

St Thomas of Canterbury Church of England Infant School

Jesus said 'You are the light of the World' (Matthew 5:14) so we let our little lights shine.

It is our responsibility to help each other let our individual lights shine brightly in all that we do and say, always following in Jesus' footsteps to be a beacon of love to all.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Is a warm, welcoming and supportive environment for children, their families and staff. It provides a place where all children are known individually, supported and encouraged according to their own personal needs. Children flourish at St Thomas' in their own unique way allowing them to let their little lights to shine bright. The close caring relationship that all the staff have with the children ensures that no child's physical or emotional wellbeing goes unnoticed. The welfare of children and staff is of the utmost importance to the Headteacher and the Governing body.

The school has strong links with St Thomas of Canterbury Church and the local community as well as a partnered school (St Mathews Kenya).

Collective Worship is at the heart of the school on a daily basis and is a precious time for everyone to come together as one, reinforcing a sound Christian education.



A previous School Council took a survey of their peers throughout the school – they asked for one word to describe our school -this is the result!

- Friendly
- Happy
- Kind
- Helpful



WHAT OUR PUPILS SAY



'I think worship is about learning about God. I like singing together because it is fun.'

Alfie



'I think the bible makes me think of worship because I read the bible every day and it always makes me think of worship.'

Amelia

'I like the songs we sing. My favourite song is 'He's got the whole world in his hands' because it reminds me how big the world is and of all God created.'

Bethany



'It reminds me every time that we are talking to God when we say the prayer.'

Anthony

'I like the feeling in worship even when it is a gloomy day, because Jesus is still lighting the world. Since the world is so big, I feel good because we are all connected together in worship.'

Sebastian

'I think worship is about Jesus. I like reading stories from the bible in worship, because they make me feel closer to God.'

Freya

'Worship makes me feel close to God – I like it when we read the bible, because we are in God's family.'

Jack

OUR MISSION IS...

We encourage each child to let their little light shine brightly as we live out our Christian values expressed within our mission statement.

- to give children a sound Christian Education which will help them to develop spiritually and to foster consideration, respect and understanding for the needs of others, in order to grow into courteous, caring adults
KINDNESS HONESTY RESPECT
- to deepen, through worship, the children's relationship with God whilst developing also their sense of wonder and reverence for life and appreciation of their specialness to Him
LOVE FRIENDSHIP
- to create a caring and welcoming atmosphere for young children at the start of their school career
SHARING FORGIVINESS
- to provide a well balanced curriculum which will lay the foundations for developing lively, enquiring minds whilst encouraging responsible attitudes to independent learning and meeting individual needs
RESPONSIBILITY TRUSTWORTHY
- to welcome parental involvement, because good partnership between school and home is essential for children's continued learning.
TOGETHERNESS GENEROSITY

We look forward to welcoming you to our school family.



THE SCHOOL FACILITIES

Chairman of Governors: Mr Neil Cooper
St Thomas of Canterbury CEVA Infant School
Sawyers Hall Lane
Brentwood
CM15 9BX

Status and Character: Voluntary Aided Church of England Infant School
Girls and Boys 4 - 7 years

Published admission number: 75

Whole school role: 225

St Thomas of Canterbury Infant School is a Church of England Foundation, grant aided by the Department for Education and maintained by the Local Authority.

There are eight classrooms, each with its own coat area, toilets and washbasins. Every classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and classroom computers. We also have a class bank of laptops and I pads which are used throughout the school. The large hall is used for worship, Eucharists, school productions, drama, and lunch time is well equipped for Physical Education and Music. We have a newly created area off the hall which we also intend to use for Music. The dedicated catering team provides hot meals within our own kitchen.

The school has a purpose built library which children visit daily to change their reading books. The library has a wide range of texts, including fiction, poetry and non-fiction. The non-fiction reference books are catalogued by colour and the Dewey System.

The Canterbury Room is used for 1 to 1 and small group work.

The outdoor environment consists of a large playground surrounded by grass areas – with fitness trail marked on the playground and two trim trails, a wooden shelter, a shade sail area, school garden, a pavilion within the quad and an outdoor classroom (both the pavilion and outdoor classroom are shared with the Junior School). The Reception Children have access to covered play areas and their own fenced play areas.



OUR VISION STATEMENT

Jesus said 'You are the light of the World' (Matthew 5:14) so we let our little lights shine. It is our responsibility to help each other let our individual lights shine brightly in all that we do and say, always following in Jesus' footsteps to be a beacon of love to all.

Intent:

Our Curriculum has been designed to ensure each and every child can 'let their individual lights shine brightly' by offering stimulating and awe-inspiring learning experiences with Christian values at the heart of school life.

Every child will have a unique and individual journey through their time with us to live 'life in all its fulness' (John).

Our curriculum is delivered in our Church School through an ethos and environment which fosters an 'explore, discover, dream' approach to life.

The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values with a vision to prepare the children for life beyond our school.

Through our curriculum our children are supported and encouraged to become life-long learners and recognise that their learning journey is not only in the classroom but beyond in the world around them. This approach gives opportunities for the children to make connections and understand that their learning is a tool for life.

Implementation:

We deliver a creative, broad and balanced curriculum across all areas of learning.

Through high quality teaching of knowledge, skills and vocabulary across core and foundation areas of learning, all children will be encouraged and supported to be inquisitive and creative learners. They will have the opportunities to influence their own learning through age appropriate and progressive themes and topics.

Children are inspired to be courageous to have a go and to experience that making mistakes is a valuable way of learning and that we can all learn from our mistakes, and therefore take our learning forward. Opportunities are given for the children to take-risks in a safe and secure environment and strive for the next step in their learning.

Through our child-centred approach our curriculum is inclusive, differentiated and tailored to all our children's needs and interests, with opportunities to be child-led.

Effective learning characteristics including being ambitious, reflective and imaginative, will drive teaching and learning in our school.

Opportunities are given to raise aspirations, engender a sense of personal pride in achievements and provide a purpose and relevance for learning for all groups of learners.

Impact:

Our children will have a secure set of skills, they will grow in wisdom, knowledge, understanding and Christian values which will prepare them for their journey through life (Jeremiah 29:11 - 'I know what I have planned for you. I have good plans for you ... to give you hope and a good future.') and support them in reaching their full potential. Development of their academic, spiritual, social and emotional well-being will lead our children to have an integral thirst for learning with the self-belief and confidence to let their little lights shine each and every day.

Our children will leave our school as inquisitive, compassionate, creative individuals who feel valued, supported and cared for. We will embed the skills needed to be courageous, resilient and confident risk-takers for both life in and beyond the school environment.

Our children will use the school's Christian vision, values and their moral compass to have a positive impact on their world and the people they meet.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Standard Assessment Test Results (SATS)

Year	Subject	School	Essex	National
2016	Reading	86.7%	76.9%	74.1%
	Writing	78.7%	68.1%	65.5%
	Maths	82.7%	74.4%	72.6%
	Science	96%	82.9%	81.8%
2017	Reading	85.3%	77.9%	75.6%
	Writing	79%	69.8%	68.2%
	Maths	79%	76.2%	75.1%
	Science	98.7%	83.5%	82.6%
2018	Reading	84%	76.8%	75%
	Writing	73.3%	71.3%	70%
	Maths	85.3%	76.7%	76%
	Science	94.6%	83.5%	83%
2019	Reading	79%	76.6%	74.9%
	Writing	70%	70.6%	69.2%
	Maths	76.6%	76.6%	75.6%
	Science	94.7%	83.2%	82.3%

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/115184>

'Leaders ensure all pupils and adults' wellbeing is central to the vision the school holds. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect in a culture of care and encouragement.'



<http://www.stthomasofcanterburyinfantschool.co.uk>

'Leaders effectively demonstrate how the impact of the school's vision holistically infuses and shapes the strategic and operational direction of the school. It champions inclusivity and celebrates diversity ensuring every child is allowed to let their little light shine'.

