



Prospectus 2022-2023



Welcome

I would like to warmly welcome you to St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School. I wish you and your child every happiness whilst you are part of our school community and I hope this prospectus will give you an insight into how we work and what we value.

We firmly believe that all children are unique and are entitled to an education that allows them to fulfil their potential, whatever that may be. Through our Christian faith, we teach children to uphold the values that are most important to us. These being: respect, forgiveness, friendship, courage and love.

We are committed to providing a high quality education in all areas for all children, irrespective of need. As the Headteacher, I do my very best to ensure that your child will receive the very best whilst they are with us.

We could not be prouder of our children and our 'Little School with the Big Heart'. In October 2018, Ofsted confirmed again that we are a good school. We are

particularly proud that Ofsted and more importantly our many visitors, children and parents view us as welcoming and friendly.

The Ofsted report states that the views of the parents can be summed up by a quote from a parent 'This a brilliant school where children learn, are looked after and prepared for the next stage of their academic journey.'

We work hard to ensure that our children are taught in a safe and caring setting where children are free to develop their own personality and the confidence to achieve. I hope that as a parent you will be supportive and an active part of our community.

Once again, I wish you and your child every happiness during their time at St. Thomas' and I look forward to working with you and your child.

Mrs R. Williams

Headteacher

Values for Life

St Thomas' believe that values are very important. Values are the things that we believe in that help us to make decisions about how to behave. They are the principles that guide our lives. We have our core values of: respect, forgiveness, friendship, courage and love. However, there are many other values that we uphold, many overlapping each other.

Some values are tricky to teach and understand, whilst others are quite straight forward. However, with the support of our faith and under the guiding light of Jesus, we aim to teach our children to spot the values in themselves and in others. We celebrate when people show these values through celebration assemblies, hot chocolate Fridays, Friday phone calls and by everyday acknowledgement through our hero's boards, stickers and notes home. We are sure that parents will help our children to understand values at home and will celebrate with their children appropriately.

It's not just the children who need to learn about values, adults need to think about them too and sometimes need to remind themselves to slow down and think about what is most important to them. Adults at St. Thomas' will be trying to live the values at the same time as the children; that way we can learn together.



Thinking about values is not just something that helps us to learn when we are younger, it is a set of tools that we carry with us for the rest of our lives. Understanding values helps us make difficult decisions when we are adults.

At St. Thomas' we have adopted a relational approach to behaviour that is trauma informed. We believe that positive relationships are the key to feeling safe and secure at school which in turn allows learning to take place.

St. Thomas' offers children an exciting and varied curriculum which is underpinned by our values. All children have lessons in the core subjects of English and Maths with an emphasis on reading, writing and number. The wider curriculum includes: religious education science, history, geography, physical education, character education (Commando Joes), art, design technology, personal and social education, relationships education, French for key stage 2 and computing. Some areas of our curriculum are delivered by specialist in that field (P.E. art, design technology and music).

The school curriculum is enhanced by extracurricular activities which include: rugby, choir, drumming, science, lacrosse, cricket and others. We ensure that all children experience exciting and engaging trips including visits to the theatre, working with the Bridgewater Hall, visits to zoos and safari parks, Jodrell Bank, Hollingworth Lake water activity centre, the seaside, air raid shelters and taking part in workshops at Touchstones on a regular basis plus many others. The highlight for most of children is the year 6 two night residential trip to an outdoor adventurous centre. We continually strive to find the sparks and the hooks that engage children with their learning and capture their imaginations.



We aspire to be an extraordinary place to learn. A place that is built around our core values rooted in our Christian faith. We understand that each learner is a unique individual with limitless potential. We endeavour to create a school where everyone is valued and where we can embrace diversity and the things that bring everyone together. We aspire to

be a place where everyone enjoys their learning and is able to achieve and have their achievements celebrated. We aim to work with children, their parents and the wider community to enrich opportunity, broaden horizons, maximise attainment, build positive and lasting relationships and engage in a powerful learning journey which lasts a life time. We aim to create a school that builds confidence, resilience and is full of smiles.



School Location

St. Thomas' C.E. is on Huddersfield Road in Newhey. It is a smaller than average primary school with 5 mixed age classes. Each class has on average 30 children in it. The school was built in 1865 and has been in use as a school for all of this time.

The building is surrounded by a playground on three sides which includes a multi-use games area, a climbing wall, tumble bars and a small linear rope course. We have a school playing field at the top of Church Street, near the Church.

The Governing Board

This is a voluntary body of people who represent parents, the Church, the wider community and the staff who meet at least twice a term. They have responsibility for overseeing the organisation, curriculum and budget of the school.

Friends of St. Thomas'

We have an active Parent's Association, to which all parents have automatic membership. They organise social and fundraising events throughout the school year, holding regular meetings to plan events and discuss current issues.

School Uniform and Jewellery

When children come into school, they are part of the school community and by wearing a simple uniform we hope to promote feelings of belonging and equality. All children are therefore required to wear our school uniform. Items with the school badge can be purchased from Moses on Drake Street, Rochdale. For health and safety reasons we do not allow jewellery except for a small watch and a single pair of stud earrings. We also encouraged long hair to be tied up away from the face.

Winter Uniform

- Grey or black trousers (not jeans or jogging bottoms)
- Grey or black skirt or pinafore
- White or sky-blue polo t-shirts (with or without a school logo)

- Royal blue jumper or cardigan (with or without a school logo)
- Black flat shoes (trainers are acceptable)
- No make up

Summer Uniform

- Blue checked or striped summer dress
- Grey or black shorts

P.E. Kit

Your child will also need to wear a P.E. kit on the days they have P.E.

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black, grey or navy jogging bottoms
- Plain black, navy or grey sweatshirt or zipped jacket
- Trainers – for outdoor P.E.
- Earrings and watches must be removed and hair must be tied back.

The School Day

School starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. All children have a morning break that lasts 15 minutes, with lunchtimes lasting between forty-five minutes and an hour depending on the age of the children.

Breakfast and After School Club

There is a breakfast and afterschool available for children from St. Thomas'. This is a separate non-profit organisation to the school. It is called Tommy's and is managed by Mrs Val Turner, who can be contacted via the school office.

Breakfast club runs from 7.30am until 8.45am and the current charge is £4.00 per day.

After School Club runs from 3.10pm until 6.00pm and the current charge is £8.00 per day.

Absences

We are working hard at St. Thomas' to ensure that attendance is as high as possible. If your child is ill absences must be reported on the first day your child is away via telephone or in person before 9.00am. On return your child will need to bring with them a note explaining the absence. Any appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible. All appointments during school hours must be backed by an appointment card or letter.

Holidays in term time

The Governors have adopted the Government's policy of not authorising holidays to be taken during term time, unless for exceptional circumstances. Holidays taken during term time may result in a fixed penalty notice.

Administration of Medicine

If your child needs prescribed medicine during school hours, you should contact the school office, who will advise you accordingly. The administration of medicine by school staff must be authorised by the head teacher and only prescribed medicine can be given. In such cases, the school nurse will help draw up a health care plan with parents and school staff to ensure that the medicine is given correctly and your child's needs are fully understood.

Children with Special Needs

At St. Thomas' we value all children and understand that all children have a right to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. The provision for children at St. Thomas' with Special Education Needs is set out in our local offer and in our SEND policy, both of which can be found on the school's website. We have recently been awarded Autism Champion School status in recognition of our work with children who have autism.

Accessibility and Equality

The school access for disabled children and facilities will be provided for any child the council places at St. Thomas' School.

The staff at St. Thomas' make every effort to ensure that all children have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities provided by St. Thomas'. They always challenge stereotyping and discrimination and we are proud to be a 'Stonewall Champion School'.

Visiting the school

We warmly welcome visits to our school to help you choose the right school for your child.

Please contact the school office to arrange a visit on 01706 847093, alternatively you can attend our open afternoon on Thursday 10th October at 2.00pm to meet the Headteacher and find out more about us.

Admission to St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

The school's admissions policy can be found on the school website

www.stthomasce.rochdale.sch.uk

Applications for September 2020 are made via Rochdale Council's website

www.rochdale.gov.uk .

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2020.

