

# St Thomas More

*Catholic Voluntary Academy*

*Part of the St Thomas Aquinas Academy Trust*



# Welcome



St Thomas More is a Catholic school for all children built upon the solid foundation of Christian values which serves families living and worshipping in the parish of St Thomas More in Knighton, Leicester. We believe that each individual should be given the opportunity to flourish and develop to their full potential. Here they can acquire the skills to become confident, articulate and well equipped to meet the challenges of a fast-changing world.

We are committed to the development of the individual, enabling every pupil to fulfil their potential, not only in their academic studies but also in sports, drama, music or wherever their talents may lie. We meet together regularly as a community to celebrate success and reflect upon the values of tolerance and mutual respect, honesty and integrity that underpin our philosophy here at St Thomas More.

Mrs C Crosse  
Headteacher

‘Love one another as I have loved you’

# Mission Statement

Saint Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy was founded to pass on to the children the faith heritage of the local Catholic Community. Each child is valued as a unique individual, a child of God, made in the image of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In partnership with parents and parish and with God's grace, the school tries to discern and help the child to develop fully as a person with particular gifts and aptitudes. Guided and challenged by Gospel values, the school aims to provide a community in which the child will grow and experience the love of God, self and neighbour.

## Aims for our Pupils

- To assist parents to give the children a knowledge of their faith and to guide and train them in the practice of their faith.
- To provide a safe, caring and happy environment where each child is valued as an individual and can develop his/her full potential.
- To provide for each child a wide, balanced curriculum of high quality, appropriate to the interests and aspirations of the individual encouraging the development of the whole person and fulfilling the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- To develop the potential of each child within his/her capabilities, recognising different needs and abilities and providing challenges and appropriate teaching at each stage of development.
- To set and maintain standards of discipline, courtesy and general moral values so that the school community may function effectively.
- To engender a sense of self-respect, independence and self-motivation. To increase the individual's capacity to accept responsibility for actions taken. To encourage children to recognise their responsibility to and dependence on others to help them become active, reasoning participants in a democratic society.
- To provide a non-sexist, non-racist atmosphere, which fosters respect for religious and moral values linked with tolerance of other people, races, religions and lifestyles.
- To foster links between home and school and develop a partnership with parents in the education of their children.
- To work in partnership with the schools in the St Thomas Aquinas academy Trust.



# *The Routine of the school day*

## *Reception / Years 1-6*

<i>Start of Day</i>	<i>8.50 am</i>	<i>8.40 am</i>
<i>Lunchtime</i>	<i>11.50 am</i>	<i>12.00 pm</i>
<i>End of Day</i>	<i>3.05 pm</i>	<i>3.15 pm</i>





# Behaviour & Discipline

Acceptable standards of behaviour are expected at all times, both in school and journeying to and from school. Our behaviour policy is based on a positive approach and we emphasise the importance of the home / school partnership. We actively involve the pupils in setting guidelines for acceptable behaviour.

Praise is our preferred method of discipline. Everyone has the opportunity to receive praise throughout the year.

Praise is given for a multitude of positive contributions to school life: Good work / good behaviour / thoughtfulness / helpfulness / politeness / enthusiasm / positive attitude and completion of homework and so on.

*"Behaviour for almost all pupils is exemplary; pupils are developing an awareness of vocation and freely offer their gifts in the service of others"*

**Diocesan Inspection 2015**



# The Curriculum

When a child begins school he/she will encounter a wide range of experiences. This range goes far beyond classroom teaching and learning situations. We would call this the whole Curriculum; it encompasses the dimensions of learning found in play, in assemblies and in social relationships. Thus, it is the whole child who is being developed - in a way which is appropriate to individual needs and abilities.

## Aims

- To provide a moral and spiritual dimension, working in conjunction with the Parishes and parents that is in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- To provide access to the whole curriculum, including the National Curriculum and Religious Education, in a manner suited to the individual child
- To develop responsible attitudes, whilst allowing the child to acquire the skills and knowledge, needed in everyday life
- To create a positive environment conducive to learning
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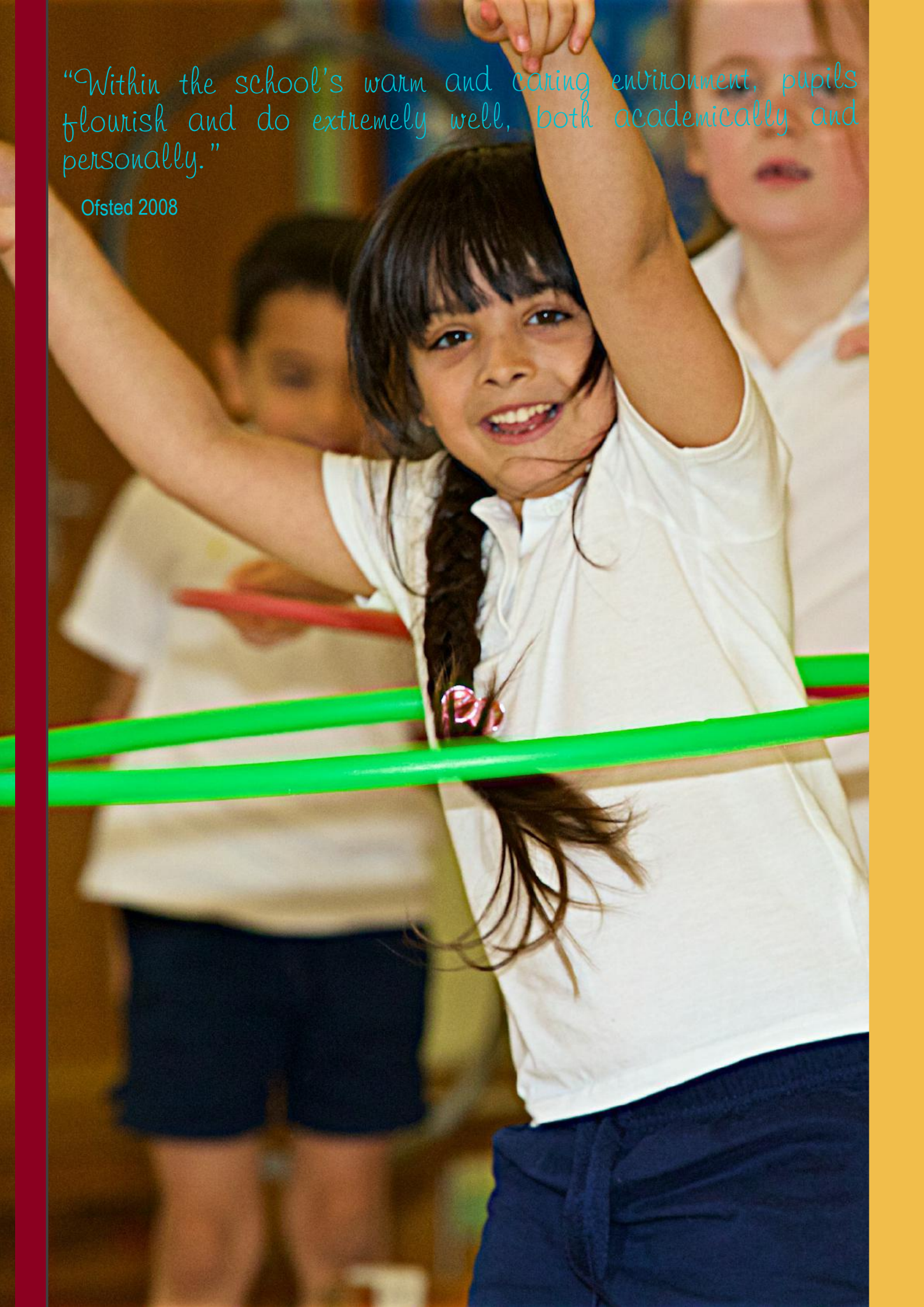
# Special Educational Needs

St Thomas More welcomes into its family, children with a wide range of ability levels. It is our policy that no child with special educational needs should be denied admittance if it is felt that his or her needs can be met. We have a Special Needs Policy which is available for parents to read and a Special Needs Coordinator who works closely with the staff and Head Teacher to identify and address the children's problems.

Wherever possible, children are fully integrated into their appropriate normal teaching group and work is designed to meet their individual needs. Extra help may be offered individually or in small groups with their class teacher or classroom assistant or by withdrawal from class for individual tuition. Sometimes it is felt that specialist advice would be helpful, for example from the Special Needs Service or the Educational Psychologist. If it is decided, after a process of formal assessment, that a child needs extra support, the Local Authority will issue a Statement of Special Educational Needs and the child will normally be awarded additional teaching or ancillary support. Parents are consulted and advised at every stage and permission is always sought before an outside agency is involved. It is our aim to help each child to achieve their full potential and to ensure that they feel valued, are proud of their achievements and develop a positive self-image.

"Within the school's warm and caring environment, pupils flourish and do extremely well, both academically and personally."

Ofsted 2008





# Attendance



## **Attendance**

We have a statutory duty to maintain an accurate register of attendance. Parents are asked to notify the school immediately of absence with a valid reason. This may be done by note, telephone or emailing the school office. This is for the safety of your child - we need to be reassured that the child is safe. The school monitors the attendance of children carefully. Parents of children with attendance below a certain level, regardless of the reason they have been absent, may receive a letter from the school and may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer.

## **Lunch**

Children may bring a packed lunch or eat a cooked meal at school. St Thomas More is a member of Healthy Schools Scheme and all food is freshly cooked on the premises rather than being simply re-heated. All parents are strongly encouraged to provide their children with healthy packed lunches and playtime snacks. Children in the infants receive a daily piece of fruit and since September 2014 have been eligible for Universal Free School Meals.

## **Family Holidays in School Time:**

Parents cannot take holidays in school time unless it is essential and in exceptional circumstances. Parents will need to complete an application form for any requests for leave of absence. This should be before any booking has taken place.

Holidays taken during term time will be classed as 'unauthorised absence'. A fixed penalty fine may be issued by the Education Welfare Department in such cases.

When your child first starts school, you will be required to complete the Emergency Contact Form. This contains vital information in the event of an accident or illness when we may require permission for medical treatment.

This information will be up-dated regularly, but we would ask parents/guardians to advise us immediately if there is a change in the information relating to their child. All information is given in confidence.





*“ Pupils say their lessons are fun and exciting, and that this is why they enjoy school so much and why their attendance is so very good.”*  
Ofsted 2008

## *Progress Reports*

It is natural that you want to take an interest and be involved in school activities. We use a variety of methods to keep you informed of and engaged with these activities. These include Open Evenings, School Reports and Newsletters .

### Parents' Evenings

- In the Autumn term parents are invited to meet the teacher and discuss any matters of concern relating to their child.
- In the Spring term there is a progress meeting where parents can discuss how well their child has progressed throughout the year.

If you have a query or concern at any other time, you are encouraged to make an appointment to talk either to the class teacher or Head Teacher.

### School Reports

During Parents' evening, you will receive a brief monitoring report which will have the personal targets set for your child. This will form the basis of your discussion at the Parents' Evening.

During the Summer term, of each academic year, parents receive a longer, written report outlining their child's educational and personal achievements across the curriculum.

Additionally, parents are informed if their child has reached the expected standard at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2

(that is at 7 Years and 11 Years of age).

# uniform

All school clothing and footwear must be clearly marked with the child's name.

Girls:

- grey skirt/pinafore, grey tailored trousers for the colder months, white blouse
- school tie, maroon cardigan (with logo)
- low-heeled black shoes, white socks
- blue and white dress for the summer
- low heeled sandals with white socks
- trainers are not suitable school footwear

Boys:

- grey trousers, white shirt, school tie
- maroon sweater (with logo), black shoes
- grey socks
- trainers are not suitable school footwear

**All pupils need black plimsolls, and trainers for outdoor PE lessons**

## Uniform Suppliers

Marks and Spencer on line  
at  
[www.mandsyourschool  
uniform.com](http://www.mandsyourschooluniform.com)

John Cheatles  
Uniform Shop  
Charles Street  
Leicester

Uniform Direct  
[www.uniform-direct.com](http://www.uniform-direct.com)  
54-56 Humberstone Gate  
Leicester  
LE1 3PJ

Schoolwear Solutions  
64 London Road,  
Oadby,  
Leicester.  
LE2 5DH

*"Targets for improvement and teachers' marking spur pupils on to do their very best, including the more able pupils"*

Ofsted 2008



**PE Kit:**

Children are required to have black plimsolls, white T shirt and navy shorts, in a drawstring PE bag.

**Games Kit:**

As for PE with navy tracksuit/ sweatshirt for cold weather  
Trainers for outdoor use

**Swimming:**

KS2- you will receive a letter if your child is having swimming lessons.

The school does not allow the wearing of jewellery e.g. bangles, fancy hairbands, bracelets, necklaces and rings. However, children are permitted to wear a wristwatch.

We prefer children not to wear earrings but if there is a requirement, earrings must be plain gold or silver studs.





## *Admission*

Admissions to St Thomas More are made in the September of the academic year your child turns five years of age.

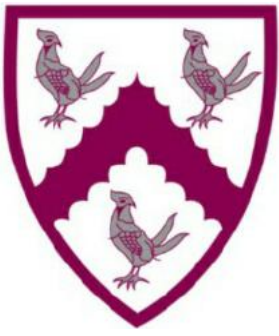
It is important that you complete the Application Form and the Schools Supplementary Form when applying for a place.

Full details of the School Admissions Policy can be found on the school website: <http://www.thomasmoreprimary.org.uk/>

*“The school’s mission statement underpins the community and how it interacts. Pupils enjoy being part of the school and acknowledge Christ at the centre of everyday life.”*

**Diocesan Inspection 2015**





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