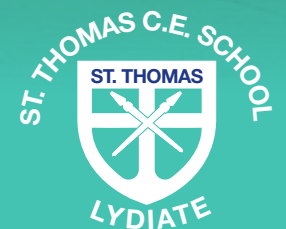




St Thomas Church of England Primary School **PROSPECTUS**

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



“Pupils’ achievement is outstanding. They make excellent progress throughout the school. Standards are well above average by the time they leave.”

Ofsted 2013

A warm welcome to St. Thomas’ Church of England Primary School

Dear parent, carer and child,

A warm welcome to St. Thomas’ Church of England Primary School. We hope that this prospectus will give you a flavour of St. Thomas’ but in order to get a more personal insight into our school community you are most welcome to make an appointment to come and visit us. Because St. Thomas is a one-form entry primary school, we pride ourselves on our family feel, where every adult knows each individual child.

St. Thomas’ is built on a Christian foundation and we put God at the centre of everything we do, equipping children with Christian values to prepare them for their lives. In fact, our mission statement is based on the bible: Jesus said,

“Come, follow me and live your lives the way that God wants you to”

We have exceptionally high expectations of all pupils and so we strive to offer the very best education. **Ofsted inspected St Thomas’ in July 2013, and judged that in all areas the school is outstanding.** Constantly striving for excellence, we aim to provide a wide range of learning experiences where children are engaged, enthusiastic and curious to find out more. Our goal is to instil a love of learning for our children, which will develop them into life-long learners with high aspirations for their future.

We, the staff and governors are proud of our school and the personal and academic achievements of our pupils. Please feel free to contact the school direct with any queries you may have.

Mark Ward, Headteacher



Welcome from our Chair of Governors

Hello, my name is Jane Dunn and I am the Chair of Governors here at St Thomas Church of England School. I have had connections with the school for over 20 years, both my daughters attended the school and I have been a part of the governing body since 2006; and the Chair of Governors since 2011. As I have recently retired from a long career in the NHS (most recently in management roles), I am now able to spend more time in school and have enjoyed reading with the children and accompanying them on outings and residential trips. Getting to know the children better and sharing in (albeit a very small part) their education at St Thomas has been a real privilege.

We have a strong governing body of committed volunteers who share a vast wealth of knowledge and expertise in a variety of different roles both in and out of the school and

I am very proud to be associated with an outstanding school which has strong connections to the church and the local community.

What makes St Thomas so special? I believe it is a combination of a skilled, highly motivated staff group, friendly, hardworking children who always want to give of their best; and the support of families and friends who work together in a unique partnership to make St Thomas the thriving school community it is. The strong Christian ethos at St Thomas which supports each and every child to “live their lives as God wants them to” is a central theme running through every activity both within and outside of the school, and contributes to making St Thomas the wonderful school it is.

Mrs Jane Dunn, Chair of Governors





The History of St. Thomas’

Originally, our Church of England School in Lydiate, was formerly housed in premises on Southport Road, which is located in the grounds of the Grayson Memorial Hall (Lydiate Parish Hall). These premises were built in 1840. The foundation stone and original school bell can still be seen in our current building.

In July 1975, the school transferred to its present site on Kenyons Lane. In 2010, the school celebrated its 170 year anniversary and long service of providing a Christian education to the children of Lydiate and surrounding area.

St. Thomas’ underwent several refurbishment projects amounting to £435,000 in 2010. This included building a new entrance area, office facilities, meeting rooms as well as extending the school to make facilities for an after-school room. The school has since completely upgraded its ICT suite as well as well securing £175,000 of funding in 2016 to refurbish our Year 3 and 4 classrooms.

The school has always been part of the Church of St. Thomas’ in the Parish of Lydiate and Downholland. This gives us the Christian Foundation on which all our activities are firmly based.

“I chose St. Thomas’ because it is a family orientated school – everyone knows everyone. The teachers are friendly and helpful and always go the extra mile. The results just speak for themselves.”

Mrs. Woodridge (Parent)





Religious Education and Collective Worship

Our identity as a Church of England School lies at the heart of our ethos and we enjoy close links with our school church, St. Thomas’ in Lydiate.

Our commitment to sharing our Christian identity is embedded within our Vision and Values and the curriculum as a whole. At St. Thomas’ CE We have five main Christian Values, which are:



Each class focuses on one core value for the year, which means the children really get to explore these values in greater depth.

Our Religious Education lessons are based on the syllabus provided by the Diocese of Liverpool. Lessons are challenging and thought provoking as children are encouraged to deepen their understanding of their faith and consider how they can relate this to their own lives.

Collective Worship forms our thoughts for the week and explores how this can contribute to our wider understanding of the world. We enjoy weekly led worship led by the headteacher, members of staff, the school's vicar and other members of the Christian community. Children are also encouraged to plan, lead and evaluate worship throughout the school.

Church school links

Jesus said, “Come, follow me and live your lives the way that God wants you to”.

St Thomas’ School is at the heart of our Parish and Community life and I am both proud and delighted of the close links and excellent relationships that both Church and School have.

Building good relationships is a key Christian aim and is something we take seriously at St Thomas’. Our Christian values – Compassion, Thankfulness, Responsibility, Peace, Friendship and Respect – are at the heart of what both Church and School do together. These values are not just for the children but are for all of us to hold on to and reflect in our lives. Jesus spent his time with people, journeying with them and building relationships with them and encouraging them to be the people God has called them to be. This is what we hope to model – both adults and children – as we go about our daily lives.

Being part of St Thomas’ School is being part of St Thomas’ Church. One worshipping, learning community bound together by our faith. We are one community under God, with a relationship of compassion, thankfulness and friendship. We hope and pray that you want to be part of this community.

The Revd Paul Robinson

“The school is extremely successful in creating a caring and Christian environment in which children thrive and are happy”

SIAMS 2013.



Curriculum

At St. Thomas', children are taught in a happy and caring environment and are always encouraged to achieve the very highest of standards.

"It give me great pleasure to congratulate you on the excellent performance of your pupils...Your results shows that you are amongst the 100 top performing schools"

David Laws MP 2015

force behind how we design and deliver our curriculum. The School's curriculum promotes and sustains a thirst for knowledge and understanding, and a love of learning. It covers a wide range of subjects and provides opportunities for academic, technical, creative and sporting excellence.

Our curriculum is planned in themes, with topics chosen to capture the interests and imaginations of our children. Themes include 'The Ancient Greeks', 'What put Liverpool on the map?', 'Life during World War 2' and 'The Rotten Romans' as well as many more exciting topics. Skills-based learning is developed by linking subjects such as history, geography, art, design technology and music to the topic being studied. This allows children to make purposeful links in their learning. We also use every opportunity to make further links through reading, writing, maths, science and computing where relevant. In addition to our exciting and stimulating themes, we provide further opportunities to enhance children's learning wherever possible. These include Antibullying Week and E-Safety Day, World Book Day, Sports Week and Arts Week.

This is reflected in our outstanding Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 assessment results which are way above national standards (these are available to view on our school website). We provide a rich and exciting curriculum, which caters for children of all abilities, helping children to achieve their full potential.

Our aim, to deliver a dynamic and innovative curriculum that challenges, excites and inspires children to become successful and confident learners and achieve their best, is the main driving



Other activities

Outside of the usual subjects our children get the opportunity to take part in lots of other activities.

Music

St. Thomas' offers a wide range of music tuition led by our enthusiastic tutors.

All children from Year 1 up to Year 6 are able to learn to play a range of instruments, including: drumming, piano, violin, clarinet, saxophone, cello and vocals.

In addition to this, children in Year 5 and Year 6 are taught African and Samba drumming skills whilst our Year 3 and Year 4 children have a weekly vocal lesson. We have a vibrant school choir who regularly perform at different events including 'Young Voices' (the largest school choir in the world). We encourage children who learn an instrument to perform at various events throughout the year, including our annual Garden Party and Mothers' Day Tea Party. This helps to celebrate our many talents whilst developing the children's confidence.



Extra-curricular activities

There is always a wide range of opportunities for our pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Children are encouraged to explore their physical, creative and academic interests through a variety of breakfast, lunchtime and after-school clubs. There are an increasingly wide range of clubs and competitive events, which our pupils are encouraged to participate in, including football, dance, eco, art and choir. St. Thomas' also has its own Breakfast and After School Club, which provides excellent wrap around care for our children.



Sports

St Thomas' has an excellent reputation for providing outstanding sporting opportunities. As such, we have been nominated several years for 'Primary School of the Year' at the Sefton Sports Awards as well as achieving gold for the School Games Mark.

We have excellent facilities and equipment for both indoor and outdoor Physical Education. In addition to our PE teaching, coaching in various sports and activities is provided throughout the year. Representative teams participate in friendly matches, festivals and tournaments with other local schools including: football, netball, hockey and gymnastics. We pride ourselves on our outstanding swimming achievements over recent years.



Educational Visits and Residentials

Educational Visits

We believe educational visits are a crucial part in bringing learning to life. Children are taken to places of interest to enhance their curriculum work.

These could include history visits to local museums and geography visits where children explore mountainous environments. Visits vary from year to year depending on the topics being covered. Class Teachers are always looking for new and exciting opportunities to enrich the curriculum.



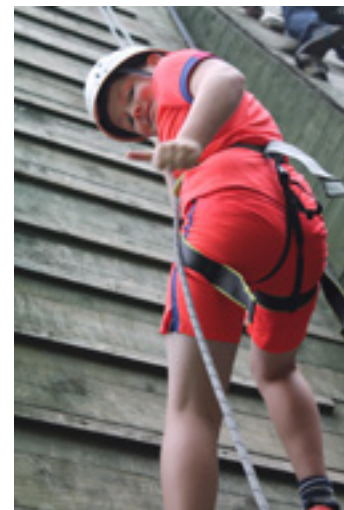
“St. Thomas’ is the best! Teaching is amazing! Teachers are really nice and they help us to improve.”

Joshua Stonham Year 6 Pupil

Residentials

We believe there are many benefits for our pupils when taking them away on residential visits.

Children develop greater personal and social skills during these opportunities, as they are encouraged to become more independent and develop their confidence. Each year, our Year 2 and Year 3 children stay over at Tyn-y-Nant Christian Centre in Wales. Our Year 5 children visit Hothersall Lodge for a one night stay, where their main focus is to carry out a river study. The Year 6 class visit the YMCA Centre in the Lake District for a two night residential, and take part in educational and adventurous activities, including: team building activities, wall climbing and kayaking.



Pupil Voice

The children’s views at St. Thomas’ are very important to us. As such, they have many opportunities to share their thoughts on school issues.

There are a number of thriving pupil bodies, which meet regularly, including the School Council, the School Worship Committee and the School Eco Committee..



Behaviour

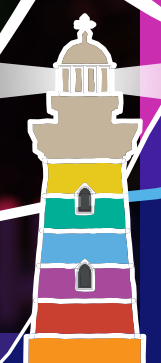
We want every child to feel confident, safe and happy; therefore we have extremely high expectations of children’s behaviour at St. Thomas’.

Manners and respect are consistently promoted as we strive for excellence. Children are encouraged to display our Christian values and certain children are awarded with our weekly Values Award and Headteacher’s Award. Pupil’s attendance is outstanding and is the highest in Sefton. A number of older pupils are selected by teaching staff for their exemplary behaviour, to become school Prefects or Head Boy and Head Girl.



“Pupils’ exceptional behaviour makes an excellent contribution to their achievement. They are eager to learn, and have a highly developed understanding of their responsibilities towards others”

OFSTED 2013





Early Years

At St Thomas' CE Primary School, we believe that starting school is one of the most important times of a child's life.

We aim to make this an exciting but also settling experience for both the child and their family. At St Thomas', we really do believe that a child's time in the Early Years is a wonderful and memorable learning experience.

We are fortunate enough to have a large indoor classroom, which was recently refurbished, with inviting learning areas alongside the exciting and stimulating outdoor classroom.

Children in the reception class follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS). The curriculum focuses on a balance between adult and child led activities. These opportunities and experiences are planned to meet children's learning needs and their interests. Children learn through creative topics such as 'Pirates', 'Animals' and 'The Baby Clinic' as well as using a range of exciting books to stimulate learning. We aim to create an exciting curriculum where learning is fun and interesting!



**We hope you enjoyed looking at our Prospectus.
Please come and visit or get in touch if you need
any more information.**





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