PROSPECTUS

St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School

INTRODUCTION

St Thomas Becket is a vibrant, two-form entry Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, warmly welcoming children from ages 5 to 11. Established in 1967, our school was founded to serve the parish families of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Addiscombe, and St Chad's, South Norwood. We remain deeply proud of our strong Catholic ethos and close-knit community roots.



Our school combines generous space with modern, high-quality facilities. Bright, airy classrooms provide an inviting environment where children feel inspired to learn. Modern additions include purpose-built permanent classrooms, an expanded central hall for assemblies, gatherings, and physical education, and dedicated technology designed to foster digital literacy and confidence.

Children join our nurturing Reception classes in the September of the academic year they turn five. Throughout their seven years with us, we support every child to flourish academically, socially, and spiritually, preparing them to move seamlessly onto secondary school at age eleven as confident, compassionate learners.

Louise Chabvuka
Headteacher



OUR MISSION & ETHOS

At St Thomas Becket, we are a vibrant, multicultural Catholic primary school that strives to be a joyful, positive force within the Church and our wider community. Underpinned by Gospel values, our school is a place where every child is nurtured to flourish spiritually, creatively, physically, socially, and academically.

Compassion, tolerance, and forgiveness are our guiding principles. We celebrate the unique gifts and abilities of every child, empowering them to become confident, caring, and capable individuals.

Our Aims: Partnering for Excellence

We believe that a child's faith and love for learning grow best through a genuine partnership between home, school, and parish. Together, we are committed to:

- **Nurturing the Whole Child:** Delivering an outstanding education that inspires high academic ambitions, celebrates different learning styles, and unlocks every child's full potential.
- **Fostering Self-Worth & Respect:** Building strong character, instilling deep respect for others, and inspiring a lifelong commitment to helping those in need—both locally and globally.
- **Deepening Faith & Worship:** Making prayer, liturgy, and reflection meaningful experiences that help children build a personal relationship with Christ.
- **Promoting Inclusion & Good Conduct:** Upholding the highest standards of behaviour in an environment that rejects prejudice, embraces diversity, and values every individual.
- **Strengthening Community Links:** Building lasting connections with our extended community to ensure a welcoming, inclusive home for every family.

In promoting the love of Christ and love of neighbour, we strive to build a fair, empowering, and deeply supportive environment where every voice is heard and every child succeeds.



ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Establishing consistent daily routines helps children feel secure and ready to learn. We work in partnership with parents to build excellent punctuality habits from the very start of your child's educational journey.

Key Time	Infants (KS1 & Reception)	Juniors (KS2)
Start of Day	8:50 am	8:50 am
Lunchtime	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	12:15 pm – 1:20 pm
End of Day	3:25 pm	3:25 pm



ATTENDANCE

St Thomas Becket is a thriving, welcoming community with over 400 pupils on roll.

We take great pride in our culture of excellent attendance, with our performance consistently remaining above both local borough and national averages. We know that regular attendance is key to every child's academic progress, confidence, and wellbeing, and we are grateful to our parents for their continued partnership in achieving these outstanding standards.







ENRICHING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At St Thomas Becket, learning extends far beyond the academic curriculum. We are proud of our long-standing tradition of offering an exceptional range of after-school clubs and extracurricular activities designed to ignite talents, build confidence, and foster healthy, active lifestyles.

Our diverse enrichment program caters to children of all age groups and abilities, ensuring every pupil can discover new passions and develop existing strengths in a supportive, fun environment.

Throughout the academic year, our extensive extracurricular offerings include:

Sports & Physical Literacy: Children can build teamwork, endurance, and sporting skills through professional coaching and teacher-led clubs in football, netball, rugby, athletics, tennis, dance, and gymnastics.

Languages & Culture: Specialist sessions in French introduce pupils to new cultures and lay early foundations for global communication and language acquisition.

Whether a child is trying a sport for the first time or competing at a high level, our inclusive approach encourages every pupil to take part. Alongside developing physical literacy and wellbeing, our after-school sports clubs provide valuable pathways for pupils to represent St Thomas Becket in local inter-school fixtures, tournaments, and community events.

NOURISHING MIND AND BODY

At St Thomas Becket, we believe that good nutrition is essential for a child's learning, energy, and well-being. Delicious, wholesome meals cooked fresh on-site every day ensure our pupils are ready to thrive throughout the active school day.

Our on-site kitchen team prepares a varied, balanced menu designed with both health and taste in mind. We provide a wide selection of hot and cold options daily, catering to diverse dietary needs while encouraging children to explore new, nutritious foods. We strongly advocate for a hot, freshly cooked meal as the best way to keep children energized and focused during the middle of the school day.

Universal Infant Free School Meals: All Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 pupils are eligible for a hot, nutritious school lunch every day at no cost under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.

Daily Fresh Fruit: Through the National Fruit Scheme, all children under seven receive a fresh piece of fruit each day. We encourage older pupils to bring a piece of fruit from home to enjoy as a healthy morning break snack.

Fresh Milk & Unlimited Water: Fresh milk is available daily, and all children—whether having a cooked lunch or a packed meal—have unlimited access to fresh drinking water throughout the day.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

At St Thomas Becket, we believe every child is a unique individual with distinct gifts, abilities, and potential. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive, nurturing environment where every child feels valued, confident, and empowered to succeed.

Celebrating Diversity & Mutual Respect

Our vibrant, multicultural school community is one of our greatest strengths. Through every aspect of school life, we foster a deep respect for all cultures, religions, languages, and perspectives. We actively challenge stereotypes and ensure all pupils have equal access and encouragement to participate in every academic, sporty, and creative activity.

Nurturing Every Voice & Talent

Empowering Every Learner: We take special care to encourage quieter or less confident children, ensuring their contributions are celebrated and their voices heard.

An Inclusive Curriculum: Our teaching and learning policy guarantees that every child enjoys full, equal access to a rich and varied curriculum.

Representative Learning Materials: We carefully curate books and educational resources that reflect our diverse, multi-racial society, allowing every child to see themselves reflected in their learning.

CURRICULUM VISION: INSPIRING LIFELONG LEARNERS

At St Thomas Becket, our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to ignite curiosity, deepen knowledge, and equip every child with essential life skills for the future. We believe that learning should be meaningful, exciting, and deeply connected to the world around us.

We place fundamental skills in English and Math at the heart of our curriculum, while ensuring children learn through rich, hands-on experiences. By combining clear knowledge acquisition with practical discovery, we make learning memorable and engaging for every child.

We actively involve pupils in planning themes of study. When learning reflects their natural interests, children are motivated, curious, and empowered.

We teach children the real-world value of what they learn, helping them connect classroom discovery to their present lives and future aspirations.

Supported by a robust teaching framework, our approach adapts to each child's unique needs and talents. Through regular self-reflection, pupils are guided to understand their own progress and confidently take their next steps as independent, resilient learners.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catholic Identity: Living & Learning in Faith

At St Thomas Becket, our Catholic identity is the heart of school life. Everything we do is a living expression of our faith. We strive to follow the teachings of Christ by fostering a caring, honest, and respectful community where every individual is valued and seen in the image of God.

Our Religious Education curriculum helps children develop a personal relationship with God through prayer, worship, and Christian living.

We work in close partnership with our parish, Our Lady of the Annunciation in Addiscombe, to support children on their faith journeys. Pupils regularly celebrate Mass both in school and at the parish church, with visits from our Parish Priest, Fr Keith.

During Lent, older pupils (Years 4–6) celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each year, our Nativity and Passion plays bring the Gospel to life for parents and parishioners.

Every classroom features a dedicated Prayer Table—a tranquil focal point for daily class prayer, quiet reflection, and spiritual growth.

Curriculum & Relationship Education

We follow the Diocesan-approved 'Lighting the Path' Religious Education scheme across all year groups. In partnership with parents, we deliver relationship and health education through the 'Journey in Love' program, supported by resources available for families to review.

Respect & Global Citizenship

Living in a diverse world, we actively teach pupils about other major world faiths and cultures. We foster a spirit of tolerance, understanding, and appreciation for the unique contributions of all communities, preparing our children to be compassionate global citizens.

EYFS (Early years foundation stage)

Starting primary school is an exciting milestone. At St Thomas Becket, we build a strong foundation for every child, nurturing proud, respectful, and confident learners within a safe and joyful environment. We work hand-in-hand with parents to ensure a smooth, supported transition into school life.

Following the EYFS Framework and the Characteristics of Effective Learning, our curriculum combines structured, teacher-led learning with high-quality play:

- Indoor & Outdoor Classrooms: Children explore dynamic indoor and outdoor spaces daily, engaging in planned and independent activities designed to lock learning into long-term memory.
- Personalised Growth: Grounded in careful baseline assessments, we track each child's progress using Tapestry digital portfolios.

We believe that vocabulary is the key to all future learning. We teach new words explicitly and immerse children in a rich culture of stories, rhymes, and poetry to boost confidence, early reading, and communication skills.

Our learning is organised around broad themes—often inspired by quality picture books and the Liturgical Year—to make learning meaningful and memorable:

- Phonics & Early Reading: Taught through the structured Read Write Inc. phonics program to build strong reading and spelling foundations.
- Early Mathematics: Guided by the White Rose Math program to develop confidence with numbers, shapes, and problem-solving.

INCLUSION

At St Thomas Becket, we are committed to making education an inspiring, enjoyable, and rewarding experience for every child, regardless of their starting point or learning needs. We monitor progress in core skills closely, ensuring that any child experiencing difficulties receives swift, targeted support.

Tailored Learning & Accessibility

We fully align with the SEND Code of Practice to ensure that all children enjoy equal access to a rich, full curriculum. Through differentiated teaching, varied learning styles, and positive behaviour strategies, we adapt our provision to support a wide range of needs, including:

- Academic & Core Skills: General learning difficulties or targeted support in literacy, numeracy, and basic skills.
- Speech, Language & Communication: Speech and language development alongside sensory or physical needs.
- Emotional & Social Wellbeing: Social, emotional, or behavioural support, alongside care for temporary or health-related circumstances.
- Enrichment & Extension: Challenge and extension for our higher-attaining, gifted, and talented pupils.
- Collaborative Care & Multi-Agency Working

Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCO) assesses and reviews individual requirements, allocating dedicated resources and Teaching Assistant support directly within the classroom. When additional specialist input is beneficial, we work collaboratively with external partners—including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and local specialist centres—to secure the best outcomes for your child.

Partnership with Parents

Parents and carers are at the heart of our SEND support process. We involve families at every stage, building a close, transparent partnership to ensure every child is empowered to reach their full potential.

PARENTS AND CARERS

We want the school to be a welcoming place for parents as well as for their children and there are many opportunities to be involved in school life.

Visits to School

Formal "Open" occasions, where parents, carers and teachers can discuss the progress of the children, take place once a term. In the summer term, the meeting is preceded by a written report from the school.

Occasional meetings are held for the parents/carers of children in particular year groups to discuss various aspects of your child's learning.

Regular newsletters are sent to parents informing them of general events and activities.

Across the year there is a range of events for parents to get involved in or to come and watch your child participate in.

Parents Helping in School

We very much welcome the assistance we receive from parents/carers in many activities within the school. All parents and carers are very welcome to join the list of helpers. We are always grateful for help to accompany educational visits, to hear children read, to help with maths games, to assist with transport to sporting fixtures and any other ways in which you can share your expertise.

If you wish to involve yourself in this please give a note in at the school office stating the times when you might be available and perhaps a suggestion of a way in which you would like to help.

ST. THOMAS BECKET SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (STBSA)

When your child joins St Thomas Becket, your whole family joins a warm, supportive community. All parents and carers are automatically members of our active School Association, which works tirelessly to enrich school life.

The Association serves two wonderful purposes: creating opportunities for parents to build lasting friendships, and raising funds for special projects that directly benefit our children. Through popular annual events—such as our Autumn and Summer Fairs, Quiz Nights, school Discos, and morning Coffee Get-Togethers—our Association generates funding for valuable extras, including new ICT equipment, rich reading resources, and interactive STEM materials.

Our Association is a cornerstone of school life, and we look forward to welcoming you into our active parent community!

A committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting held in the autumn Term runs the Association



SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY: PRIDE AND BELONGING

At St Thomas Becket, our uniform is an important expression of our school identity and shared values. Wearing our uniform promotes a strong sense of community, equality, and pride across all year groups, helping children feel ready to learn and belong.

Why We Wear Our Uniform

In line with our mission statement to maintain high standards and foster self-worth and mutual respect, our uniform policy aims to:

- **Build Community Pride:** Instil a shared sense of identity and belonging among all pupils.
- **Promote Equality & Focus:** Ensure all children feel equal to their peers while removing the distraction of fashion trends in the classroom.
- **Be Smart, Safe & Practical:** Provide comfortable, durable, and health-and-safety-conscious wear for daily school life.
- **Represent Our School:** Ensure our children look smart both in the classroom and when representing St Thomas Becket at external events and trips.
- **Offer Value for Money:** Provide parents with a practical, cost-effective dress code for the school week.



INFANTS (Reception to Year 2)

BOYS	*GIRLS*	*BOYS AND GIRLS*
Dark grey tailored trousers	**Dark grey** pinafore dress, skirt *or* trousers	**Royal blue** V-neck jumper or cardigan
Dark grey shorts (summer term)	**Royal blue** and white stripe summer dress (summer term)	White short sleeved polo shirt
Dark grey socks	Plain white or **dark grey** socks or white tights	**Royal blue** blazer (optional)

JUNIORS (Year 3 – Year 6)
The same expectations as the infants except the **polo shirt is replaced with a white shirt and tie*** for both boys and girls, in the autumn and spring terms.

NB. Year 6 boys and girls, summer uniform is optional

FOOTWEAR
Shoes should be **plain and black** (without lights) and for health and safety reasons should have flat, low heels. Trainers, boots and other leisure footwear, including sling back sandals are not allowed.

During snow conditions children may wear boots to and from school but will be expected to change to uniform school shoes during classes.

PE CLOTHING
Children wear the following for PE: Black trainers or plimsolls
Plain white T-shirt
Plain black shorts (not cycling shorts)

During the winter months, children may wear **plain navy, grey or black** track suits for PE (no logos). Pupils in Year 2 and KS2 may wear trainers for PE and outdoor activities – but these should be plain black or white.

PE kit should be worn to school on PE days and children will remain in their PE kit for the entire day.

PE kit should be worn for Extended School Activities involving sport or dance unless a special outfit is required and agreed with the school.

SCHOOL BAGS
It is compulsory to have the correct bag in accordance with the uniform policy as specified below, all of which **MUST be purchased from the School Uniform Shop** via the office:

RECEPTION	**YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2**	**YEARS 3 – 6**
Blue book bag	Blue satchel with shoulder strap	Blue satchels or rucksacks

OUTDOOR COATS, HATS, GLOVES AND SCARVES

Coats or anoraks should be **plain black, navy blue or grey** (no logos or stripes/ patterns). Hats, gloves and scarves should be **plain black, navy blue or grey.**

£6.00



£5.00





£4.00



£5.00





£5.00



£5.00



£7.00



£9.00



£5.00