

# St. Thomas' C of E Academy

How we develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural education  
at our school



# Our intent

- At St. Thomas' we recognise the importance of developing the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of our children to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- We promote and grow our children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development through our curriculum and the everyday ethos of our school.
- The social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of our children is evident through the behaviour of our children and the strong relationships throughout our school
- Our school community life is based on key shared values and principles, including the development of British Values



# Social development

- Our children are motivated to be part of opportunities to support our local community
- Our St. Thomas' Ten encourage children to develop a range of active learning and creative thinking skills that support them to develop in to responsible, respectful and active citizens
- British values are key concepts throughout our curriculum and school life
- We prepare our children very well to make the transition to high school through the embodiment of our school values and our over and above approach



# Social development

- Our children are taught to respect each other and to appreciate each other's similarities and differences
- Our curriculum enables our children to explore current and relevant social topics so that our children have an understanding of issues within our wider world e.g. climate change, poverty
- Our children behave well and interact positively with each other at playtimes and lunchtimes – our staff are on hand to support children with any 'fall outs' or 'disagreements' happen
- Educational visits provide our children with opportunities to further develop their social skills



# Social development

- We provide opportunities for children to demonstrate leadership and responsibility through class based or whole school rules including our Head Boy and Head Girl roles, Pupil Leadership Team, Environmental team, Librarians and Worship Leaders
- The appointment and selection of all school roles promotes the British Value of democracy



# Moral development

- With our 'over and above' approach, we encourage children to develop their character and be exceptional role models within and beyond our school community
- Children at St. Thomas' have strong sense of what is right and what is wrong and can effectively reflect on their behaviour if a poor choice is made through our restorative approach; children learn to take responsibility for their own actions
- We aspire for our children to behave well and make positive choices through knowing that it is the right thing to do – this is embedded within our 'Behaviour and Relationships' policy
- Pupils are encouraged to make their own choices through the development of 'Individual Liberty'



# Moral development

- Three school rules underpin our expectations on how children behave at St. Thomas': Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe – through our school rules, children gain an understanding of the British Value of 'Rule of Law'
- Housepoints are awarded for children making good choices – the announcement of our weekly housepoint winners is a special moment each week
- In our weekly Celebration Worship, children are recognized for going 'over and above' and for demonstrating our Christian Values and our St. Thomas' Ten
- Children with additional SEMH needs are supported well and make good progress



# Spiritual development

- As a Church of England school, the spiritual development of our children is a key feature of our school with daily collective worship providing an opportunity for children to learn, reflect and respond about a variety of themes; we provide our children with a range of stimuli to enable them to think deeply about their beliefs
- Our curriculum is planned to provide opportunities to learn about and respect different faiths
- We encourage our children to explore their own spirituality and connections through our curriculum and our collective worship; we encourage children to appreciate the awe and wonder of the world around them
- At St. Thomas', we aspire for each and every member of our school community to flourish





# Cultural development

- Our R.E. curriculum explores Christianity alongside other religions including Islam, Sikhism, Judaism and Hinduism so that our children develop an understanding of other faiths as well as recognising that our Christian values of Honesty, Respect, Aspiration, Forgiveness, Trust and Responsibility are relevant across all religions and cultures
- British Values of mutual respect and tolerance underpin cultural development at St. Thomas'
- Our school community is diverse and our children respect and celebrate children of different faiths and cultures
- Children across school engage with high quality, diverse texts
- We make links with other local places of worship with St. Thomas' Church

