



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

PROSPECTUS



Learn, Love and Respect through Jesus

A MEMBER OF

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St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Welcome

On behalf of our pupils, staff and governors, I would like to welcome you and your family to St Thomas of Canterbury School, part of the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust.

We are a nurturing, half form entry catholic primary school in rural Puckeridge, East Hertfordshire. We strive to provide the best possible education in a caring, Christian environment.

We have high expectations for all learners, developing skills for life, encouraging good self-esteem and a positive healthy mindset.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please contact us on 01920 821450, or by email: admin@stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Mrs Katie Worton-Geer
Executive Headteacher



"Pupils are given opportunities to take part in artistic, sporting and cultural activities. They learn about local and global charitable events, which broadens their understanding of the wider world. Leaders promote pupils' wider development through a thoughtfully planned personal, social and health education curriculum. There is a genuine culture of care between leaders, staff and pupils."

OFSTED QUOTE FROM FEBRUARY 2023

Our School

St Thomas of Canterbury School provides a secure, happy and respectful learning environment. Our vision and values are at the core of everything we do. We aim for each individual to reach their academic, social and emotional potential and we work tirelessly to ensure that British Values are promoted, so that our children go forward as respectful, tolerant young people.

We are a catholic school, but we welcome and embrace children and staff of different faiths or no faith.

We provide a rich and diverse, broad and balanced curriculum. This gives our pupils the opportunity to explore their creative talents, sporting potential and appreciation of music, providing them with a deep understanding of the world in which we live.

We are very proud to have an outstanding Forest School provision, which is utilised by every child during the academic year.

Our school works closely with parents, governors, the parish and community to build a bright future for our children. We give our pupils a voice and build their self esteem, helping them to become confident and emotionally resilient individuals.





The Difference of Belonging: How Trust Membership Benefits St Thomas of Canterbury



As a member of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust since 2021, St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School benefits from being part of a family of Catholic schools committed to delivering the very best education now and for generations to come.

Being part of the Trust gives our school access to a wealth of specialist knowledge, experience and resources. School leaders and staff work closely with colleagues across the Trust, sharing best practice and learning from one another to continually enhance the quality of education we provide. This collaborative network strengthens leadership, supports innovation and helps ensure that every student can fulfil their potential.

The Trust also provides valuable operational and financial support, enabling schools to benefit from shared services and greater efficiencies. This allows more resources to be invested directly in teaching and learning, enriching the curriculum and creating opportunities that enhance students' educational experience.

A recent example of the benefits of Trust membership can be seen in the successful Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) bid secured for St Thomas of Canterbury. Through close collaboration with the Trust, the school was awarded Government funding of £636k to enhance its facilities and learning environment. This investment reflects the expertise and support available across the Trust and will help ensure that pupils continue to learn and thrive in a safe, welcoming and well-maintained school for years to come. The school has also previously secured CIF funding totalling a further £241,000 for additional improvements. Importantly, this level of funding would not have been accessible without being part of the Trust.



[Click the image to read the full Trust Impact Report](#)

For staff, Trust membership offers wider opportunities for professional development, collaboration and career progression. By investing in our people, we continue to strengthen the educational experience we provide and maintain the high standards for which our school is known. The school has benefitted from a range of staff secondments and Executive roles which has furthered the staff's experience and also resulted in cost savings.

Most importantly, being part of the Trust helps ensure that every student at St Thomas of Canterbury benefits from the collective strength of a wider Catholic family. Through shared expertise, strong support networks and a commitment to excellence, we are able to offer an outstanding education that nurtures academic achievement, personal growth and spiritual development. Together, we are helping our young people to thrive in school, contribute positively to their communities and move forward with confidence into the future.

Download the full Trust Impact Report to learn more about the impact of Trust membership across the five pillars of trust quality: high-quality and inclusive education, school improvement, workforce, finance and operations, and governance and leadership.

To learn more about our Trust community, please visit our Trust News page and follow us on Instagram.

Our Mission

To realise the Bishop's vision and our own belief that as schools we will be stronger together.

Our Vision

To deliver the very best Catholic education now and for generations to come.

To find out more about our Trust, please scan the QR codes or click the links on the right.



[Trust News](#)



[Instagram](#)



Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of all the children in our care is a priority for our school. We pride ourselves on the care and support that we provide for our pupils and their families.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

In a world that places increasing pressure and demands on children, looking after their mental health and wellbeing has become increasingly important. We offer a successful pastoral care programme for all children, using a range of different schemes and resources. In addition, our PSHE programme provides a mindfulness approach to strengthen the children's mental health and resilience.



Wraparound Care

We provide wraparound childcare through our partnership with Superstar Sport Ltd onsite. Please contact the school office for further information.

Special Education Needs and Disabilities

We firmly believe that every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of any barriers to learning during their school life or a Special Educational Need. We are committed to early identification of any needs and establishing an appropriate intervention programme to support them academically, socially and emotionally.

We also seek the support of specialist services from outside the school if required. We believe every child should be fully integrated in the classroom environment and support is provided within the classroom whenever possible.

Our SEND provision is led by Mrs Emma Overett, Assistant Headteacher and SENCO, who also serves as SEND Executive Lead for St Francis Trust, bringing extensive expertise in inclusive education and SEND provision.



Curriculum

Our intent is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all children in our school regardless of ability or any special need/disability. We strive for excellence in all areas of learning to help children fulfil their potential in a safe, nurturing and challenging environment.

Within every subject we teach, we encourage children to acquire skills and develop their knowledge and understanding in order to instil a positive lifelong approach to learning.

The curriculum is focused on progression of skills through revisiting areas of learning as children move up the school. Prior learning is developed and consolidated using a mastery approach aimed at creating a deep understanding of subject matter.

For further information, please visit our website.



"Children make outstanding progress in their learning and development in Early Years."

**OFSTED QUOTE FROM
FEBRUARY 2023**

Christian Values

We are very proud of our Catholic identity and ethos; Christian values are at the heart of everything we do. We strive to ensure our children develop respect, understanding and tolerance. Children are well prepared for life in modern Britain, in a culturally diverse society.



Early Years

Our outstanding Early Years setting has high ambition for all learners, regardless of their starting points or any Special Educational Need, and takes into account each child's cultural capital.

Our rich and diverse Early Years environment inspires our Nursery and Reception children to learn through both child initiated play and adult directed activities.

Learning is planned and based upon individual children's interests to develop motivated and engaged learners.

"St Thomas is doing a wonderful job of educating and guiding our child."



"Children in Reception are encouraged to help each other socialise and learn. They learn ambitious vocabulary and enjoy sharing their learning with adults and other children."

OFSTED QUOTE FEBRUARY 2023



Voices from Our Community

"I find Music very enjoyable as we get to create our own compositions with certain themes."



"I love P.E as there is a wide variety of sports and activities – there is a sport for everyone to enjoy."



"I couldn't be happier with how the school supports my child's personal development."



Admission

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School welcomes Catholic and non-Catholic children from 3 years of age.

We are a Catholic school, but we welcome and embrace children and staff of different faiths or no faith.

A summary of key dates for Admissions will be available on the school's website and on the Local Authority Admission webpage. Please scan the QR codes below to visit these pages for the latest information and deadlines.



**School
Admission
Webpage**



**The
Hertfordshire
Council
Admission
Webpage**



Forest School

We are very proud of our Forest School Programme, which runs from Nursery to Year 6.

Forest School allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands on experiences. Based upon the Scandinavian education system, it aims to build self-esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world. With a strong emphasis on positive mental wellbeing, Forest School sessions are tailored to meet the needs of individuals within the group.

Outdoor skills, such as tool work, structure building, fire lighting, cooking and investigating nature are all underpinned by a strong emphasis on communication, teamwork, resilience and character building.



"Forest School has taught me many skills such as shelter building, tying knots and fire lighting."



"I really enjoy Forest School, because it allows us to develop our independence."





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