



Determined Admissions Policy

Dated:	For the academic year 2027-2028
Date approved by Governors:	3 rd February 2026
To be reviewed:	Annually
Person Responsible:	Headteacher



UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award

As a UNICEF Rights Respecting School we aim to teach our students that they have rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

By putting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of our school's ethos and culture we seek to improve well-being and develop every student's talents and abilities to their full potential.



The school works in liaison with Lancashire County Council Admissions Team. Parents/carers seeking a place at the school should, in the first instance, contact the Admissions Team.

Our admission number for the academic year 2026 to 2027 will be 225.

The date for parents to apply for a place in the academic year 2026/2027	
Closing date	Offer Date
31 st October 2025	1 st March 2026

The website address for online applications is www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

The Local Authority will keep waiting lists for all Lancashire schools until 31 August 2026. These are kept in priority order using the school's published admission criteria. From 1 September 2026 until 31st December 2026 waiting lists will be retained by individual admission authorities.

If the school is oversubscribed, then the following admission criteria will be applied to decide which children should be offered the available places. The criteria below are in priority order:

- (a) All looked after children and previously looked after children must be considered/offered a place at the time when preferences are expressed (see note (vii) below); then
- (b) Children for whom the Governors accept there are exceptionally strong medical, social or welfare reasons for admission, which are directly relevant to the school (see note (i) below); then
- (c) Children living within the school's geographical priority area with older brothers and sisters in attendance at the school at the time of transfer (see note (ii) below); then
- (d) Children living within the school's inner geographical priority area (see notes below); then
- (e) Children living in the school's outer geographical priority area (see notes below); then
- (f) Children living outside of the school's geographical priority areas (see notes below) with older brothers and/or sisters in attendance at the school at the time of transfer (see note (ii) below);
- (g) Children living outside of the school's geographical priority areas (see notes below)

Notes

- (i) The medical, social and welfare criterion will consider issues relevant to the child and/or the family. This category may include children without a statement who have special needs. Children who have a statement for special needs will have their applications considered separately.
- (ii) Brothers and sisters includes step children, half brothers and sisters, fostered and adopted children living with the same family at the same address (consideration may be given to applying this criterion to full brothers and sisters who reside at different addresses). The priority does not apply to siblings whose brothers and sisters transferred into a sixth form at 16⁺.

- (iii) Where there are more applicants for the available places within a category, then the distance between the Ordnance Survey address points for the school 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 the cut off point is for addresses within the same building, then the single measure between address points will apply and the Local Authority's system of a random draw will determine which address(es) receive the offer(s).
- (iv) Children will not normally be able to start at the school other than at the beginning of a term, unless they have moved into the area, or there are exceptional circumstances.
- (v) Applications for school places which are received late will not necessarily be dealt with at the same time as those received by the set deadline. The reasons for a late application may be requested and where these are not exceptional the relevant admission criteria will be initially applied to all others received on time. The late application will be dealt with after this process.
- (vi) Where a child lives with one parent/carer for part of the week and another for the rest of the week only one address will be accepted for a school admission application. This will normally be the one where the child wakes up for the majority of school days (Monday to Friday). Proof of residence may be requested at any time throughout the admissions process.
- (vii) The highest priority **must** be given to looked after children^[1] or a child who was previously looked after, but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption^[2], child arrangement order^[3], or special guardianship order^[4] or those children who appear to the school to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
- (viii) Further references to previously looked after children in the Code means children who were adopted (or subject to child arrangement orders or special guardianship orders) immediately following having been looked after.
- (ix) Dates and details of applications can be obtained from Lancashire County Council.

[1] 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] Under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. See section 46 (adoption orders).

[3] Under the terms of the Children Act 1989. See section 8 which defines a 'child arrangements order' as an order regulating arrangements relating to any of the following, (a) with whom a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact, and (b) when a child is to live, spend time or otherwise have contact with any person

[4] See section 14A of the Children Act 1989 which defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

The Geographical Priority Area for Sir John Thursby Community School

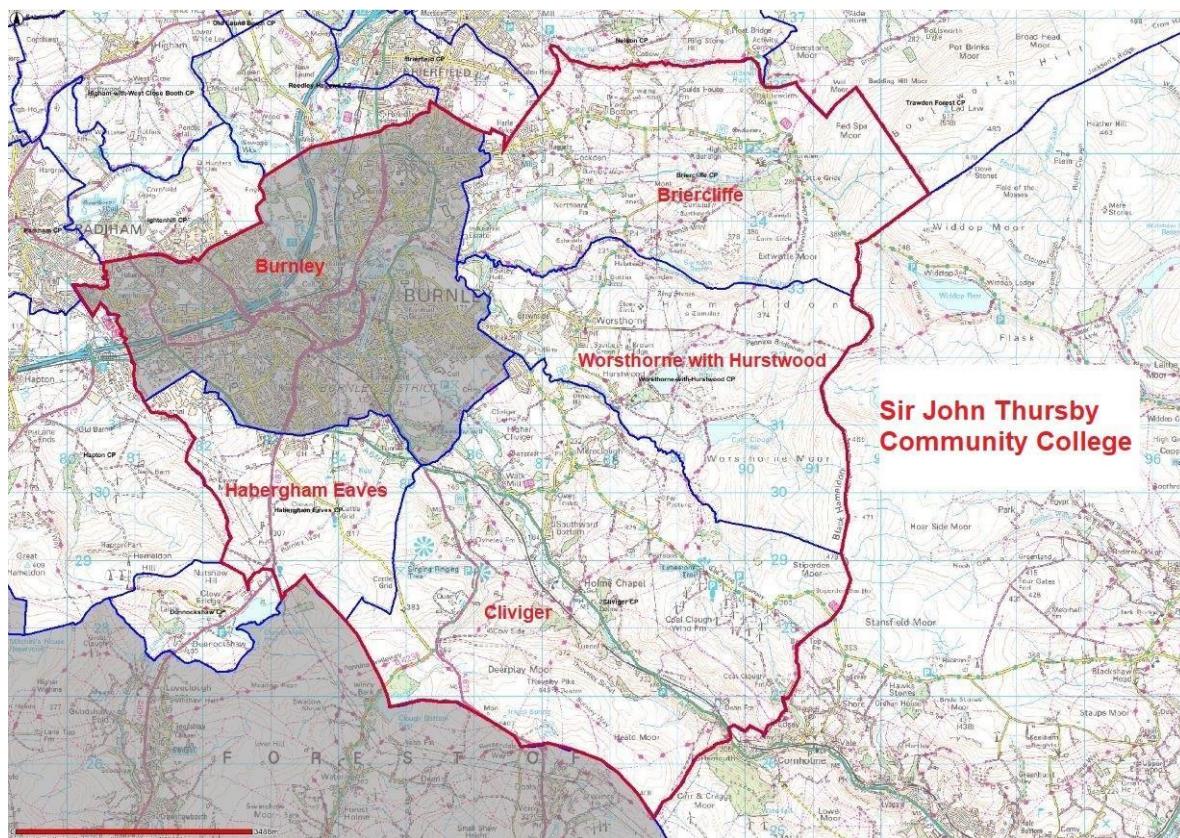
Inner Geographical Priority Area

This area includes central Burnley, including the Lowerhouse, Rosegrove, Rosehill, Burnley Wood, Stoneyholme, Danehouse, Burnley lane and Heasandford districts.

Outer Geographical Priority Area

This area includes the civil parishes of Briercliffe, Worsthorne with Hurstwood, Cliviger and Habergham Eaves

Below is a map showing the Inner and Outer Geographical Areas.



Transport

Students may be entitled to travelling expenses to this school provided they reside three miles or more from the school, measured by the shortest walking route. If you are in doubt over the distance between your home and school, please check with the Area Education Office.

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.

Admission Times

Students who are allocated an in-year school place and are new to the area will be admitted during term time at the earliest convenience. Students moving from other schools within the Burnley Learning Partnership will be admitted at the beginning of the new academic term.

Related Documentation

- LCC Admissions Policy.
- Hard to Place and Managed Moves Protocol.

This policy will be reviewed annually.