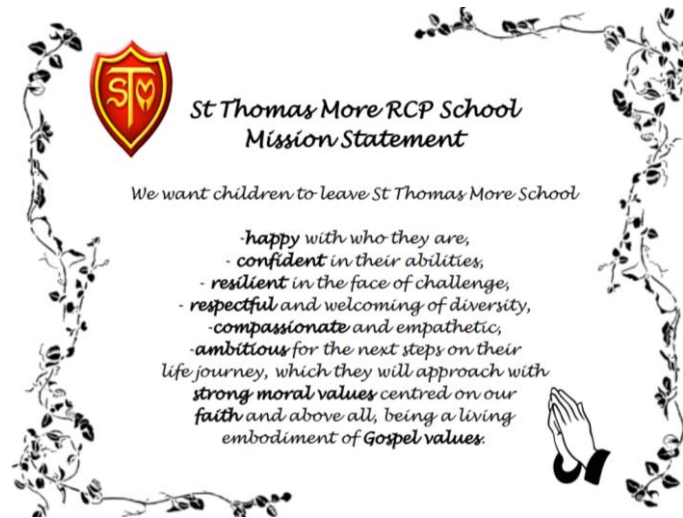


St Thomas More C P School

The Intent, Implementation and Impact of our RE and Collective Worship Curriculum



Curriculum Intent

What is the intent of the RE Curriculum?

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary, we believe that it is important for all our children to learn about religion so that they can gain a full understanding of the world around them. Religious Education plays an important role, along with all other curriculum areas, in promoting the spiritual, **moral**, social, and **cultural** development of our children. All our children take part and contribute to collective worship and the Catholic life of the school.

RE teaching is faith-filled, scripture based and enjoyable where each child feels they **belong** to our school and wider community and not excluded if they are not Catholic. We have **high aspirations** for our children at St Thomas More C.P. and classrooms are places where everyone is respected for their beliefs and expressions of faith, but where ultimately, they all achieve. Religious Education is taught throughout the school in such a way as to reflect the overall objectives, values, and philosophy of the school, meeting the aims of our mission statement.

We have come to recognise the challenges and opportunities our children might face and experience as they grow to be responsible adults in the wider world. We believe it to be our mission to equip children for the future as we understand it to be, recognising that we are already preparing young children for a world which is changing constantly. It is therefore imperative that we offer children a curriculum which is rich in knowledge, understanding (including vocabulary) and transferable skills. We believe that to be effective, the curriculum must be purposeful, engaging, active and relevant. Children will learn to appreciate the way that religious beliefs shape life and our behaviour, develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and **moral** issues and enhance their **spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**. Teaching will enable all children to achieve, taking every possible step to overcome barriers to learning, to have **high aspirations** and be aware of all future possibilities. We ensure that our children develop **strong moral values** round the core of the Catholic Faith.

Curriculum Implementation

How does the curriculum overview allow all children to achieve?

We recognise RE as a core subject and use the Diocesan approved scheme of work 'The Way, The Truth and The Life'. This includes six topics a year from EYFS to Year 6 and includes the examination or other faiths.

Children explore different aspects of the RE curriculum and the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church in detail. The emphasis is on active learning and analysis of how we take the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus to enable us to understand God's message and make changes to the way we choose to live our lives.

As a Catholic school, the principles of Catholic education remain at our core whereby the Catholic faith permeates everything we do. We recognise that parents are the key educators of the faith and we ensure that families are supported in bringing their children up in the Catholic faith by providing a well-rounded Catholic education with a full understanding of **strong moral values** and of how to be compassionate to our 'neighbours'.

How is prior knowledge revisited?

The sequence of lessons from Foundation Stage through to Year 6 enable children to progress linking topics; this allows children to revisit and embed key knowledge, vocabulary and apply this to new topics. This sequence of lessons ensures that knowledge and understanding is embedded and consistent.

How is assessment used effectively?

Evidence of the impact in RE is not simply collected through books and RE Journals. Formative assessments are made of children's progress through discussion, observation and children's understanding of the good choices they make in relation to themselves and their peers. Assessment is used to identify gaps and meet the needs of the individual learner and extend learning for those with deeper understanding.

How is cultural capital developed through the curriculum?

We work closely with the local parish and community to continue the development of **moral values** and understanding of the wider community. Charitable links remain a focus, as does seeking awe and wonder in the world around us.

We extend our links to the local parish which includes another local Catholic Primary School, as children continue their journey in Faith by taking the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Staff support the children through the process and attend these pivotal events by invitation.

Parents are welcomed into the school for Liturgies presented by each year group throughout the year. Parents and the local parish are also invited to our Church, St. Simon Stock, for frequent Masses organised and prepared by Key Stage 2 children.

During RE week, children experience a wide range of activities including visits from local religious leaders, religious performers and excursions to local places of worship of other denominations developing a **broad exposure to other cultures and the arts**. The parish and parents are invited to join

us for the highpoint of the week; an outdoor mass to celebrate the feast of our patron saint, St Thomas More.

To supplement the teaching of Christianity, children are given opportunities to learn about other faiths and beliefs. These include Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism. Children are encouraged to be respectful and welcoming of diversity encouraging tolerance of those with **different faiths, beliefs and cultures** and respecting the position of those with no faith or belief.

Curriculum Impact

What does impact look like?

Children demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and how to continue their own faith journey. Through confident and skilled teaching and wider experiences, children enjoy their R.E. learning and are able to make links between their own lives, the life of Jesus and those of others in their community and in the wider world.

Having a wider picture of what and where their place is in the world equips our children with the tools and ability to understand and manage themselves as individuals. Our children leave St Thomas More **happy, confident and resilient** in the face of life's challenges. They are **respectful** of others and appreciative of their views. Our children are encouraged to be **compassionate** and to **show empathy**. Children develop their own **high aspirations** and approach their next steps with **strong moral values** embedded in their faith and Gospel values.