

Curriculum Handbook



**Jesus said, "Come follow me,
live your life the way God wants you to."**

Introduction to our Lighthouse Curriculum

Through our **rich and balanced academic curriculum**, we aim to **broaden horizons and open doors** to all that **life has to offer**, allowing our children **to experience life in all its fullness**. With a **rigorous and progressive knowledge-based curriculum (based on Ed Hirsch's Core Knowledge Foundation)**, our pupils will leave St Thomas' with the **extensive knowledge and thinking skills** needed to enable them to **lead fulfilling lives** with the **highest of aspirations**. Our **ethos of excellence** permeates our whole curriculum, inspiring our pupils to be the **very best version of themselves**. **Reading and vocabulary are at the heart of our curriculum**, enabling our pupils with the keys needed to **unlock their future successes**.

We believe that a rich, academic curriculum and a **wealth of life experiences** go hand in hand. Therefore, through our curriculum, we will open **our pupils' eyes to the world around** them by offering valuable and inspirational opportunities. We want our pupils to experience **life outside of their own locality** and to understand the **diversity of the world in which we live**: opening their eyes to the endless possibilities of the lives that lay ahead of them. Our core **Christian Values underpin our whole curriculum**, allowing our children to develop **the moral compass** required to make positive choices in life.

Through collaboration with our school community, we have developed **our Lighthouse Curriculum** which has six main strands: **Excellence, Experiences and Life Skills, Celebrating Diversity, Christian Values, Reading and Vocabulary and Knowledge Rich & Academic**. These main strands underpin our curriculum and encompass everything we aspire to achieve by the time our pupils leave us at St Thomas'.



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A Knowledge Rich Approach

Our knowledge-rich curriculum aims to inspire pupils and promote **excellent outcomes for all including the most disadvantaged**. The curriculum **content has been carefully chosen by subject experts and is organised in a coherent way**, ensuring children can **build on their knowledge from year to year**. In this way, the knowledge in the curriculum **is cumulative, constructing firm foundations** from which children can progress and develop **deeper conceptual understanding and subject-specific skills over time**. **Curriculum coherence** ensures that teaching does not jump from topic to topic, but enables children to **develop knowledge over time**, as well as a **love of subjects**. Subject content is crucial to this approach; the rich content of the curriculum inspires children and plants the seeds for a lifetime of learning. Our **Core Knowledge Curriculum** at our school **prepares our pupils** for moving on to our **secondary school and for leading their lives as citizens in modern Britain**.

What does the knowledge curriculum look like at St Thomas?

Foundation subjects are taught discretely and delivered with a focus on the acquisition and application of knowledge. The curriculum is sequenced so that **blocks of knowledge are built on and revisited** as appropriate. Our children will be **immersed in rich knowledge from the onset with a focus on vocabulary**. Lessons will begin with **retrieval of previous knowledge** to ensure that children remember what has been previously taught, as what has not been remembered, has not been learned. In every lesson, children will build upon their knowledge from previous lessons and even previous year groups. Children will gain **rich and challenging knowledge** throughout the lesson with opportunities to work independently and apply their understanding, often making their own links across the curriculum. Lessons follow a similar structure so our children are used to the routines and expectations.



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Our Curriculum Strands

Excellence



At St. Thomas' we believe 'Excellence' permeates all aspects of our school life. We encourage everyone to aspire for excellence, knowing that excellence is not about being the best, but doing OUR best. We believe that our curriculum equips and enables our children to achieve their full potential and our pupils will leave St. Thomas' with the extensive knowledge and skills needed to enable them to lead fulfilling lives with the highest of aspirations.

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

Experiences and Life Skills



We believe a curriculum should open our eyes to the endless possibilities of the lives that lay ahead. Experiences and life skills are woven into the curriculum and are enhanced with our planned programme, which we call our '5 Be Experiences'. These experiences and life skills have been identified through careful consultations with all key stakeholders to give our children the very best opportunities which will equip them with the cultural capital and skills for life.

***I have been young and now I am old, Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken Or his
descendants begging bread. Psalm 37:25***



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Celebrate Diversity



Our curriculum is designed to enable our pupils and community to experience life outside of our locality and to understand and celebrate the rich diversity in the world we live in.

There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning.

1 Corinthians 14:10

Christian Values



Our Christian values of compassion, friendship, peace, responsibility/service, thankfulness and respect, which are rooted in the gospels of Jesus, underpin our whole curriculum. These help our children to develop a moral compass to make positive choices in life and a difference to the world we live in.

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Reading and Vocabulary



At St. Thomas' we say that reading and vocabulary are at the heart of our curriculum as we passionately believe fluent and confident readers who are articulate, are best equipped to go on to succeed in life. We want our children to develop a life-long love of reading and form excellent habits of reading widely both for pleasure and information. As well as prioritising the teaching of phonics and early reading, we also provide children with opportunities in every lesson to learn through reading. As a Voice 21 school, oracy and vocabulary is explicitly taught in all lessons and contexts, enabling our pupils to become confident and articulate learners.

The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

John 6:63

Knowledge Rich and Academic



Our knowledge-rich curriculum aims to inspire pupils and promote excellent outcomes for all including the most disadvantaged. The curriculum content has been carefully chosen by subject experts and is organised in a coherent way, ensuring children can build on their knowledge from year to year. In this way, the knowledge in the curriculum is cumulative, constructing firm foundations from which children can progress and develop deeper conceptual understanding and subject-specific skills over time. Curriculum coherence ensures that teaching does not jump from topic to topic, but enables children to develop knowledge over time, as well as a love of subjects.

Teach me knowledge and good judgement for I trust your commands Psalm: 119:66



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The Five Be Experiences at St Thomas'

At St Thomas, we want our pupils to have a wealth of experiences that enrich the curriculum and nurture the whole child. Our experiences are split into five different categories, which have been developed through consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors.

Be an Explorer

We want our pupils to explore God's wonderful world. At St Thomas, we would like our pupils to foster a love of the great outdoors. We believe our pupils should experience a taste of everything that life has to offer outside of the four walls of a classroom. It is important that our pupils' value all that nature has to offer and learn to respect the precious world we are so fortunate to live in. Through our outdoor experiences, pupils will learn how to care for and nurture the environment along with taking part in trips filled with awe and wonder at our wonderful world.



Be an Advocate

We would like our pupils to develop a deep understanding of their local area, including its history and geographical features. Through this knowledge and understanding, pupils will become advocates for their local areas. We want pupils to understand the diverse world in which we live. Pupils will learn about people of different race, culture and faith and the challenges faced by minority groups, including discrimination and prejudice.



Be a Good Samaritan

Our Christian Values are at the heart of everything we do at St Thomas. Pupils will demonstrate our values of Peace, Compassion, Friendship, Responsibility and Thankfulness in everything they do, but we feel it is important to offer pupils further opportunities to demonstrate their values and help others. Pupils will understand the importance of caring for the people around them and across the world. Pupils will develop an understanding of the impact they can have on the lives of others.



Be Inspired

We value the individuality of our pupils know that each child will have their own hobbies and interests. We know that a great world awaits our pupils, yet it is our job to open the doors to allow them to be inspired by everything the world has to offer. We want to open our pupils' eyes to new experiences which will encourage them to independently explore their own interests.



Be the Best Version of Myself

We want our pupils to develop the skills needed to be successful as they move towards high school and beyond. We know that pupils may face challenges and obstacles as they move through the many stages in their lives and we want to equip them with the basic life skills they will need. We want pupils to have confidence in unfamiliar situations and deep rooted self-belief.



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English

Excellence



At St Thomas' CE Primary School our aim is for our English curriculum to inspire, engage and motivate children to enjoy reading and writing. By the time children leave St Thomas', our pupils will acquire a wide vocabulary and an understanding of grammar in order for them to have the literacy skills and tools needed in order to communicate to an excellent standard, through spoken and written English, and to be prepared for the next steps in their education and life beyond primary school. Our children are able to write clearly, accurately and coherently, and are able to adapt their language and style for a range of purposes and audiences. They are skilled in using discussion to explore ideas and can explain their understanding clearly, as well as participate in debate and make formal presentations.

Reading and Vocabulary



Our aim is for children to form excellent habits of reading widely, both for pleasure and information, and have reading securely at the heart of our curriculum. As well as in English lessons, children will explore books during whole class guided reading and reading spine time, allowing children to become captivated in a range of poetry and novels. We want our children to have a good understanding of our literary heritage and to be exposed to a wide range of authors and books, therefore texts have been carefully chosen to reflect this. Vocabulary is explored frequently within the context of different texts and is prominent within the classroom environment.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



Our progressive curriculum builds upon prior knowledge and skills taught throughout the year groups. Our rigorous and well-sequenced English curriculum provides many purposeful opportunities for speaking, reading and writing, and ensures that all children can enjoy and access the learning, while also seeking to challenge children to achieve their full potential. Knowledge about the wider world is learned within the context of challenging texts. We also expect pupils to develop a good knowledge of key authors and poets, texts and our literary heritage.

Christian Values



English facilitates developing our school's Christian values such as compassion, friendship, peace and respect, through discussion around issues raised within class texts. This provides a valuable opportunity to explore and develop these values in relation to characters within the stories we read.

Experiences and Life Skills



Oracy skills are seen as vital life skills that the children will develop while at St Thomas', with the aim of supporting Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.' children to be able to communicate to an excellent standard, giving them secure foundations for the future. Children will also take part in a range of trips and experiences to foster their love of English, such as watching Shakespeare plays and going to the theatre.

Celebrate Diversity



Within our English curriculum, texts are purposefully chosen in order to expose the children to a wide range of cultures and backgrounds through settings and characters. This allows children to develop an understanding and appreciation of people who are different to themselves and offers a platform for valuable discussion within lessons.



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Maths

Excellence



At St Thomas' we are committed to ensuring that every child develops an understanding and love of maths. With the right kind of teaching and support we can ensure this happens. Our Maths curriculum uses a problem-solving approach. Teachers carefully plan open ended, challenging questions which enable our children to make connections, identify patterns and draw conclusions about Mathematical concepts and problem solving. Misconceptions are addressed as they arise and teachers actively engage children in proving their ideas, they are challenged to extend this too. Children journal their Mathematical thinking and they aim for excellence in clarity of conceptual understanding and presentation.

Christian Values



Children work with 'Maths Mates' in lessons. Collaboration and communication skills are developed through effective partner work and through the sharing of resources. Children work in mixed ability pairings and this means they have an opportunity to develop friendships across the class. Each child is encouraged to accept responsibility for their own learning. The onus is on them to check over their work and to ensure it clearly communicates their thinking and is of the highest standard.

Reading and Vocabulary



Reading is the starting point for each of our daily Maths lessons. All lessons start with a daily 'In Focus' real life problem which the children read and interpret to demonstrate understanding. We discuss key- vocabulary and this is modelled in context throughout Maths lessons by teachers and through the lesson resources. Vocabulary is collated on class working walls and referred to during lessons. The use of workbooks ensures the children are reading and understanding key Mathematical vocabulary during each lesson.

Experiences and Life Skills



We prioritise the mastery of conceptual Maths understanding through the use of real life/ everyday problems. Children explore and investigate. Communication is key as they work alongside peers to reason, explain and justify their thinking using mathematical vocabulary.

Celebrating Diversity



We celebrate the work of famous Mathematicians during our whole school Maths weeks. We enthuse the children about achievements of individuals from different genders and cultures. As part of Maths No Problem resources different foods and cultural experiences are introduced through 'In focus' problems. Discussion ensures the children understand more about the lives of others.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



During each lesson all children use apparatus as visual aids. As they make progress in the lesson, they move towards using pictorial and abstract representations for Mathematical concepts. At St Thomas' we are confident that our mastery-based approach and spiral curriculum enthuses children about Maths. It ensures they can master Mathematical skills and concepts which enable them to continue learning as they progress through school.



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Science

Excellence



At St Thomas' we deliver an ambitious, knowledge-based Science curriculum that aims to inspire pupils' curiosity and equip them with the foundations for understanding the world through a scientific lens. Pupils will be encouraged to use the knowledge they learn in Science and apply it to investigations that test a theory or set out to answer a question. Excellence is displayed through our Science curriculum through the high standards of teaching and learning. Staff are equipped with specific subject knowledge to teach quality Science lessons.

Reading and Vocabulary



Reading and vocabulary is at the heart of all subjects at St Thomas'. Science lessons follow a structure that allows time for explicitly teaching new vocabulary (STAR words) at the beginning of every lesson. They will be challenged to learn the meaning of these words and apply them correctly during the lesson. Teachers will provide children with actions to match each of these words, to support the children in remembering and using the newly learnt vocabulary. This is something that we use from EYFS and expose children to scientific language from the start of their school life.

In all lessons, our children will read. This can be incorporated into any aspect of the lesson. Children will read a range of texts, from information texts to online glossaries and blogs.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



The science curriculum builds upon knowledge incrementally in a carefully sequenced curriculum, with opportunities to make links within and across year groups and in other subject areas. Pupils will develop an understanding of key substantive concepts (the human body, plants, classification, properties, materials, forces and habitats) that act as threads throughout our progressive science curriculum from the beginning to the end of the pupils' primary education. At St Thomas', we deliver a science curriculum that goes beyond the expectations of the National Curriculum in some year groups. Examples of this include: teaching 'Astronomy' and 'Electricity' in Year Two and 'Meteorology' in Year Five. In doing this, we believe that gives children a good foundation for their learning as they move through school and provides them with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in KS2.

Celebrate Diversity



Children will learn about influential scientists during their time at St Thomas'. Each year group will study one key scientist in depth and discover the work of many more through a variety of scientific topics. We believe it is important that children discover the work of scientists in history and modern day and of different cultures and gender.

Experiences and Life Skills



Science enriches children's learning and enables them to create a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them. Through many scientific activities and experiments, children have the opportunity to practice vital skills such as: gather information, record data, graph data and interpret their findings. These are essential skills that pupils will apply to new contexts as they work through the curriculum.

Christian Values



Our Christian values can be encompassed in our Science lessons through many topics and activities that children are presented with. Children adopt a respectful attitude towards the world that God created

and ways in which we can look after it by being more aware of global issues and taking responsibility for the decisions and actions we take as individuals to care for the world we live in. Children also demonstrate responsibility by taking care of resources during Science lessons and share with others when needed.

Religious Education

Knowledge Rich and Academic



At St Thomas' we believe that excellent RE teaching can be the key to enabling every child to flourish. RE contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. These aspects of development can be found in many of the school curriculum areas and are implicit in the ethos of the school. Our progressive curriculum builds upon prior knowledge, Christian concepts and skills taught throughout the year groups. Our 'questful', rigorous well-sequenced RE curriculum provides many purposeful opportunities for speaking, reading and writing, and ensures that all children can enjoy and access the learning, while also seeking to challenge children to achieve their full potential. Knowledge about the wider world is learned within the context of significant figures from religion.

Reading and Vocabulary



In every RE lesson, our children read. The reading can be incorporated into any aspect of the lesson. We believe reading is the key to all learning, so have made reading a priority in every lesson. Bible stories and references are read that directly link to the unit being taught. Children are given opportunities to consider the content and importance of the text. They will be asked questions about the content and be able to offer their ideas and opinions. Children are introduced to key vocabulary during each lesson. This is introduced alongside key questions within each unit. These are key words that the children encounter, learn and use in context within the lessons. Children are challenged to learn the meaning of these words and to apply them correctly through discussion and as part of recorded work.

Experiences and Life Skills



Teachers use key texts or experiences to lead children to discover the impact of religious beliefs on people's lives and in what ways particular Christian teachings are lived out. How are the beliefs that arise from the text making a difference in people's lives? How are the beliefs that arise from the text making a difference in the world? How do the text and its impact connect to the children's own experiences? Activities are planned that make a link and give pupils an opportunity to respond, ask questions, share ideas and see the relevance in their own lives. Teachers ask 'Big Questions' which challenge pupils to think more deeply, increasing their knowledge and understanding.

Christian Values



As a Church of England school, our Christian vision and values are central to all we do. Our mission statement, Jesus said, "Come live your life the way God wants you to", motivates us to look to Jesus as our guiding light. He inspires us to live out our Christian values and to strive for Excellence in all that we do; celebrating life in all its fullness. Our Religious Education curriculum enables us to promote Christian values within our school. We learn about compassion, thankfulness, friendship, peace, responsibility and forgiveness through the example of Jesus and teachings in the Bible.

Celebrate Diversity



Within our RE curriculum, texts are purposefully chosen in order to expose the children to a wide range of religious texts and beliefs. This allows children to develop an understanding and appreciation of people who have different beliefs to themselves and offers a platform for valuable discussion within lessons alongside the acquisition of knowledge.

Excellence



By offering our pupils positive encounters with the Christian faith we maintain that we are equipping them to be the person God wants them to be. We recognise our children as individuals and educate them according to their rights in law. We provide opportunities for them to fulfil their potential and in accordance with the Church of England vision for Education to experience 'life in all its fullness'. We believe that excellent RE teaching can be the key to enabling every child to flourish. RE contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the children. These aspects of development can be found in many of the school curriculum areas and are implicit in the ethos of the school.



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History

Knowledge rich and academic



At St Thomas', we deliver an ambitious, knowledge-based history curriculum that aims to inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. It helps pupils gain a coherent, chronological knowledge and understanding of the past and enables them to use core knowledge of dates, events and people to talk confidently about a range of historical periods in Britain and the wider world. The history curriculum builds upon prior knowledge in a carefully sequenced curriculum, both within and between year groups, and makes links to other subject areas. Pupils develop an understanding of key substantive concepts (parliament, civilisation, empire, democracy and monarchy) that act as threads throughout the history curriculum from the beginning to the end of the pupils' primary education.

Reading and vocabulary



Because we believe that reading is the key to all learning, every history lesson contains an element of reading that pupils use to understand more about the past. Each lesson also begins with introducing the STAR words: these are key words for the lesson that help build pupils' vocabulary and historical understanding. They are displayed within the classroom on the history working wall, and pupils are expected to use them in written tasks when applying their knowledge in the lesson.

Excellence



Our curriculum is ambitious, setting the highest standards of pupils' learning and expecting excellence in pupils' work. As pupils progress throughout the school, they are expected to apply their knowledge and understanding via substantial written tasks, therefore strengthening not only their learning in history but also their written communication. Teachers are provided with subject specialist teacher knowledge resources for each lesson to enable them to be confidently equipped with knowledge and teach quality geography lessons.

Christian values



Within the history curriculum, pupils develop a respect for other cultures and eras in time. They learn thankfulness in relation to sacrifices that people have made in the past that have helped us get where we are today, as well as the significant impact of past societies and periods of time.

Celebrate diversity



Our curriculum ensures that pupils learn about, and develop empathy for, people from the past with a range of backgrounds, such as when learning about the Victorian era in Year 5, and the Suffragettes in Year 6. Children understand how history has shaped our society today and how different groups in society have faced adversity e.g. slave trade and holocaust.

Experiences and life skills



Pupils will have opportunities to go on school trips that enhance their learning in history, such as the slavery museum in Year 5 and Imperial War Museum in Year 6. Children develop key skills and learn what it means to think and behave like a historian e.g. using historical enquiry to use evidence from the past to make interpretations.

Geography

Knowledge rich and academic



Our geography curriculum builds foundations for children to know where we are and know what is there, giving us a sense of location; to understand the spatial layout, locations and organisation of the world and recognise the spatial distributions, landscape patterns and relationships in the environment. A coherent, sequential knowledge and understanding of spatial sense enables them to use core knowledge to talk confidently about a range of places in Britain and the wider world. The geography curriculum builds upon prior knowledge in a carefully sequenced curriculum, both within and between year groups, and makes links to other subject areas. Pupils develop an understanding of key substantive concepts (maps, location, size, scale, view, landscape, country, city, place, environment, physical, human and climate) that act as threads throughout the geography curriculum from the beginning to the end of the pupils' primary education.

Experience and life skills



Through our geography curriculum we aim to broaden horizons by providing trips and residential visits to allow children to experience life in all its fullness. Children have first-hand experiences and opportunities to visit rivers, climb mountains and study landscapes, exploring and studying both human and physical geography in the immediate environment around them. Trips and experiences are attended by all pupils to allow them to gain these life skills to unlock future success. These trips enable children to confidently interpret and use maps, recognise symbols, keys and features and apply their knowledge of scales and grid references. Our curriculum helps pupils gain skills to be able to utilise maps in 'seeing', understanding, interpreting, recognising symbols and features, from the local to the global; by providing opportunities to develop and enhance the core skills to do so.

Celebrate diversity



Each of our teaching units cover a wide range of continents, countries and cultures from the local to the global. Children are given opportunities to learn about life in different cultures and countries and past civilisations. Our curriculum allows children to learn about world development through studying a variety of maps that help them to understand data about place, people and the environment. They understand that development factors around the world are uneven, such as wealth distribution, food consumption, literacy skills, life expectancy and what countries have access to clean water.

Christian values



Through our embedded Christian values in geography, global citizenship takes forward an understanding and appreciation of places, their importance to us and develops our sense of stewardship for our world. With responsibility as a core Christian value in geography, this enables pupils to explore the awe and wonder of the world God created and to have an appreciation for our world, places and the importance of preserving God's creation and the environment. Our curriculum allows us to explore poverty and injustice for other countries and pray for those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Reading and vocabulary



We explicitly teach subject-specific vocabulary for children to learn and apply during our lessons. Subject specific vocabulary is referred to throughout lessons and has been planned to ensure progression throughout the school. Children are given opportunities to develop life skills and coherently articulate geographical knowledge, skills and understanding by using explicit subject specific vocabulary with reading being at the heart of each geography lesson.

Excellence



At St Thomas', we deliver an ambitious, knowledge-based geography curriculum that aims to inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about their own locality and the wider world. Excellence is displayed through the high standards of teaching and learning of the geography curriculum. Teachers are provided with subject specialist teacher knowledge resources for each lesson to enable them to be confidently equipped with knowledge and teach quality geography lessons. Knowledge is made accessible to enable all pupils to access the curriculum, make progress and be provided with equal opportunities in their learning in order for each child to flourish.



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Visual Arts

Excellence



At St Thomas', we deliver an ambitious art curriculum that aims to engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

High expectations are set for our children and this is demonstrated through the artwork they produce. Our teachers provide the children with opportunities to demonstrate their skills and creativity and support this with high quality modelling. Our planning sequences provide teachers with the necessary subject knowledge for each lesson including key vocabulary to be able to provide children with the skills and knowledge to make excellent progress.

Reading and Vocabulary



Reading and vocabulary are key elements of our Visual Arts lessons. Every lesson has an element of reading where children will be exposed to high-quality texts. Star words will also be incorporated and used alongside actions, where appropriate, to support the children in retaining the new vocabulary. This is referred to throughout the lesson and in subsequent lessons to check understanding.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



As pupils progress throughout St. Thomas', they will develop an in-depth understanding of the visual elements of art: colour, line, texture, shape, pattern, form and space, so they can apply these effectively through their own creative ideas (this is given greater importance and therefore prioritised throughout the younger year groups). e.g. sketchbooks, painting and making. Basic skills are introduced and then built upon, introducing drawing, printmaking, sketchbooks, painting and making. Skills are revisited and the use of on-going sketchbook work underpins this process. Drawing is a fundamental aspect of art and design and is included within every unit of study. Art is planned and sequenced thoughtfully to consider the skills and knowledge to build on prior learning. Units are planned with a focus on the following three areas: artists/art styles (these are used to model concepts and inspire children's ideas), concepts (the key knowledge and ideas children will learn e.g. primary and secondary colours) and skills (these are the artistic techniques children will apply e.g. colour mixing).

Experiences and Life Skills



Visual Arts enrich children's learning and enables them to communicate their thoughts, ideas and observations in a practical and expressive way. In talking about art and evaluating their own and others' work, children are encouraged to develop their visual language, ideas and feelings. Through experience of a variety of materials, tools and techniques, children have the opportunity to creatively record the world around them.

Celebrate Diversity



Children will learn about influential artists, craftspeople, designers and architects and are taught how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the cultural richness and diversity. Our curriculum is carefully planned and sequenced to ensure that children learn about artists and art styles from a range of backgrounds. Children will think about different art styles and how it is inclusive. Our inclusive curriculum allows all children to flourish during art lessons.

Christian Values



At St Thomas', our Christian Values are shown in our Art lessons as children are encouraged to use Art as a platform to show thankfulness and think about the awe and wonder of the world around them. Children show respect to one another and influential artists/architects that we study. We show friendship and compassion when supporting others within our lessons and offering feedback about artwork. The children have a responsibility to take care of the resources that they use within lessons and share with others when required.

Design and Technology

Celebrate Diversity



In D&T we encourage the children to reflect on inspired products, exploring the diversity of materials and techniques, while looking at ways in which design technology can be used in a wider world context. Lessons promote equality of opportunity for all abilities and genders allowing pupils to eliminate stereotypes, for example encouraging girls to use equipment that are more traditionally male dominated.

In food technology, children learn to prepare a range of dishes from different cultures and explore the different climates required to harvest different produce.

Experiences and Life Skills



Our D&T curriculum has been designed to ensure that the pupils of St Thomas' experience a range of exciting, engaging and sometimes risk-taking experiences that draw upon other subject skills such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art.

Pupils are taught the skills needed to participate in an engaging process of planning/designing, making and evaluating. We want to ensure that our pupils have all the skills required to achieve high standards in their D&T creations, therefore basic skills such as cutting out, measuring and drawing accurately are taught and reinforced right through the school.

Christian Values



During D&T lessons, the children are given key safety instructions to ensure that they are able to show a mature responsibility when using different tools. Sometimes pupils will be encouraged to support others in

their work or show the value of respect when equipment is needing to be shared. Once they have completed a project the children will evaluate their work and feedback on a project completed by their peers. It is important that children uphold our Christian values of friendship and respect, whilst giving honest and constructive feedback.

Excellence



Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject, which unlocks the creativity and imagination from within all of our pupils. All children engage in designing and making products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, whilst acquiring a broad range of subject knowledge taught progressively through the year groups.

Reading and Vocabulary



As with areas of the curriculum, vocabulary is an intrinsic part of the sessions, with staff modelling and developing pupils' use of the correct D&T terminology throughout the lesson.

The teacher will share a subject knowledge organiser with the pupils for the pupils to use as a visual stimulus during the lesson to ensure correct use of D&T terminology.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



The children experience a rich D&T programme, imparted by a D&T specialist teacher. The curriculum has been tailored to teach a variety of creative and practical activities progressively throughout the different year groups, with links made to previous projects made explicit to the children.



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Physical Education

Excellence



Excellence permeates in our P.E. curriculum through the high standards of teaching and learning from Reception to

Year 6. Teachers receive regular CPD as well as an abundance of pedagogical resources via the Primary PE Passport App to enable them to teach quality P.E. lessons with confidence. In addition, we carefully monitor, organise and upkeep physical resources such as rackets and inflated balls. All of this ensures that within our lessons, competitions and clubs, our pupils can effectively develop a broad range of knowledge skills which enables them to become competent and enthused performers. Our pupils are taught to self-assess their skills and knowledge against the lesson goals, enabling them to identify strengths and work on targets. Through intra and inter-school competition, we offer all our children valuable opportunities to engage and excel in competitive sport. At St Thomas', we promote excellent outcomes for all. We take great pride in our gymnastics and swimming success, both of which are at the heart of our curriculum. All children from Reception to Year 6 have at least one unit of swimming and gymnastics each academic year. This priority is vindicated by our success at local and county-wide levels. In addition to providing elite performers opportunities to thrive, we carefully track assessment data to ensure that every pupil meets the 'Swimming and Water Safety' standards by Year 6; extended provision is targeted to those who need further support to achieve these.

Experiences and Life Skills



Through our curriculum, we aim to broaden horizons delving into a range of sports to allow children to experience life in all its fullness. This includes our diverse curriculum which encompasses all the key area of P.E. such as games, dance, gymnastics and athletics. Our aim is to inspire our children to lead healthy, active lifestyles. We purposefully introduce pupils to a range of sports, including fencing to develop their cultural capital. We believe exposing children to a variety of sports will give them the confidence and inclination to try new sporting activities beyond school. We focus on the social and emotional aspects of Physical Education to encourage and motivate pupils to enjoy lifelong physical activity. We want our children to understand the positive impact physical activity can have on our mental health. We explain the purpose and value of the daily mile upon their physical and mental health and ensure that this is prioritised in our school day.

Celebrate Diversity



Our school is split into four teams to encourage frequent inter-school sporting competition. Each of our teams are named after one of our school sporting values. These include the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect (which are also part of our whole school Lighthouse Curriculum) and one of the Paralympic values, Courage. We frequently refer to these in lessons, and they are included in every knowledge organiser. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect which enable our pupils to celebrate diversity. Each year group is assigned a sporting icon to study. The list of people has been chosen carefully in order to celebrate diversity and inspire all of our pupils. Our curriculum is inclusive, with provisions and resources available for all.

Christian Values



Half of our school Sporting Values focus on our school Christian values: friendship and respect. We actively encourage and teach the importance of these values within PE and sporting activities through both competition and collaboration. We teach responsibility through participations in team sports and promotion of integrity through fair play. Year six children are given the opportunity to become a sports leader which gives children the opportunity to have a great role within our school's P.E. programme: making decisions, helping with the upkeep of equipment and accepting accolades on behalf of their house teams.

Reading and Vocabulary



We explicitly teach subject-specific vocabulary for children to learn and apply during our lessons. These are referred to throughout lessons and have been planned to ensure progression throughout the school. Retrieval tasks are carefully designed to recap vocabulary taught in previous lessons. Our pupils will read biographies (about their class sporting icon) and sport related non-fiction texts in guided reading sessions. We recognise this is a purposeful opportunity to further inspire our pupils, and make links between curriculum areas.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



With a progressive, knowledge and skills-based approach, we inspire pupils to be the very best version of themselves enabling them to assess and improve their own performance. As well as learning sport-specific knowledge (rules, tactics and techniques), children will be guided in developing their understanding of a variety of sports and physical activities which will lead to transferrable knowledge across the curriculum. Children will also be taught the importance of physiology (what happens to the body and the benefits of exercise), psychology (how we can motivate and work as part of a team) and biomechanics (the science behind how the human body moves through muscles, ligaments and our skeletal system working together) which will be referred to, explicitly and implicitly, throughout the curriculum.



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



Computing

Excellence



At St Thomas', we have devised a bespoke high-quality computing curriculum that meets the needs of all our children, whilst upholding our ethos of excellence. We have recognised the importance that computing has in a world where technology, which is continuously evolving and improving, is fundamental to everyday life. We realise that St Thomas' pupils will need to have the computing abilities required to set them up for their future lives and careers in our ever-changing digital world. The Computing curriculum is organised coherently ensuring children build upon their knowledge and skills year upon year.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



The computing curriculum ensures that all of the children leave school with a secure knowledge and thinking skills of the three main strands that underpin computing: computer science, digital literacy and information technology. There will be a focus during lessons on correct use of terminology and definitions of STAR words, as vocabulary is at the heart of our St Thomas' curriculum. The curriculum is progressive and builds upon prior knowledge and skills taught throughout the year groups. Our aim is that by the time all children leave St Thomas' they are competent and creative users of information and communication technology, who can confidently analyse and solve problems involving a wide range of different technologies.

Christian Values



The teaching of internet safety runs through the computing curriculum, allowing our children to develop their moral compass and be responsible users of ICT. When teaching Internet Safety, we will always make the connection back to St Thomas' core Christian Values of respect, friendship, peace, responsibility, thankfulness and compassion. Sometimes during computing the children may be asked to work with others, or offer feedback on a project completed by a peer. It is important that children uphold our Christian values of friendship and respect, whilst giving honest and constructive feedback.

Celebrate Diversity



Our curriculum is inclusive, with provisions and resources available, ensuring that every pupil can access the subject. When appropriate, children will be introduced to significant STEM individuals who have had an impact on the technology we use today, such as Ada Lovelace.

Reading and Vocabulary



We explicitly teach subject-specific vocabulary for the children to learn and apply, these will be referred to throughout lessons and are documented on a subject knowledge organiser for the pupils to refer to. Computing vocabulary has been planned to ensure progression throughout the school.

Experiences and Life Skills



We have recognised that our pupils have regular access to digital devices, such as tablets, but not all children have access to a desktop computer. We have mapped out the computing curriculum to include a wide range of hardware and software, guaranteeing that they have the skills needed for their futures. The computing curriculum introduces children to a range of hardware and software to broaden their knowledge and skills, allowing them to apply their learned skills thorough a range of different means.

Music

Reading and Vocabulary



Vocabulary is an important part of a music lesson. The teacher will introduce the children to the new vocabulary, including an action to help with recall. Reading is developed by KS1 children reading the STAR words for each lesson. In KS2, both rhythmic and staff notation will be introduced and the children will learn how to read music while they play their instrument. This allows pupils to be taught music independently both in class and after they have left school.

Reading music is a wonderful skill, it can be interlinked with other instruments they may wish to learn and it is a skill that can be used throughout their lives as their musical ability progresses.

Experiences and Life Skills

St Thomas' offers an abundance of musical experiences and life skills. Starting in KS1, every lesson will conclude with a mini performance. This will develop the pupils' confidence as performers whilst at the same time celebrate their developing musical achievements. At the end of each unit, the class will perform for an audience, for example in STAR assembly, or within the wider community. Through learning basic musical concepts in Key Stage 1, children then go on to learn two musical instruments (violin and drums) in KS2 to apply their knowledge practically. Through this experience, children can perform in pairs, small groups and as a class. They can showcase their talents to peers, teachers and parents in concerts. Music has a rare and unique ability to bring people together both in school and in the wider community. Throughout their time at St Thomas', children are involved in the musical life of school by being involved in various productions and assemblies. Performance opportunities are offered during musical mornings. The school offers instrumental tuition during school time as well as musical after-school clubs including choirs. All pupils in Key Stage 2 have an opportunity to join the school choir. Our aim is to inspire children during their primary education in music and give them life skills and experiences that they can maintain into high school and throughout their adult life.

Celebrate Diversity



Diversity is celebrated by exposing children to a variety of genres within their music education at St Thomas'. Music is one of the central building blocks of any culture and the shared knowledge of music is crucial in understanding where we came from and our place in the world. When children leave St Thomas', they will have an understanding of music from different cultures, backgrounds and moments of time in history. Genres of music covered include world music, jazz, folk and classical. The songs and pieces will be taught with cultural and political links where appropriate to further implement understanding and to show how music can have an influence on society. St Thomas' celebrates a hall of fame in music which celebrates 7 key composers over music history. Children have the opportunity to listen to these chosen composers in the classroom, in the hall during assembly and during lunchtime. By the end of their time at St Thomas', children will be able to name 7 classical composers and name a few facts about them. This gives children a greater understanding of classical music and broaden their horizons on the subject.

Christian Values



Worship is a daily part of life at St Thomas' where our Christian Values are illustrated through music. The school comes together to celebrate the life of Jesus and the children have singing assemblies where they learn hymns and religious songs. Performance opportunities are given at different stages of the church calendar such as Harvest and Easter. Year groups are assigned to be involved in a celebration which guarantees children are involved in each festival by the time they leave St Thomas' and they can also see how music can strengthen their religious beliefs.

Excellence



High-quality music education engages and inspires pupils to develop an appreciation of music and increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. Teachers are given a variety of resources and CPD which enable them to maintain high expectations during music lessons and allow them to deliver high quality teaching. As a result of this, pupils will develop knowledge, skills and understanding in music and will maintain their curiosity, interest and enjoyment.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



Children at St Thomas' will have a deeper understanding of composers through the ages. They will learn the different periods of music and be able to name a few composers from each period. Children will have an awareness of different musical styles and forms of pieces. In addition, they will also have a firm understanding of the different elements of music and how they are inter-linked. There will be progression in knowledge in areas such as rhythm, pitch, structure, harmony, texture, dynamics, and instrumentation.

French

Excellence



At St Thomas', we deliver an ambitious, and enriching foreign language curriculum which enables our pupils to become confident French linguists. Pupils' French pronunciation is at the heart of our studies; we prioritise oral rehearsal and recall before applying this knowledge in our reading and writing. Through the use of language Angels' audio clips, all pupils are exposed to excellent authentic pronunciation during lessons, which also provides staff the confidence and skills to deliver excellent teaching of this language. These audio clips are referred to throughout lessons to improve upon and in some cases correct pronunciation. QR codes directly connects pupils with the audio clips on the school website which can be accessed at home and in school. As a result, we have high aspirations of pupils' pronunciation of French at St Thomas'.

Reading and Vocabulary



Linked to our whole school Intent Statement, we place a strong focus on reading across the French curriculum, with opportunities for children to explore a range of authentic texts from traditional tales to non-fiction texts about the Romans. Children learn to use cognates (words in French which are similar to the English translation) to help them to decode increasingly challenging French texts. This enables our pupils to see reading in French as a puzzle for which they have the tools to solve. Reading French vocabulary within sentences allows our pupils to not only apply their knowledge of taught vocabulary, but also build upon this simultaneously. Furthermore, planned links between subjects such as 'Planets' in Year 5 allow children to reinforce and consolidate the vocabulary across both science and French lessons, strengthening the retrieval process and improving retention.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



Our curriculum builds upon prior knowledge in a rigorous and progressive sequence, both within and between year groups to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum, and to create meaningful links with other subject areas, such as 'World War II' and 'Planets'. This allows our pupils to stretch themselves with their application of French language. Pupils learn French from Reception, to enable our pupils to become confident with core vocabulary by the time they begin Key Stage 2. We have high aspirations for all our pupils in French, and provide opportunities for our pupils to study French at home through the use of a e-learning platform www.languageangels.com and knowledge organisers with audio clips which are available on the school website.

Experiences and Life skills



Our Foreign Languages curriculum enables our pupils to develop practical communication skills which can broaden horizons and open doors to all that life has to offer. Through the rigorous and progressive teaching of French, pupils are prepared for further study of languages in Key Stage 3. Children apply their growing French vocabulary during French Fridays. This provides our pupils the opportunity to use French in their daily routines such as classroom instructions, '1-2-3' in French.

Celebrate Diversity



Through the exploration of a range of languages, and our focus language of French, pupils are exposed to wider cultures, helping them to understand the diversity of the world in which we live. Our curriculum is designed to enable pupils to develop their cultural understanding in addition to language knowledge, particularly within a unit in Year 2 entitled, 'I'm Learning French'. We learn basic greetings in multiple languages in addition to building more in-depth skills in French, allowing our pupils to develop a love for the diversity of language across the world.

Christian Values



The Bible teaches us 'to love thy neighbour as thyself' (Matthew 22:39). By learning an additional language, we are the developing respect for the diversity of the people God created. Being able to communicate effectively with others in other languages gives us the tools to develop friendships and learn to respect other people.

PSHE

Excellence



At St Thomas' Church of England Primary School, we believe that PSHE helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives, in order to become informed, active and responsible citizens. Our personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and Relationships, Health Education programme promotes children's personal, social and economic development, as well as their health and wellbeing. It provides information about keeping healthy and safe, emotionally and physically; encourages our children to understand how all actions have consequences and how they can make informed choices to help themselves, others and the environment. Our PSHE and RSE curriculum sets the foundations on which our pupils can build upon when striving for excellence.

Reading and Vocabulary



We teach subject-specific vocabulary for children to learn and apply during our lessons. Subject specific vocabulary is referred to throughout lessons. Children are given opportunities coherently articulate knowledge, skills and understanding by using explicit subject specific vocabulary in appropriate situations. Reading is used throughout our curriculum when appropriate to the unit being taught.

Knowledge Rich and Academic



Through themed days, experiences and weekly teaching, we encourage our children to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school, considering their own responsibilities, rights and duties as individuals and members of the wider community. In so doing, we help develop their sense of self-worth and they learn to appreciate what it means to be a positive member of a community, inspiring them to be the very best version of themselves. We believe our PSHE curriculum lays the foundations that allow our pupils to reach the highest of aspirations, equipped with the knowledge and understanding to do so.

Experiences and Life skills



Our broad curriculum allows children opportunities to become independent and responsible members of society. Combined with our Beacons of Light curriculum, our pupils experience life outside of their own locality and develop an understanding of the diverse world in which we live. Through a combination of weekly lessons, worship, assemblies and theme weeks/ days, our pupils develop an understanding of life in the wider world; how they can become responsible and active citizens and the responsibilities they will face as they move towards adult life. During Heartsmart lessons, our pupils discuss and explore a wide range of topics from challenges we may face, violence, diversity and personal relationships, allowing pupils time to consider the choices we may face and how to approach them. Pupils will learn about economic well-being; health lifestyles and how we have a responsibility to care for our environment. Our Debt Aware sessions educate pupils to have a sound and sensible attitude towards money, raising their awareness of the importance of financial planning for the future. Our safeguarding and PSHE curriculum run hand in hand. Key understanding of keeping safe, from responding to an emergency, to e-safety and healthy relationships are taught throughout the curriculum in Heartsmart lessons; discrete half termly lessons and short reminders in every session.

Celebrate Diversity



Our PSHE curriculum spans the globe, covering a range of cultures; exploring diversity and celebrating our differences. Children are given opportunities to learn about life in different cultures and countries; those who are less fortunate and those who face discrimination or have fought for a rightful cause of equality. At St Thomas', children's wellbeing, happiness and safety are our priority; therefore, teaching & learning is sensitive to individual needs and supports children's self-esteem through inclusivity. Our PSHE Curriculum explicitly teaches the need for a society that celebrates diversity and promotes equality. The Christopher Winter Project scheme lessons have increased focus on families, relationships, safeguarding/keeping children safe and added additional units on respect and equality. We encourage children to develop the skills of listening, empathy, talking about feelings and relationships with families and friends.

Christian Values



As a Church of England school, our Christian vision and values are central to all we do. Our mission statement, Jesus said, "Come live your life the way God wants you to", motivates us to look to Jesus as our guiding light. He inspires us to live out our Christian values and to strive for Excellence in all that we do; celebrating life in all its fullness. Our values of compassion, thankfulness, friendship, peace, responsibility and forgiveness underpin our approach to PSHE. Our Christian Values are referred to throughout PSHE lessons to ensure teachers are developing pupils understanding of how these values can be lived out in our day to day lives. At St Thomas' we teach PSHE through three different adapted schemes of work; Heartsmart, The Christopher Winter's scheme and PSHE Association. As a church school we deliver PSHE through the HeartSmart Church School scheme of work which is adapted for individual classes and focuses on the 5 main Heartsmart principles of; Don't forget to let love in; Too much selfie isn't healthy; Don't rub it in, rub it out; Fake is a mistake and No way through isn't true.

Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'