where to view the 'Starting out' Booklet are on Thameside Local Authority's Admissions website www.thameside.gov.uk/school/admissions

All applications must be made online. Only one application may be submitted for each child. The online application system will be made available online from **1st November 2024**.

The Local Authority and/or school may verify information you provide on your application, which could involve contacting other departments of the Local Authority. In instances where the information provided is different from that held by them, they may use the information on the application to investigate further. If false or misleading information is given, Thameside Local Authority and/or the school has the right to withdraw the offer of a school place.

If you are not a Thameside resident you must make your application to the Local Authority where you live, even if you wish your child to attend Dane Bank Primary School. Applications must be returned in accordance with your own Local Authority's specific instructions and not to Thameside.

THE PROCESS

The application will invite parents to indicate a preference for up to 6 schools, and then to rank the schools in order of preference, parents will also be able to give reasons for each preference.

Your online application must be submitted by the closing date of **15th January 2025**, with any supporting information / evidence if appropriate.

The council will follow the timetable set out in the coordinated admissions scheme. Late applications will be dealt with as late and ranked after all applications received by the deadline.

Changes to preferences, ranking order, or pupil details, will not be allowed after the closing date of **15th January 2025**, except in exceptional circumstances, for example, if the family has recently moved address. Evidence must be provided to support the request. An intention to change address cannot be considered by the Local Authority until the move has actually taken place and proof is available, or parents may provide a solicitor's letter confirming an exchange of contracts on a property, or a tenancy agreement and proof of disposal of current property. No changes can be considered even where there are exceptional circumstances, once information has been exchanged with other admission bodies because the allocations process has commenced. In the case of primary schools, this cut-off date is the **24th January 2025**.

Notification of offers of a single school place will be sent out to parents on **16th April 2025, or the next working day after**. These notifications will also inform parents of their right of appeal, and who to contact, if an application has not been successful.

Parents will not receive multiple offers.

THE PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER FOR DANE BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL IS 30.

Where applications for admission to the school exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit.

CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING PLACES TO OVERSUBSCRIBED SCHOOLS

Children with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where the school is named will be allocated places before the oversubscription criteria are applied.

The criteria for over-subscription for Dane Bank Primary School are:

1. **Looked after Children or children who have previously been looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residence, or special guardianship order. This includes those children who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.**

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 the definition in section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989)

2. **Children and families with exceptional medical or social needs**

Written evidence must be provided by a suitably qualified professional – e.g. a GP or consultant for medical needs, or a social worker for social needs – the information must confirm the exceptional medical or social need and demonstrate how Dane Bank Primary School is the only school that can meet the defined needs of the child. A panel of governors and the Headteacher will make a decision as to whether to admit a child under this criterion, using the evidence provided. Parents/carers are responsible for providing all information in support of an application by the closing date, officers of the Council will not ask for additional information. All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

3. **Sibling**

This will apply where there are brothers or sisters attending the school as at the closing date for applications, who will still be attending at the time of admission, i.e. in the September when a pupil is admitted to Reception. Preference will be given to pupils living nearest to the school.

The sibling criterion includes; natural sisters/brothers; half-sisters/brothers; stepsisters/brothers; adopted sisters/brothers; sisters/brothers of fostered children; children of the parent/carer's partner, and in each case living at the same address. This allows for the admittance of children whose siblings will still be attending the preferred school.

4. **All other applications on distance**

Preference will be given to pupils living nearest to the school.

Distance will be measured as a straight line from the child's home address, using the address point assigned by the National Land and Property Gazetteer, to the main gate to the school property. Measurements will be made using the Local Authority's school admissions data mapping software, which uses a Geographical Information System based on Ordnance Survey.

Where oversubscription occurs in applying either criteria 1, 2 or 3, priority will be given to those pupils living nearest the school, measured as a straight line (as above).

The address from which distance will be measured will be the permanent residential address, as at the closing date for applications, of the parent with whom the child is normally resident. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the home address is the address from which the child travels to school for the majority of school days per week.

In the event of two or more applications with distances which are exactly the same competing for a final place, e.g. blocks of flats, the place will be decided by drawing lots, the first name drawn will be offered the place.

An adoption order is an order under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. A 'residence 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. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

In cases where twins, triplets, or other multiple birth siblings are split when allocations take place, they will be allocated a place over the Published Admission Number and will remain excepted pupils for the time they are in an infant class or until the class numbers fall back to the current infant class size limit.

SUMMER BORN CHILDREN

In September 2020, the Government updated the non-statutory guidance to help admission authorities deal with parental requests for summer born children to be admitted out of their normal age group.

School admission authorities are required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but flexibilities exist for children whose parents do not feel they are ready to begin school before they reach compulsory school age.

Where a parent requests their child is admitted out of their normal age group, the school admission authority is responsible for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to. They are required to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

There is no statutory barrier to children being admitted outside their normal age group, but parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group.

A parent who chooses not to send their summer born child to school until they have reached compulsory school age may request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group - to Reception rather than Year 1.

Parents should submit reasons for requesting admission for their child outside of the normal age range together with their application. The online application provides space to do this and you should also submit views of medical professionals as necessary. A decision will be made taking account of parents' wishes, information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; and whether they have previously been educated outside their normal age group. Each request will be treated on an individual basis having regard to the views of an educational professional who will be involved in educating the child.

Each request and the evidence provided will be considered by a panel of School Governors and Headteacher who will make a decision on the parental request, using the evidence provided. Parents/carers are responsible for providing all information in support of an application by the closing date, officers of the Council will not ask for additional information. All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN OF UK SERVICE PERSONNEL

The school acknowledges that service families are subject to movement within the UK and from abroad. Although the school is not able to reserve places for blocks of pupils, we will consider requests, if accompanied by an official MOD letter declaring a relocation date and a Unit postal address or quartering area address. For in year admissions places will be allocated, subject to a place being available in the relevant year group, prior to moving. If we are unable to allocate a place at that time, parents will be offered the right to appeal.

IN-YEAR TRANSFERS

Parents wishing to apply for an in-year transfer to Dane Bank Primary School should apply using the Tameside Citizen Portal via the Council website.

If you want to transfer your child to Dane Bank Primary School but you are not a Tameside resident, you must still apply through Tameside Council – the Local Authority Admissions team can support you with this.

If your preferred school is not within Tameside, you should apply directly to the Local Authority the school is located.

If a place is available in the requested year group, parents will normally be offered that place but there are some exceptions (see Fair Access Protocol section).

Parents will receive an offer of a school place through Tameside Council and this can take up to 20 school days.

IN YEAR FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL

All Local Authorities have a Fair Access Protocol for in year transfers that ensures the speedy admission of pupils who may experience difficulty in being allocated a school place, for example, if they have been out of school for a long period of time. With specific short-term exceptions, all schools in Tameside are participants in the protocol, which may result in schools admitting pupils over their published admission number. Full details of the In-Year Fair Access Protocol can be found on the Council's website

<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/primarytransfers>

WAITING LISTS

If Dane Bank Primary School is oversubscribed, the Council will maintain a waiting list. The waiting list will operate until the end of the relevant school year. Parents who have expressed the school as a preference and have not been offered a place at the school, or at a higher preference school, will automatically be placed on the waiting list. All pupils on the waiting list will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria. When a place becomes available children who have been referred under the Local Authority's Fair Access protocol or who is the subject of a direction by the Local Authority to admit will be given precedence over any other children on the waiting list. Then any places will be offered to the highest ranked application received by the date the place becomes available. If new or late applications have a higher priority under the oversubscription criteria, they will be ranked higher than those who have been on the list for some time. If the circumstances of children on the waiting list change (e.g., they move house) they should inform the Council immediately and provide appropriate supporting evidence.

A place from the waiting list will only be held for two school days. Tameside Council will use the information provided on the original application to contact parents, it is the responsibility of parents to change their details with the School Admissions Team if they move house or change their phone number. If no response is received from a parent who has been offered a place from the waiting list within the 2 school day limit, it will be offered to the next child on the ranked list and so on until the place is filled.

If a parent is offered a place from the waiting list and rejects it or does not respond to requests by email or answerphone message to contact the School Admissions Team, they will be removed from that waiting list.

Waiting lists are also operated for any in-year transfers for all year groups (Reception – Year 6) and operate as above. Waiting lists will be in operation for a whole school year.

APPEALS

Any parent who is refused admission to Dane Bank Primary School has the right of appeal to an Independent Appeals Panel. For pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan, an appeal can be made to the SEN and Disability Tribunal (details are included in the plan).

Parents, who wish to appeal against the decision of the Local Authority to refuse admission to Dane Bank Primary School, should do so in writing, setting out clearly why your child should go to Dane Bank Primary School. Information about appeals will be sent out with the allocation letter and can also be found on the School Admissions webpage <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/admissions>

The Appeals Panel will:

- be independent of the school and the Local Authority;
- give the appellant, who may be accompanied by a friend or be represented, the opportunity to make oral representation;

The Local Authority will:

- give the appellant at least ten school days notice of the time and place of the hearing;

The clerk will:

- send the appeal papers to the appellant at least seven working days before the hearing.

The appeal shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast, the chairman of the panel having a casting vote.

The decision of the Appeals Panel and the grounds on which it was made shall be communicated by the Clerk in writing to the appellant. That decision shall be binding on all parties. Subject to the above conditions, all matters of procedure shall be determined by the Local Authority.

February 2024