St. Thomas More Catholic A computer screen shot of a school

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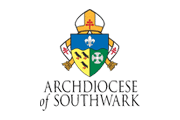
Headteacher

Application Pack

Closing Date: Friday 13th September 2024 at 5:00pm

Shortlisting Date: Monday 16th September 2024

Interview Dates: Thursday 19th September 2024 and Friday 20th September 2024



A computer screen shot of a school

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**Welcome to St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.**

A HEAD TEACHERS DREAM WITHIN THE ST THOMAS MORE FAMILY!!!

OUTSTANDING and highly achieved. Challenge yourself!

Dear Prospective Applicant,

Thank you for showing strong interest in our vacant position of Head Teacher.

Our most recent award was the Inclusive Schools Quality Mark with Centre of Excellence status.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is a Voluntary Aided school which has served the Catholic families of Walderslade and beyond for generations. Children of the past have happily become the parents of the present, proud of their school’s strong Christian ethos and its reputation for academic excellence. As a result, we believe that our children are best placed to thrive and flourish when they feel secure in their environment and are challenged by the quality of the learning they encounter. We work consistently to ensure that these two elements remain at the core of all our endeavours.

Our heritage is unrivalled in the Medway Towns and St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is a safe and happy place. Pupils can grow and the success of the school stems from a strong pastoral base and focus, knowledge, and wisdom in faith, in respect, in dignity and self-worth, where we will endeavour to nurture, respect, and live the gospel teachings that are the corner stone of our faith.

We believe a strong parents/carer - school relationship is of the utmost importance. We provide lots of opportunities throughout each year for parents to come in to gain an experience of their child’s life in school such as ‘Bring Your Parent to . . .’ sessions, subject specific workshops, fundraising team activities, open afternoons, inviting parents in to share their cultures, lives, and workplace experiences and so much more.

I have already stated that St Thomas More Roman Catholic Primary school is a safe and happy place which has been built by strong leaders and experienced staff who work closely with parents/carers and the Governing body. Our outcomes consequently are above national averages, but our attitude is that we can always exceed. Not surprisingly professional development is a priority for school leaders focusing on research led initiatives and interventions with proven success in the classroom.

We are looking for a happy, faith-filled Catholic leader who can build from the outstanding contribution of our past Headteacher and our current Head of School, but also bring their own passion and commitment to achieving excellence in everything we do. While we want someone who will promote what is unique and best about our school, we also want someone who will bring new gifts and talents to inspire and stretch our community, providing steady leadership into the future. If you think this could be you, we would be delighted to receive your application.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is currently a Medway Council maintained school. We work in partnership with other schools, and this strengthens our partnerships for the future. The essence of our vibrant school community is challenging to capture in a letter, so if you are considering joining us as our new Headteacher, a visit to our school is strongly encouraged so you can see it for yourself. For an informal discussion about the role, please contact me on 0792 5326 059 or to arrange visit in the new academic year, please contact our Business Manager, Mrs Christine Fillingham in the school office on 01634 864 701 or email at: fillc002@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

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**Simon D’Souza**

Chair of Governors

**Welcome to St Thomas More Catholic Primary School**

**School Motto:**

*“Love one another as I have loved you”.*

**School History:**

The school was opened on the 10th of September 1969 with an intake of 147 children, which allowed Sister Callista, the Headmistress a theoretical quota of just over 4 teaching staff! In September 1970, the number of children increased to 210 with a staff of 6 teachers.

Visitors to the school are immediately conscious of the happy atmosphere that pervades the buildings and of the dedication with which the children are taught.

**Collective Worship:**

Prayer and Liturgy is an instrumental part of our school life at St Thomas More. We celebrate Masses as a school and as a Parish and we have whole school liturgies where we learn from the Gospel and classes liturgies are celebrated with our families reflecting the children’s current RE learning. Prayer and Liturgy gives us:

*A sense of special time.*  
*A sense of special place.*  
*The intention of focusing on matters of worth ‘beyond the everyday’.*  
*A sense of occasion.*

Times of prayer and liturgy are educational, planned learning experiences and contribute to the education of the children, facilitate spiritual growth and respect of each other’s religious beliefs and their practises.  This may be done by evoking the sense of beauty, awe, wonder or feelings of pride, pity, sharing or by exploring the spirituality of life and experience.  Prayer and Liturgy has its own place in the curriculum, but it is also spontaneous.

The RE Coordinators take a lead in promoting collective worship and they help other children to learn the important prayers that will follow them throughout their lives. They promote collective worship and they help other children to learn the important prayers that will follow them throughout their lives.

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St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School

A brick building with a door and a fence

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**Our Family.**

We often refer to ourselves as ‘The St Thomas More Family’, our school is a place of care, kindness, support and happiness for all our children and adults. We achieve excellent academic results but what is even more important to us is that every child is known as an individual and cared for in the exact way they need.

**School size/Age range.**

St Thomas More Catholic pupils age between Reception classes from the ages of 4 years old and Year 6 classes up to the age of 11 years old. We currently have 420 pupils attending our school.

**School demographic.**

This location falls within the parliamentary constituency of Chatham and Aylesford Co, represented by the Labour MP, Tris Osbourne. At the last general election Conservative won control with a majority of 18,540 votes over Labour. A breakdown of voting at the last election is shown above.

**Extra-curricular offer.**

Though each of our terms, we offer the pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 an opportunity to grow sociably and mentality in a wide range of activities that help nurture and develop their well well-being. They include, Dancing, Football, Basketball, Rounds, Netball, Table Tennis, Cricket to name a few. Our school also helps pupils with team building classes and they can be part of the Chaplaincy Team, Cultural Capital team, Digital Leaders, Eco warriors and our Forest School Team.

**Number and breakdown of staff.**

Senior Team Leaders – 4

(inc 1 Exec Head Teacher currently until a new Head Teacher is appointed)

Teaching & Curriculum Team – 18

(14 teachers in class, Opal teacher, 3 x teachers covering curriculum)

Learning Support Staff – 19

Administration & Support Team – 17

(3 office, Pastoral Manager, SEN admin, caretaker, 2 x cleaners, 6 x MMS, 3 x breakfast/afterschool club)

Other support staff including admin, premises, mid-day meal supervisors, breakfast and afterschool club – 12

**Support offered to staff.**

We ensure the effective management and deployment of teaching and support staff together with appropriate systems of delegation and discipline through the management structure of the School.

**School website.**

A child’s journey starts at St Thomas More Catholic School. Please see below our website for the start of your journey…

<https://st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk/>

**Parish Links.**

Our school has strong links with our parish church, St. Simon Stock Parish, Walderslade, which enhances the spiritual and moral development of the community we serve with the guidance of our Parish Priest, Father Pawel.

<https://stsimonwalderslade.co.uk/>

**Our Location**

School Name – St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

School Full Address – Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent, ME5 ONF

Telephone Number – 01634 864701

Email Address - [office@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-thomasmore.medway.sch.uk)

A map of a city

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* Main Road Links - Bleakwood Road comes off Walderslade Road in Chatham and is in the Southeast region. The postcode is within the Wayfield & Weeds Wood area which is in the constituency of Chatham and Aylesford.
* Train/bus links – Chatham Train station is 2.6 miles and Chatham Bus Station (bus176 and 184) is 2.9 miles.