



ST THOMAS MORE PROSPECTUS



2021-22

ST. THOMAS MORE CP SCHOOL
Bleakwood Road
Chatham, ME5 0NF
01643 684701

Education
Commission
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK





St Thomas More Catholic Primary School



Welcome,

If your child is to join us for the first time, we warmly welcome you as parents, and look forward to a happy and flourishing association over the coming years. If you already have a child here, we are pleased to continue these links.

In order to have confidence in St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, you must know and understand what is happening within the school. We hope you will extend your knowledge through contact and discussion with us, and take advantage of the occasions for consultations. This helps the mutual understanding and trust, which is the basis of our shared responsibility.

Application and admission details are given in this prospectus, and if you need further assistance, please contact me.

*Mrs V. EBDON
Headteacher*



‘Leadership and management at all levels, including governance, are outstanding.’

‘Children receive a good start to school life in the Early Years Foundation Stage where they are taught well by a highly committed team.’

‘Outstanding teaching over time enables pupils to make good or better progress in all subjects.’

‘Pupils’ behaviour is exemplary and they say they feel very safe.’

Ofsted 2013



JUDGED OUTSTANDING

‘St Thomas More is a welcoming and inclusive school with a rich Catholic life’

‘Religious Education is well led and managed and is at the heart of the curriculum’

Education Commission Catholic Diocese of Southwark 2018



Our Vision –

To positively affect the life and future of every child



St Thomas More RCP School Mission Statement

We want children to leave St Thomas More School

- happy with who they are,*
 - confident in their abilities,*
 - resilient in the face of challenge,*
 - respectful and welcoming of diversity,*
 - compassionate and empathetic,*
 - ambitious for the next steps on their*
- life journey, which they will approach with*
strong moral values *centred on our*
faith *and above all, being a living*
embodiment of Gospel values.





St Thomas More – Our Curriculum

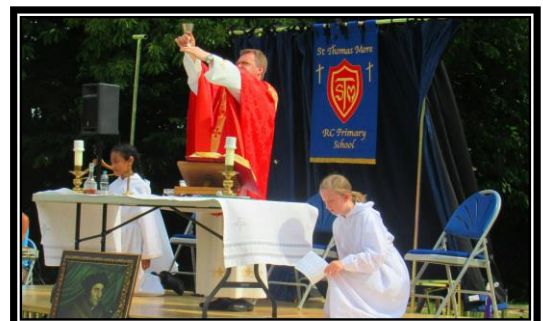
Our Vision

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, our vision is that we will 'Positively affect the life and future of every child.' We want our children to leave our environment as children who are happy with who they are, confident in their abilities, resilient in the face of challenge and respectful and welcoming of diversity. We want children to be compassionate and empathetic, ambitious for the next steps on their life journey, which they will approach with high aspirations, have strong moral values centred on our faith, and above all, be a living embodiment of Gospel values.

Through our curriculum, we intend to promote British Values, (Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs) framed within the Catholic faith, ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities as a UK citizen for when they leave St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.

Our Faith

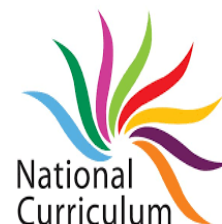
As a thriving outstanding, Catholic school, the fundamentals of Catholic education remain at our core. This includes the pursuit of excellence and preparing our children as world citizens of the 21st century so that they have the knowledge and necessary skills beyond the curriculum itself. In order for this to be achieved, our children need high levels of competency in English and Mathematics. We recognise Religious Education as a core subject and also recognise that parents and carers are the primary educators of the faith.





Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is linked to the Primary National Curriculum and aims to provide a highly inclusive environment where learners enjoy their education. It is designed to give all learners, including the disadvantaged and SEND the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. We are fully committed to providing a relevant, broad, balanced and continuous curriculum to develop inquisitive thinkers and learners who have respect for themselves and others.



'Teachers are skilled at planning challenging, interesting activities where pupils learn in meaningful everyday ways.'

Ofsted 2013



'Outstanding teaching over time enables pupils to make good or better progress in all subjects.'

Ofsted 2013





Our School Curriculum Drivers





Foundation Stage

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Developing independence and self-esteem
- Relationships with children and adults
- Thinking of others
- Beginning to understand right and wrong
- Developing respect for their own and other's beliefs



Communication, Language and Literacy

- Speaking and listening
- Enjoying stories, songs and rhymes
- Developing phonic knowledge
- Beginning to read
- Beginning to write

Physical Development

- Movement
- A sense of space
- Health and bodily awareness
- Using equipment



'Children receive a good start to school life in the Early Years Foundation Stage where they are taught well by a highly committed team.'

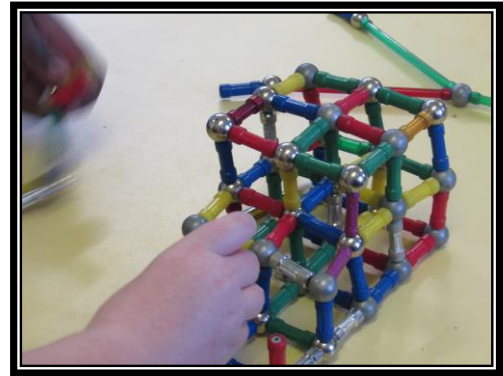
Ofsted 2013



St Thomas More also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

Mathematical Development

- Counting and number recognition
- Beginning to add and subtract
- Shape and measurement
- Problem solving



Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Exploration and investigation
- Designing and making skills
- Information and communication technology
- A sense of time
- A sense of place
- Cultures and beliefs



Expressive Arts and Design

- Exploring colour and texture
- Singing, percussion and rhythm
- Using imagination in various ways



As a school we use 'Tapestry' to communicate with you about your child. The first day of handing over your child to the care of another can be an emotional time. As your child adjusts to experiences without you at school, most parents continue to want to share in these times. Tapestry facilitates this, by enabling a personal journal, or diary, to build over time. Photographs, videos and notes of special moments are not only recorded, but can be made available regularly and often immediately to you.

(Taken from <https://tapestry.info/parents-carers.html>)



Our five drivers underpin and measure the impact of our curriculum.

High aspirations –

- We enable our children to have high aspirations and be aware of all future possibilities.
- Children will leave with ambition and be highly motivated to continue their learning
- They will be equipped with the right tools to be independent having experienced an enriched and broad learning curriculum and have an awareness of all possibilities on offer to them so they are ready for the wider world.
- All children are encouraged to work to a high standard and to continually challenge themselves
- Teachers will have high aspirations for ALL children

Sporting opportunities and physical health –

- We engage our children with a wide variety of sporting opportunities for both enjoyment and physical health
- They will have had the experience of competition; promoting team work, individual challenge and ambition
- They will have an understanding of pride and self-worth, know what it is like to be part of a team and succeed, or even lose and know how to be gracious in defeat

Moral Values –

- We ensure our children develop strong moral values around the core of Catholic faith
- Through our Catholic faith and moral teachings children will have a strong personal sense of morality
- Our children will be resilient to the influence of others and have their own mind, sticking to the values that are important to them



- Our children will be equipped for society and the wider world and make a difference in their own life and to the lives of others
- The Catholic faith is at the core of our curriculum, teaching and preparing our children with the Catholic morals, values, spirituality and strength to succeed in life; whatever the challenge

Emotional & Mental Well-Being –

- We equip our children with the tools and ability to recognise, understand and manage their emotions to allow them to achieve and maintain good mental health.
- Mental strength and well-being is essential for active and effective learning.
- Children will leave St Thomas being able to regulate their emotions and understand the techniques to maintain good mental health.
- Children will have been taught how to have a positive outlook and have the strategies for coping with upset and trauma.

Culture & Arts –

- We empower our children to be socially mobile with wider horizons by having a broad exposure to culture and the arts.
- Cultural understanding and exposure to the arts prepares our children for a world outside the classroom walls.
- Children will read, understand and talk about different genres of literature and poetry, discuss cultures from around the world and speak knowledgeably about life beyond the National Curriculum.
- We create new pathways for our disadvantaged families.
- All children to be culturally mature and ready for the next steps in their education and their chosen career path.
- We aim open their eyes to a world outside their community and broaden their life experiences.



SEND and Disadvantaged

St Thomas More is a diverse and inclusive school that aims to provide a secure and accessible environment for all our children so that they can flourish, progress and achieve to the best of their ability. Our aim is to make our SEND and Disadvantaged children feel valued and included, and to have high aspirations. Inclusion is embedded in our practice and teachers regularly review and reflect upon their own practice to ensure progress is made. Teachers and Learning Support staff are aware of and sensitive to the needs of all pupils and are confident in teaching children in a way that is most appropriate to their individual needs.

Our curriculum has been uniquely designed as a whole school to meet the specific needs of all our children and give them the opportunities, ambition and aspiration, as well as the skills knowledge and understanding, to fulfil their potential and enable them to make a positive contribution to future society.

Nurture and Well-being

We recognise the wide spiritual, moral, social, cultural and economic backgrounds of our families including sports, physical health and mental well-being (as recognised through our Nurture Accreditation Award) and draw upon the skills of the Headteacher, Victoria Ebdon, who is a Trauma Informed Practitioner, to ensure children's well-being is always at the heart of our curriculum.

Safeguarding

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School recognises the importance of providing a Christian ethos and environment within school that will help children to feel safe, secure and respected; encourage them to talk openly; and enable them to feel confident that they will be listened to. All those directly connected have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure.

Our school safeguarding team comprises of Mrs Ebdon, Mrs Le Breton and Mrs Deamer who can be contacted via the school office should you require advice or support or wish to discuss any worries or concerns you may have about a child. We closely work with Medway and Kent Safeguarding Children Partnership and NSPCC.



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Speak out. Stay safe.
programme





Extra-Curricular Activities



At St Thomas More RC Primary School we aim to provide all children with access to as broad and balanced range of physical activities as possible and develop pupil's sense enjoyment and well-being through regular exercise.

We want all children to engage and enjoy being and becoming increasingly fitter through extended exercise both in and outside school especially with a more sedentary and inactive modern day lifestyle that many have.

Children are encouraged to understand the competitive nature of some activities as well as being able to have fun through improvement of skills and games. We enter all Mini youth Games and Primary School Games Competitions to enable as many children as possible to take part in inter-school competition. We also run an active intra-school competition throughout the year.

Children are encouraged to take a sport leadership role within the school. Many become Sports Leaders, helping their peers to engage and enjoy activities during playtimes.



Forest School and Outdoor Learning



Our Forest School area provides children with positive outdoor experiences through play, exploration and investigation and participation in engaging, motivating and achievable activities.

'We love forest school because we have bonfires, bake food and sing songs.'
Lily year 3

Through visiting the same woodland area, the children are given the opportunity to learn about the environment using their imagination, emotions and senses.

*'We explore nature and see wonderful leaves
and interesting plants'.*
Oscar year 4





They learn the boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social and grow in self-esteem and become self-motivated. Children of all ages participating in Forest Schools have shown success in the development of how to use their initiative, problem solving skills, social and emotional skills and how to cooperate with others.

'We like making and cooking damper over the fire. Then eating it because it is delicious.'
Jessica year 5





Wrap-around care

At St Thomas More, we have a breakfast and after school club.
More details of these can be found on our school website.



We open for Breakfast Club at 8AM
The club will be available 45 min's before school

Once a parent has been given a place they will be expected to pay even if the child is absent on one of the days.

The breakfast will not be a full cooked breakfast but will include such items as cereal; toast; porridge; fruit juice; milk and there will be an element of choice

Rascals - After School Club

We provide a safe and secure environment, which offers different activities which reflect on the child's voice.

15:15 to 16:30
15:15 to 17:30

This price includes a meal for children who stay from 15:15 to 17:30. Any child that does not require our services after 4:15 will still be offered a snack.

At Rascals after school club, healthy eating guidelines are followed. We review our menu every term and we aim to meet the requirements of all children in our care.

Please contact the office for the price.



EVENTS

Raising money for Charity



A cake sales the **School Council** organised a PJ day and a bake sale to raise money for Children In Need.



Eco-Warriors

Our **Eco-Warriors** are ambassadors for our school. We also entered into a local competition to make a recycling poster. We were lucky enough that Tracey Crouch was able to present the awards!

Walk to School - Active Award!

Every Wednesday we encourage each other to walk, scooter, skateboard or ride to school! This keeps us fit and healthy as well as helping save the environment.

Please visit our website to view more - <https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/parent-information>





Further Catholic Education

St John Fisher School in Chatham and St Simon Stock Catholic School in Maidstone, can complete their education up to A-level standard. St John Fisher and St Simon Stock have a high reputation and is recommended for all Catholic children. Entry is according to their admission policy. Details are given in your child's final year at school. Please contact the school for further information.



St. John Fisher
CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL





Please follow us on:

<https://www.st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk>

& our Facebook Page

