

ST THOMAS' C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

Headteacher: Miss J Sharples



Welcome to St Thomas' CE Primary Academy

A very warm welcome to the St. Thomas' CE Primary Academy. We are an amazing Academy family with the most wonderful children and a team that always goes above and beyond. Our distinctive Christian ethos of, **'encouraging each other, overflowing with hope'** is at the heart of all we do and drives our core purpose every day. We are a 'good' Academy (OFSTED 2017) with an Outstanding SIAMS grading (2017). We have high aspirations and are fully committed to ensuring that all of our children flourish in all aspects of their development regardless of their starting point.

Day to day you will see our children **play together, pray together and learn together**. You will hear laughter and feel an abundance of joy as you walk around our well-equipped and vibrant site. Our curriculum offer starts from the moment our children walk through the door with every lesson, experience and opportunity **'encouraging' 'learning' and a 'spirit of enjoyment'**. We work hard to create a special and safe learning environment which enables pupils to succeed and achieve. It equips our pupils with the relevant and necessary knowledge, skills and understanding required to thrive in the 21st century.

Our pupils are friendly and are very enthusiastic about their learning. They enjoy their time here and parents value the care and support that is on offer to all pupils. The team are ambitious for all pupils; therefore, we aim to ensure every child is challenged and supported to achieve their academic potential by the time they leave St. Thomas'. Our Christian and British values underpin our Academy ethos and our pupils are actively encouraged to live them out on a day to day basis, through the exploration and modelling of virtues given to us by Christ.

I hope that by visiting our website you will gain a deeper insight into our amazing Academy. We are committed to providing the best education possible and are passionate about **'making a difference'** to the lives of our children.



J. Sharples.

Miss Joanne Sharples
Headteacher



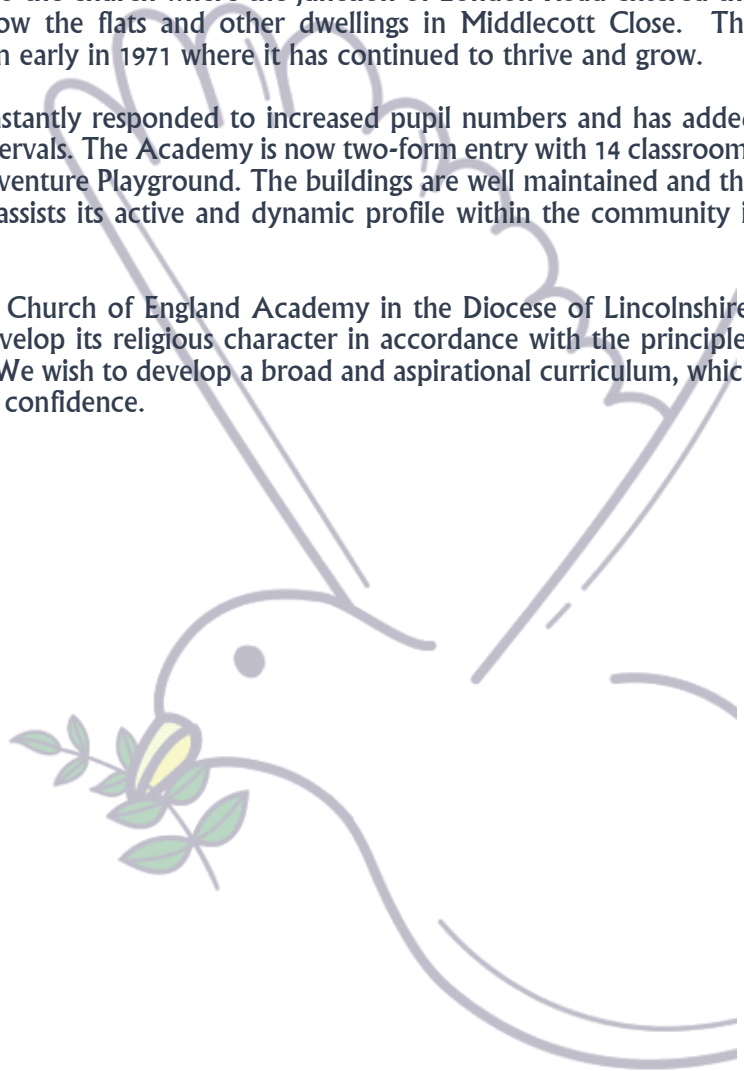


The Story of St. Thomas'

St. Thomas' CE Primary Academy opened in 1865 to provide education for the children that resided in the Skirbeck Quarter. The Academy, to this day, still retains its strong links with the Church. The Academy used to occupy a site closer to the church where the junction of London Road entered the town via the High Street, what are now the flats and other dwellings in Middlecott Close. The Academy moved to the present location early in 1971 where it has continued to thrive and grow.

As our Academy has grown, it has constantly responded to increased pupil numbers and has added additional accommodation at regular intervals. The Academy is now two-form entry with 14 classrooms and also has its own Sports Hall and Adventure Playground. The buildings are well maintained and the Academy is superbly resourced which assists its active and dynamic profile within the community it has served for over a hundred years.

Recognising its historic foundation as a Church of England Academy in the Diocese of Lincolnshire, our Academy seeks to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. We wish to develop a broad and aspirational curriculum, which builds pupils' knowledge, character and confidence.





Our Vision

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'

Romans 15:13

Encouraging each other, overflowing with hope: Here in our welcoming and caring school community, we recognise and value everyone, and seek to encourage each other (Hebrews 10.25) so that all know they can be overflowing with hope for future (Romans 15.13). Like St Thomas, we ask questions, build our knowledge and learn the value of trust in our lives. We journey together as a school family, igniting curiosity, seeking wisdom, embracing challenge and showing compassion to ensure that we are all empowered to make the world a better place.

The above vision really captures the essence and purpose of our Academy. We believe that every child is a unique creation embracing challenges through life's journey. We will work together in partnership with parents, governors and the church to nurture a love of learning and curiosity in every child. We have high expectations and will provide a vibrant and rich environment in which to learn and to grow into well rounded and successful individuals.

Through our strong Christian ethos, we will develop curious, compassionate and respectful individuals that will embrace challenges and opportunities with confidence, independence and a determination to succeed.





Our core values are:

COMPASSION, RESILIENCE, TRUST, RESPECT AND FELLOWSHIP

- Adults and children who do more than care, who love and can be loved, who have sympathy and empathy. Adults and children who are truly compassionate and actively demonstrate their compassion for others.
- Adults and children who have resilience and determination and understand the sacrifices others make for them and the amazing acts of endurance of others.
- We trust in those that look after us and we will earn their trust by being good people. We value honesty, we encourage self-belief and we trust in God's love.
- Respect for all things, for all people and for all living things, including self-respect. We value inclusion and tolerance and understand and respect the beliefs and feelings of others.
- We understand that we belong. We belong to many families and communities. We share and care for the people in our families and have a strong sense of fellowship with our Academy, with the church, with the local and national community. We understand our place in this world and feel part of it.

At St Thomas' we aim to:

Offer a happy yet challenging educational environment so that all staff, children, parents, governors and friends of the Academy are committed to:

- Providing a curriculum which is broad, balanced and aspirational allowing all children to flourish both socially, emotionally and academically regardless of their starting point. We will provide opportunities and experiences for consolidation and applying learnt skills in different situations.
- Encouraging our children to be lifelong learners, curious about the world around them and how they have their own special and unique gifts.
- We aim to promote a Healthy Body and Healthy Mind by promoting life styles through Personal, Social and Health Education and Relationship lessons, sporting activities and after Academy activities.
- Maintaining an Academy, which is a safe and caring environment with a strong family atmosphere. This is important if our children are to develop the confidence to take the risks necessary for learning within well-established routines. We recognise the ever-changing world that we live in.
- Learning about and respecting other religions, allowing our children to develop into respected citizens within the wider community. We aim to increase children's ability to live in a diverse world.
- Encouraging our children to behave responsibly, giving them a strong voice in the life of the Academy and encouraging them to volunteer to help others.
- Developing an ethos, which is characterised by trust, friendliness, respect, manners and teamwork.
- Allowing the children to learn about the wider community, how it works and how to become



- a valued citizen.
- Developing working partnership with parents, the Church, pre-schools, local business and our neighbours.

As a Church of England Academy, we aim to treat every child as unique in the sight of God; to create an ethos of serving Christ in others and to provide a Christian environment which is mutually supportive.

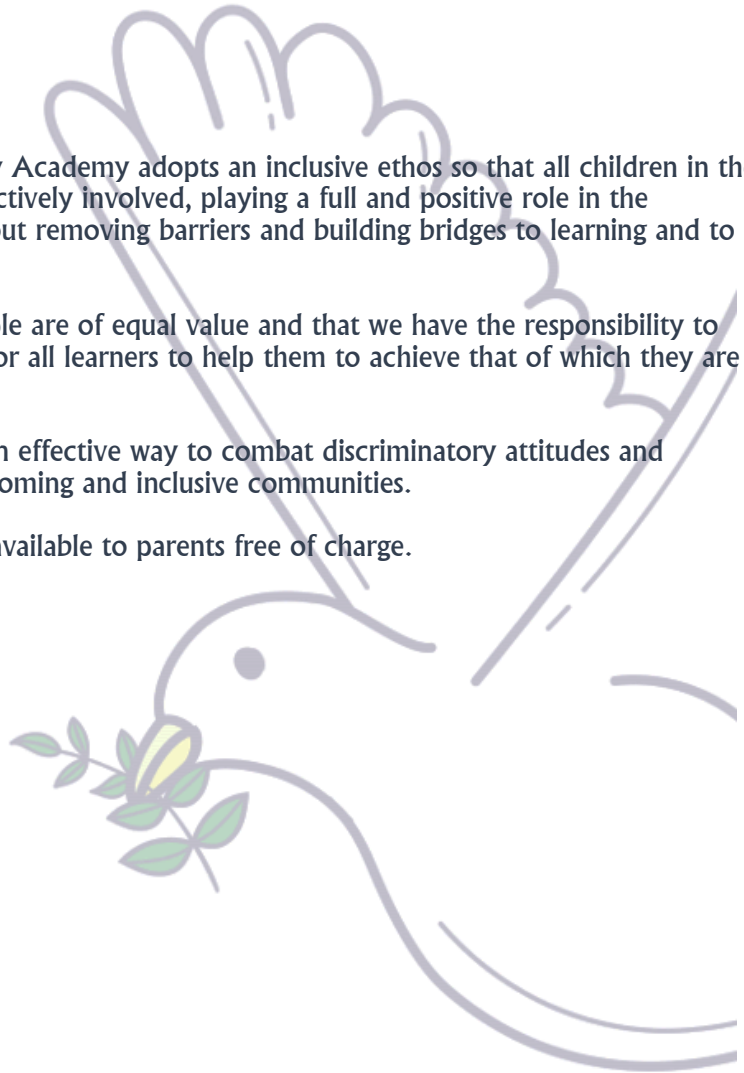
Inclusion

St. Thomas' Church of England Primary Academy adopts an inclusive ethos so that all children in the Academy have the opportunity to be actively involved, playing a full and positive role in the classroom and with their peers. It is about removing barriers and building bridges to learning and to increase participation for all.

At St. Thomas' we believe that all people are of equal value and that we have the responsibility to make high quality, balanced provision for all learners to help them to achieve that of which they are capable.

We believe that inclusive education is an effective way to combat discriminatory attitudes and contribute towards the creation of welcoming and inclusive communities.

This policy, along with every policy, is available to parents free of charge.





Academy Opening Times

Academy opens at	8.30 a.m.
Academy starts at	8.45 a.m.
Lunch break	12.10 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.
Reception, Year 1 & 2 finishing time	3.15 p.m.
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 finishing time	3.15 p.m.

Lunchtime arrangements

Children may bring a packed lunch into the Academy or alternatively, a hot meal provided by Willoughby Foods, can be purchased for children who remain at the School during lunch time. Please contact the School Office to obtain your username and password for using Willoughby Foods to order your child's meals.

If you are sending a packed lunch for your child please ensure that there are no products containing nuts. Sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Under the new government initiative, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be entitled to a free hot school meal with effect from September 2014.

Free School Meals

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you are receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than that listed by the Government)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Pupil Premium

The Academy receives a Pupil Premium payment for the year in which families are eligible for free School meals and automatically for the next five years. This additional funding will be invested in **your child** to help them achieve more at School.



Attendance Expectations

The Academy has high expectations in relation to pupils' attendance. This is because for children to receive a wide education and achieve to their full potential, they must be at the Academy regularly and on time.

Government research shows that there is a strong link between regular Academy attendance and academic achievement. The Government advise that an attendance rate of less than 95%, in any one academic year, will have a detrimental effect on a child's education.

It is expectation that children will have an attendance rate in excess of 95%. Each pupil's attendance is reviewed on a regular basis. Our attendance officer is available to meet with parents to discuss any problems that could be preventing your child attending Academy. They can be contacted via the School office.

Our expectations

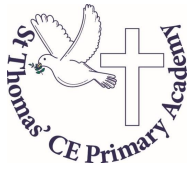
We expect the following from parents:

- to ensure your child attends School regularly and punctually, as is your legal duty;
- to ensure that if your child is absent from School for any unavoidable reason such as sickness, you contact the School by 9.15am the same day, and every day thereafter to explain why your child is absent;
- to ensure that your child arrives on time and well prepared for the day;
- to contact the School whenever any problem occurs that may affect your child's attendance or performance;
- to attempt to make all medical and dental appointments during School holidays or after School hours where possible (see below);
- to take all family holidays during School holidays (see below).

Non attendance

The Academy will respond to non-attendance at School in the following ways:

- If a note or telephone call is not received from parents on the first morning of absence, the parents will be contacted by a telephone call if no explanation is received from the parent.
- Consideration will be given as to whether a home visit from our Learning Mentor or a Safe and Well check by the Police is required.
- Where necessary, our Learning Mentor will arrange to meet with parents, arrange Academy Attendance Panels, contact the Education Welfare Team or contact the Child Missing Education Team of Lincolnshire County Council.
- Lincolnshire County Council has the powers to take any legal action that they consider appropriate in relation to unauthorised absence from School. These include issuing warning letters, fixed penalty notices (ie. fines), prosecution etc. Obviously, it is never the School's wish for further action to be taken against any of our families, and this is why we stress that parents should work closely with us in order to prevent this course of action becoming necessary.



Illness

The Academy accepts that from time to time children become ill and are unable to attend. In these situations, we ask parents to call the School office on a daily basis with an up-date on your child's condition and, if possible, give an indication as to when you think your child will return. For minor illnesses such as coughs and colds, we encourage children to be brought to the School.

The Administration of Medicines in School

There are two types of cases as follows:

1. Where the child has some form of chronic illness e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, asthma etc. or a medical condition that is permanent or will be present for a significant period of time. We will always work with parents and medical staff to ensure safe access to medicines and ensure that children take a full part in Academy life.
2. Those where the child has a short term illness such as tonsillitis, chesty colds and earache. With regard to the second case above, children suffering from infections requiring treatment should not normally be in Academy until the course of treatment has been completed. Children are not permitted to bring medicine into Academy or self-medicate and members of staff will not administer medicines in such cases. We will however, make facilities available for any parents who wish to come into Academy to treat their children and we shall be pleased to do so. Our Academy health service agrees fully with this policy.

Occasionally children feel unwell at Academy and need to go home. Should anyone feel poorly then we would always contact parents and make the necessary arrangement for the child's care.

Medical Appointments

The Academy expects, where possible, that medical appointments should be scheduled for after School hours or to take place during Academy holidays. Medical appointments will only be authorised if an appointment card or letter is seen by the School office. In the case of an emergency appointment an appointment card should be obtained during the appointment and given to the Academy upon the child's return.

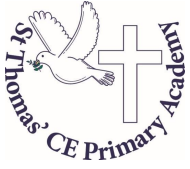
Lateness

When a child arrives late to the School they can find this very unsettling as they may have missed a key part of their learning. Therefore, it is essential that children are onsite in good time to start their day positively and to enable us to provide them with the best education possible.

Please note that:

children are welcome onto the Academy grounds from	8:30am
classroom doors are opened at	8:35am
registration takes place at	8:45am

Children are marked late if they arrive after 8.45am. In this instance, they must go to the main entrance at the front of the School as the classroom doors will not be open.



Rewards and Incentives

The Academy has in place a number of exciting ways of promoting the importance of attendance to the pupils to include incentives and rewards and we are sure that you will hear all about these from your child. The Academy hopes that you will support your child in benefiting from these rewards and ensure their excellent attendance throughout their time at our Academy.

Holidays

From the 1st September 2013 changes were made to the law which relates to parents/carers taking their children on holiday during term time. The change in legislation indicates that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless they consider there to be exceptional circumstances. The amendment in the law removed all references to family holidays.

We know that Government research shows that there is a very strong link between regular Academy attendance and academic achievement. The Government advise that an attendance rate of less than 95%, in any one academic year, will have a detrimental effect on a child's education.

Due to the above the Academy will no longer be granting parents/carers time off to take their children on holiday.

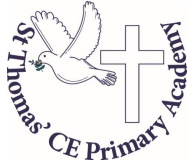
If you consider there are exceptional circumstances to support taking your child out of Academy a Request for Leave form should be completed and handed in at the Academy office. This must be supported by documentary evidence for the Academy to consider.

Absences during SAT's and examination periods will not be authorised and all unauthorised absences will be reported.

If the Academy are concerned about your child's attendance rate you will be notified and the appropriate actions taken to improve this. Ultimately the Academy reserves the right to contact Lincolnshire County Council who hold the powers to issue penalty notices (fines) and/or prosecute parents for failing to ensure their child's regular attendance at Academy.

The Requests for Leave must be completed and returned to the Academy office prior to the period of absence; please give the Academy as much notice as possible of your request. The application will be considered carefully and we will notify you of the Academy's decision within 10 working days.

We strongly advise that no leave of absence is booked prior to receiving a decision from the Academy.



Introduction of Penalty Formal Warning

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 have removed the reference to holidays during term time and now provides that a leave of absence during term time will only be granted where an application is made in advance to the school and the school consider that the leave of absence should be granted due to exceptional circumstances relating to that application.

Should you fail to apply in advance for absence due to family holiday or other circumstance then this will be recorded as unauthorised absence. If it has been decided that the request for absence or family holiday applied for does not constitute an 'exceptional circumstance' then your child's absence will also be recorded as unauthorised.

If you decide to take your child out of school during this period it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. If you choose to go ahead with the holiday, a Penalty Notice could be issued by the Local Authority under the following legislation:

- Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places upon parents a duty to ensure that their child receives efficient fulltime education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise
- Where a child is a registered pupil at a school and the parent fails to ensure that child's regular attendance at school the parent is liable to be prosecuted for a criminal offence under Section 444 of the Education Act
- In cases where this duty is not being fulfilled Section 444B of the same Act empowers the Local Authority to issue a Penalty. The amount of the Penalty is based on the following:
For a first offence, if a parent pays the Penalty Notice within 21 days from the date it is served the sum due from the parent to discharge the Penalty Notice is £80. The parent can still pay the Notice after 21 days, but the payment increases to £160. This must be paid before 28 days have passed from the date of service.

If a parent pays the amount due within the times set out above, then no further action will be taken against that parent for the offence on the date(s) set out in the Penalty Notice. For a further offence within a three-year rolling period, the payment will be £160. There is no discretion permitted for early payment.

A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of issue of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action will be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.



Academy Behaviour Expectations

At St Thomas's we work hard to create a happy, safe, caring, stimulating and purposeful learning environment for all, where hard work and achievement is valued and celebrated. We want all children to feel safe and secure in our Academy. Good behaviour is expected each and every day and we expect a 100% from each and every class.

Our core values sit at the heart of our Academy, behaviour expectations and learning attitudes are modelled and introduced to the children right from their very first day in Reception. Every class follows the Academy rules using the class behaviour chart which has been devised for each key stage. Children are taught that every action has consequences both positive as well as negative. Appropriate consequences are in place for when behaviour has fallen below the expected standard and the Academy will inform parents/carers with any concerns regarding behaviour.

Our behaviour policy echoes our core values and the importance of caring for one another, the adults and Academy property. **We take any incidences of bullying or other anti-social behaviour very seriously.** Positive reinforcement of our standards lies at the heart of our Behaviour Management, encouraging a restorative approach.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their children behave at the Academy, including out of Academy events and trips. If a child's behaviour is not of the expected standard at an out of Academy event or trip they will be asked to collect them if directed by the Academy. It is the responsibility of the parents to support the Academy in maintaining good behaviour. We expect parents to support their child's learning and to co-operate with the Academy, as set out in the home-school agreement (Behaviour Policy 6.2). Our Academy has a zero-tolerance policy to inappropriate behaviour to ensure that it remains a happy and safe place to be.

Suspension of Pupils

Suspension is a very serious step to take. No Head Teacher likes to suspend a pupil, but sometimes this is necessary if the pupil has been involved in a serious incident. In the unlikely event of your child being suspended, you would be given a letter clearly explaining what had happened and why, and also a leaflet setting out your rights in the matter. Children who have been suspended from Academy do not have an automatic right to return to the Academy. The reasons for their suspension and agreed conditions for their return would be discussed in a Return to Academy Interview with the Headteacher, parents and child.

Uniform

Clothing with the School logo is available from Nationwide School Uniforms (a local company).

Nationwide School Uniforms

Moschatel Ltd

Vale Road

Spilsby

PE23 5HE

Website: www.nationwideSchooluniforms.co.uk

Email: sales@nationwideSchooluniforms.co.uk

Telephone: 01790 754522



Girls' Uniform

Winter: Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
Navy blue cardigan/Logo cardigan or Jumper
White blouse or polo shirt
White socks or blue/grey tights
Dark shoes (no trainers)

Summer: As above or,
Summer Navy blue dress
Tailored shorts
Sandals

Boys' Uniform

Winter: Grey trousers
Navy blue jumper/logo jumper
White shirt or polo shirt
Dark or White Socks



Dark Shoes (no trainers)

Summer: As above or,
Grey shorts
Sandals

PE Kit

Black shorts
Navy blue t shirts
Trainers/plimsols

Children do go outside for P.E. in the winter unless it is raining; therefore, we recommend a tracksuit.

Swimming Kit

Girls will be expected to wear a one piece swim suit and boys either swimming trunks or above the knee swim shorts.

Jewellery

No jewellery should be worn, with the exception of small ear studs, to be worn in the ear lobe. Children are personally responsible for their ear studs and also for their watch if they choose to wear one. Watches must also be removed for PE. Children must not wear dangling earrings for safety reasons. No jewellery at all is permitted during any P.E. activity. If children wear earrings on P. E. days, they must be able to take them out themselves.

Earrings must be covered with plasters in the 6 weeks immediately after being pierced, should this fall in Academy term time.

Hairstyles

Children must have suitable hairstyles. Coloured hair, overly spiked up hair, shaven heads and Mohican hairstyles are not permitted. Hair accessories should be minimal and in keeping with Academy colours.

Identification of Personal Property

Please ensure that your child's belongings are clearly labelled: this makes the task of returning lost property much easier.



Pastoral Care

At St Thomas' the pastoral care is supported and delivered by our Learning Mentor team. Our Learning mentors look after and promote the physical and emotional welfare of pupils. It is the essential foundation upon which learning can take place. That said, here at St Thomas's our high standards of pastoral care go far further than a basic commitment to welfare, with pastoral care extending to every aspect of Academy life in order to foster pupils' personal development as much as their academic progress.

Charging and Remissions Policy

St. Thomas' CE Primary Academy subscribes to the basic principle of the 1998 Education Act in that no child can be penalised because their parents are unable or unwilling to contribute voluntarily towards costs. However, voluntary contributions are often requested to subsidise activities that take place, both in and out of School time. In the event of sufficient donations not being made, then the Academy would in all probability cancel the activity.

However, if there are clear reasons why you cannot pay then please discuss this, in confidence, with the Academy.

Home and School Links

The Academy belongs to all of us. It is not just for the children, teachers and governors. It is also for parents.

We hope that you will continue to feel that all the staff are approachable and able to listen to your opinions. You are most welcome to visit us to discuss any aspect of your child's Academy experience.

We aim to keep you informed of Academy developments and to keep you in touch with relevant information through our Academy newsletters. We inform parents of events on a regular basis.

Copies of general letters sent to year groups and newsletters are also shown on the Academy website www.stthomasacademy.co.uk and also through our ParentHub app. The App is free of charge and available from iTunes and Google Play Store. Please search in your App store for: Parent Hub, create an account and then choose 'join a school' and enter @StThomasBoston.

St Thomas CE Primary Academy can also be found on Twitter @StThomasBoston



Collective Worship

The Act of Worship is broadly Christian in nature. Ideas from other faiths, recognition of their festivals and non-religious moral stories may also form part of the collective worship process. Children are usually asked to involve themselves and reflect upon a short story or presentation.

As a Church of England Primary Academy we are particularly pleased to be linked with the local church and the clergy are regular visitors to Academy.

Under the 1944 Act parents have the right to withdraw their children by prior arrangements from Acts of Collective Worship. Pupils withdrawn from the daily act of worship remain in the classroom where there will be some activity to undertake until the rest of the class return.

S.E.N.D Policy

The Governors review our S.E.N.D. policy annually which is available to parents upon request. There have been no changes to the policy during the current academic year.

Parents' Evening and Reports

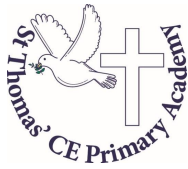
During the **Autumn Term** (Terms 1 & 2) there is a chance to meet your child's teacher. This provides the opportunity for class teachers to meet parents and to share how children have settled into the routines and expectations of their new classes.

Towards the end of the **Summer Term** (Terms 5 & 6) a written report is sent home indicating the results of statutory and non-statutory tests. There is no formal meeting but parents may, if they wish, make an appointment to discuss their child's report and progress.

If you have cause to complain

We strive to deliver the best possible education to all pupils, to educate and to care properly for their health, safety and welfare. All staff and governors are committed to achieving this aim.

If this is not the case, then please tell us. If you do not, we may well not be aware of your concern or any problems and we will not be able to address them. A complaints policy is available on our website and by request from the Academy.



Personal Accident Insurance

Any pupil, teacher or accompanying adult who is authorised by the Academy to undertake a journey is insured for travel outside of the designated Academy boundaries. Cover shall commence from the time of leaving home or Academy (whichever occurs last) and continue until arrival back at home or Academy (whichever occurs first). Personal accident insurance is also provided for pupils, teachers and any accompanying adult on any trip authorised and organised by the Academy involving travel outside the designated Academy boundaries. Further details are available from the Academy office.

Sports Activities and Outdoor Pursuits

There are plentiful opportunities for children to develop their awareness and enjoyment of sport and taking part in challenging activities is an important aim of the Academy. Games skills, swimming and team games are not only developed within the curriculum, children are also selected to participate in events and tournaments outside of the Academy and trips to try new activities are also high priority.

For swimming, a charge is made to cover transport, hire of the pool and swimming instructors.

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities that happen through the Academy staff and external agencies. The list is extensive and change as new opportunities present themselves. If you are interested then please contact the Academy for further details.

Personal Property on Academy Premises

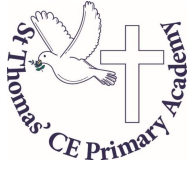
Whilst we do what we can to safeguard possessions, your child is responsible for personal items. Unless specifically requested to bring money or particular items to Academy, it is best that all items of value are left at home. Any items that are illegal, could cause harm or endanger the safety of children or staff are not permitted on the Academy site and will be dealt with accordingly by staff.

Mobile phones must be handed over to the class teacher and stored in a box safely away until the end of the day. Pupils are not permitted to use their phones whilst at school or onsite. Any need to contact parents/carers will be made from the Academy office.

Public Access to Documents and other Information

Parents have a right to view any information held by the Academy about their children. A written request should be sent to the Head Teacher who will arrange for this material to be available to parents at the earliest opportunity. In addition, some data is held within our computerised system which is protected by The Data Protection Act.

Parents have a right to a printout of this information should they request it.



The Curriculum

At St. Thomas' all children follow a broad and balanced curriculum which builds knowledge, skills and understanding each year. More information around our curriculum offer can be found on our school website under our curriculum tab. Our curriculum commitment booklet details the thinking and pedagogy behind our knowledge-engaged curriculum.

During the Reception Year children experience the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to develop early skills and knowledge ready for the National Curriculum.

From Year 1 onwards, all children follow our curriculum which is taught as separate subject disciplines with a clear focus on building knowledge and skills. Units of work are framed by a Big Question and subject specific vocabulary to help embed new learning.

Our curriculum teaches the following subject disciplines from Year 1-6:

- English
- Phonics
- Spelling Grammar and Punctuation
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- RSE
- PSHE
- Science
- Computing
- Art
- Design Technology
- Geography
- French (KS2)
- History
- Music
- Physical Education

The Academy curriculum is, however, much more than the subjects listed above. Throughout their time at the Academy, children will also be developing their understanding of relationships, of social issues, of how to work and play together, of the need to think and act independently, of how to ensure that their actions do not cause hurt to others, and how to enjoy themselves and have fun.

At St. Thomas' children have an understanding of the responsibilities we share as good citizens to make the society in which we live fairer and more caring.



Homework

Children are given regular homework in Maths and English, as well as taking home their current reading books and spellings to learn. Throughout the year children have the opportunity to work on practical homework projects to embed their curriculum learning and have regular access to our online Maths Shed resource to sharpen their mental maths skills.

We really value parents/carers ongoing support with homework, encouraging daily reading at home has been proven to improve pupil outcomes. We are passionate that children read as often as they can both in and out of school.

Leadership Roles for Children

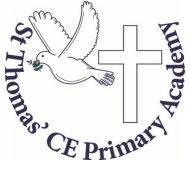
We are very proud of the Leadership roles on offer at St Thomas', they include: School Council Representatives, Playground Leaders, Mini-Police, Junior Safeguarding Officers, Language Ambassadors, Sports Captains, House Captains, Librarians and the Blog Squad. These roles encourage children to work with one another, make decisions, promote oracy and develop confidence and responsibility.

Relationship Sex Education

This should be an integral part of the learning process and consequently some elements present themselves naturally as part of the process through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. As questions arise they will be answered honestly and appropriately.

In Year 6, prior to secondary transfer, children are encouraged through a specific programme of study to ask questions about human development and reproduction. Moral considerations, the value of the family life and relationships and the development of self-esteem are considered. The Department for Education is introducing compulsory Relationships Education for all primary pupils; from September 2020 it will be compulsory for all schools to teach Relationship and Health Education. Please visit our website to view our Academy policy for RSE.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of sex education except that element which is an integral part of the National Curriculum. Any questions concerning sex education may be made to the Headteacher or the Year 6 teachers. The current policy is available upon request.



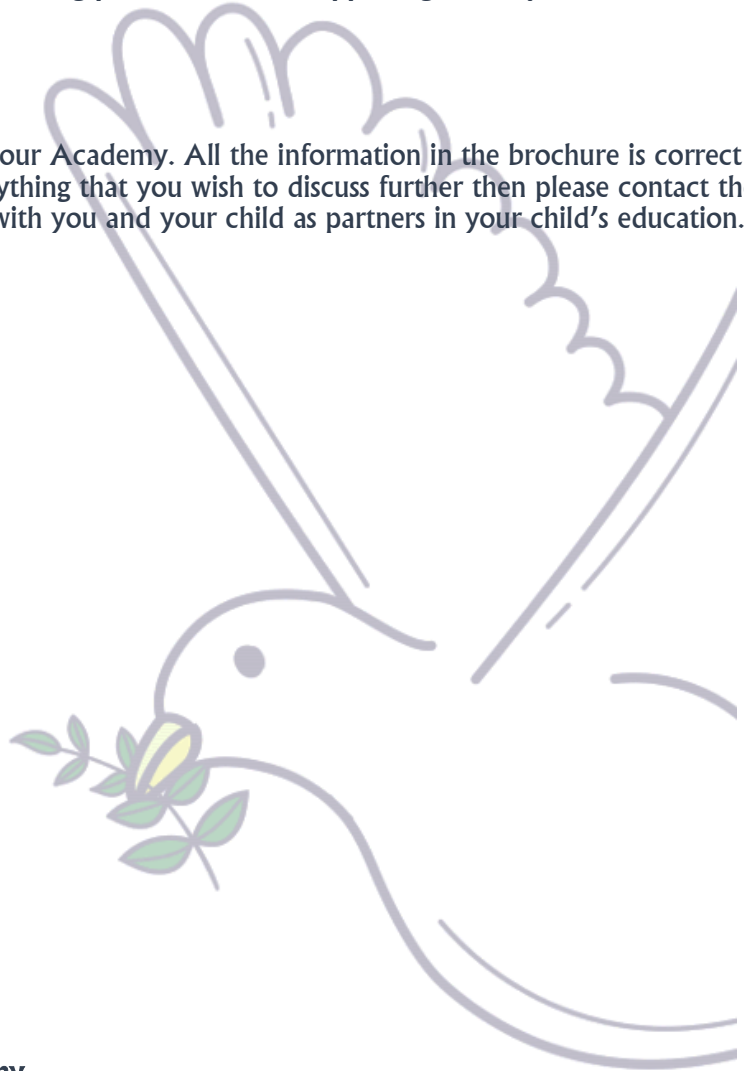
Transfer to Secondary School

Children at St. Thomas' usually transfer at the end of Year 6 to the Thomas Middlecott, Haven High, Boston Grammar for boys or Boston High for girls.

To attend a Grammar School, your child must take two tests during the last year at primary, the 11+. Arrangements for taking the tests are made by the local Grammar schools. Parents do have an option to withdraw their child from the testing procedure and to appeal against any decision made.

Conclusion

Thank you for expressing an interest in our Academy. All the information in the brochure is correct at the time of publication. If there is anything that you wish to discuss further then please contact the office. We all look forward to working with you and your child as partners in your child's education.



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