ST THOMAS MORE
VC ACADEMY

St Thomas More VC Academy

The STM Way

Personal Development Curriculum

Our STM WAY Curriculum can be broken down into six key areas:

Enrichment
British Values
Life Skills
Spiritual Development
Extra-Curricular
Pupil Leadership

These, together with our core curriculum, meet our ambition to develop the **whole child**, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and experiences they need to continue to meet their potential and **Be all they can be.**

This is the STM WAY

'I have come that they might have life and have it to the full.'

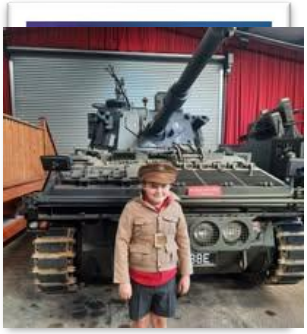
John 10:10

Enrichment Opportunities

What are they?

During their time with us, the children have many opportunities to take their learning beyond the day-to-day classroom curriculum. This could be trips out of school, visitors coming into school or other experiences.

Why are they important?



These enrichment opportunities are crucial for **long-term learning**: they often compliment the core curriculum, bringing it to life and securing it in the memory, helping to build connections and prepare for the next steps.

Additionally, our pupils benefit from key experiences designed to further build their **confidence**, self-esteem, ability to make positive contributions to society and ultimately **raise their aspirations** for the future.

How will they help our pupils?

The benefits of these enrichment opportunities are vast:

- Embedding key learning through memorable, real-life experiences.
- Raising self-esteem and confidence.
- Fostering independence and a positive view of self.
- Encouraging talk/ language acquisition and social skills.
- Widens pupils' gaze – raising aspirations, dreams and goals.
- Reinforcing British Values/Catholic Social Teaching through real life experiences.
- Helping the pupils to discover passions and talents: helping them to 'Be all they can be.'

This is the STM Way

Enrichment Opportunities

	Minimum 'Core' Experiences (Year Group Specific)
The Hub FS1 FS2	**Our Local Area** Children are given regular opportunities to explore and learn about our local area, including visits to the local park. These experiences help pupils to develop curiosity about the world around them and a sense of belonging within their community. Through practical, real-life activities such as writing letters and visiting the local post box to post them, children begin to understand how their community works and the role they play within it. These activities support pupils' personal development by building independence, confidence and communication skills. Children learn to follow routines, take turns, and behave responsibly in public spaces, developing respect for others and their environment. Exploring the local area also encourages social interaction, teamwork and resilience, helping pupils to grow in confidence as they engage with familiar adults and peers beyond the classroom setting.
Y1 Y2	**Seaside Visit** To experience the local coastline, looking at physical and human geography of the nearby area…and have lots of fun as a class team!
Y3	**Theatre Performance** To build self-esteem and confidence in front of an audience. Plus, fun exploration of language and story to enhance learning in reading/writing **Pedestrian Skills** To empower pupils with crucial safety skills in preparation for walking to/from school independently **History to Life** The children will go back in time within school and bring a period of History to Life! They will look at and interact with artifacts from the past, roleplay time from that period and experience life in that time period!
Y4	**History to Life** The children will go back in time within school and bring a period of History to Life! They will look at and interact with artifacts from the past, roleplay time from that period and experience life in that time period!
Y5	**History to Life** The children will go back in time within school and bring a period of History to Life! They will look at and interact with artifacts from the past, roleplay time from that period and experience life in that time period!

	Bike-ability Building on pedestrian skills, continuing to develop road safety awareness but on a bike! Many of our pupils use their bikes on the estate so this is crucial. **Ambassadors of Hull** Designed to build a more in-depth understanding of our city and its people. Great for building confidence as well as enhancing geographical and historical knowledge – plus fostering a pride in our hometown. **STEM Humber event** In a city where unemployment levels are high, this has the aim of opening our pupils' eyes to what work can look like to different people – raising their aspirations and opening their minds to different career possibilities. **History to Life** The children will go back in time within school and bring a period of History to Life! They will look at and interact with artifacts from the past, roleplay time from that period and experience life in that time period!
Y6	**Residential (3 nights)** With an ultimate focus on increasing independence, confidence and self-belief ready for transitioning to secondary school, the residential is also a great opportunity for team building, stepping out of comfort zones and having fun! **Children's University** visit to another city! **History to Life** The children will go back in time within school and bring a period of History to Life! They will look at and interact with artifacts from the past, roleplay time from that period and experience life in that time period!

As within our core curriculum, these key experiences have been carefully crafted to **start with the familiar and build each year** – both in distance travelling away from school and time spent away from home. These **small steps** allow pupils to **build their confidence** over time.

The choices of enrichment opportunities are made purposefully, **based on the needs of our children:** their starting points; experiences out of school and our high aspirations for them by the time they leave us and beyond.

Core Experiences (Whole School)

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Theatre Trip	Spring Disco	Sports Day
Christmas Fair	World Book Day	Music Caravan
Black History Month	NAPA Sessions	Summer Fair
		Summer Disco
World Mental Health Day	Children's Mental Health Week	Mental Health Awareness Week
Remembrance Day	Safer Internet Day	
Anti-Bullying Week		
Autumn Disco		

Life Skills

What is this?

We strive to ensure our pupils are equipped for modern life. Skills to support them with this are crucial and must be taught. Together with our families, we have **identified key life skills** for each year group to work on, ensuring our children are **always ready for the next step** and can ultimately journey on to secondary school with **confidence and independence.**

Why is it important?

Alongside their academic learning and enhancement opportunities, children must learn **real life skills**. For example, tying shoelaces, talking to staff in a shop, crossing the road safely etc. Many of our children need extra support with these areas to ensure they can **access and enjoy all that life has to offer** and contribute positively to their community.

How will it help our pupils?

By conquering these life skills progressively as they move through school our pupils will be **empowered to leap into more opportunities** and develop their independence and self-esteem.

By removing potential barriers and arming them with key skills and experiences, our children will have **better life chances** as they move into Secondary and beyond.

Our children are amazing, and capable of anything – however they often need this pointing out! These building blocks will construct a more **positive sense of self, self-belief and resilience** that will enable of pupils to communicate, problem solve, look after themselves and take on challenges.

British Values

What are they?

At the heart of our Catholic ethos is the belief that God created everyone in His own image – everyone should be treated equally and fairly. This is mirrored within the five British Values, which are taught and explored through our **PSHE curriculum**, as well as through wider opportunities through the STM Way.

Why are they important?

The Department for Education outlines the need for all schools to **promote the British Values**. The aim of this at St Thomas More is to equip our young people to be responsible, respectful and active citizens who **contribute positively to society**.

How will they help our pupils?

Through the exploration of the British Values, pupils will gain crucial knowledge and understanding to **prepare them for their future in modern Britain**. Including:

- Understanding of democratic process and how to use your voice.
- Understand the freedom to hold other faiths is protected through law and should be respected and tolerated always.
- Understand discrimination and the importance of identifying and combatting this and challenge injustice.
- Recognising their responsibilities as Global citizens.
- Developing skills to make informed choices, handle conflict, work cooperatively and be a strong communicator.
- Form a strong sense of their own identity, place in their community and are secure in their values and beliefs.

Children's Leadership

What is this?

As part of the development of the whole child, pupils have lots of opportunities to experience different **roles and responsibilities** as they move through the school. These could be a school-wide leadership role on the Cafod Council, or a class-based responsibility, for example being a book monitor.

Why is it important?

Having a responsibility enables the children to feel that they have a **purpose** in our school community, that they can use their voice to make things better and give them a **sense of pride** for the impact they have. We want all of our school family to feel that they are an equally important part of St Thomas More and can use their **unique talents and qualities** to contribute to making our school a special place.

How will it help our pupils?

By taking on these roles and responsibilities, children are able to develop many key skills that will be crucial in their next steps and beyond:

- Communication skills/Listening skills
- Self-motivation and reflection
- Organisation and time management
- Dedication and resilience
- Working as part of a team and resolving conflict appropriately
- Problem Solving
- Being flexible and adapting to different situations

Children's Leadership

"Be leaders wherever [you can]. Leaders of thought, leaders of action, leaders of joy, leaders of hope, leaders of the construction of a better world."

Pope Francis, Video Conference by CNN, 17th September 2015

Whole School Leadership Role	Class Based Leadership Role Examples
Year 6 Prefect	Reading Area Monitors
Junior Chaplaincy Team	Collective Worship Team
Mini-Vinnies	Chromebook Monitor
Anti-Bullying Ambassadors	Water Bottle Monitors
Sports Ambassadors	Book Monitors
CAFOD Council	Door Monitors
Reading Buddies	Table Captain

The prefects are appointed annually through an application process and meet regularly to review roles. Each week they nominate a pupil for the STM Way award.

They **communicate** their actions to the school community and take an **active role** in providing pupil voice around school improvement areas.

This is an integral part of ensuring our pupils feel heard and we are making decisions **together as a community** to continue to **improve their school experience.**

Spiritual Formation

What is this?

At the core of all that we do at St. Thomas More is our mission to **'Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength'** Throughout their time with us, pupils experience a carefully curated offer to enhance and **encourage a journey of Faith** through curriculum RE lessons, Prayer and Liturgy, immersion in Catholic Life and the parish community and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Why is it important?

Catholic Education exists to assist the Church her mission of **making Christ known to all people**. At St Thomas More, we firmly believe in our calling to prepare our pupils **both academically and spiritually** for the next stage in their lives.

How will it help our pupils?

Having a **firm foundation in faith** and being safe in the knowledge that you are loved unconditionally by God, is a gift that all of our pupils deserve. Life can be full of joy, but also incredibly challenging.

We strive for our pupils to take their faith with them into their lives to guide, enrich and comfort them. More than that, to drive their choices and steer them well to **help others and live out their beliefs.**

Through this, they have the opportunity to find a **community** and tap into a shared mission, all whilst growing **closer to God.**

Spiritual Formation

	RE/Catholic Life/Parish Links Enhancements
The Hub	Visit from a Religious Leader (eg Priest)
FS1	
FS2	Attend Mass in School
Y1	Visit St Josephs Church (class)
Y2	Attend Parish Mass at St Josephs Church
Y3	Visit other place of worship (non-Christian)
Y4	Attend Parish Mass at St Josephs Church
Y5	Visit from a Religious Leader (eg Priest)
Y6	Visit other place of worship (non-Christian)

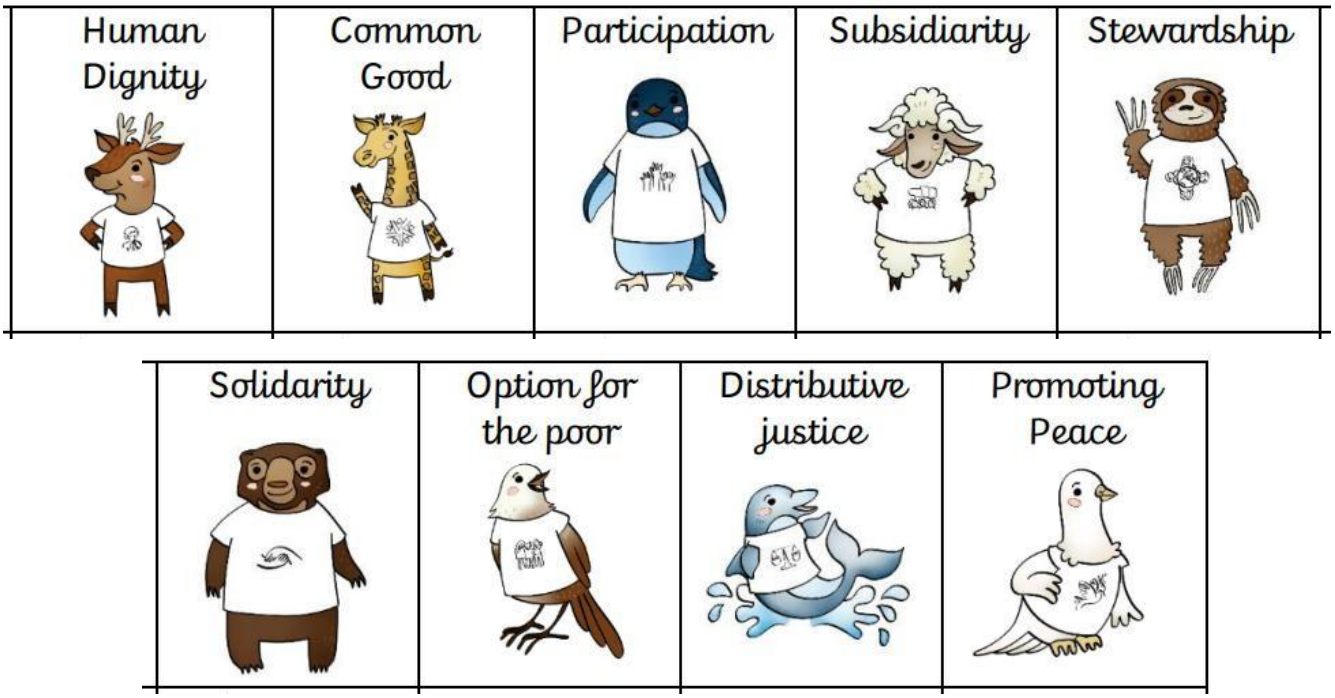
Core Experiences (Whole School)		
Autumn	**Spring**	**Summer**
New Year Mass Catholic Social Teaching Projects Advent Mass Harvest Festival International Day of Peace	Holy Week Lenten Mass Catholic Social Teaching Projects Lenten Charity Drive	Leavers' Mass Refugee Week World Earth Day Pentecost Party Day

"Education is about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands... learning so that you can think about what you feel and do, can feel what you think and do, and can do what you feel and think. Unity within a person."

Spiritual Formation

Catholic Social Teaching

We recognise the importance of the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching; rooted in the scripture, they show us how to put our faith into action.



Each Year Group is the Champion' of one of the areas of Catholic Social Teaching. Over the three terms, they will explore their area through a Catholic Social Teaching Project- putting their faith into action and helping members of society.

Extra-Curricular

What is this?

Our pupils benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities running after school and at lunchtimes. These are facilitated by a mixture of school staff and specialist coaches and are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect the current needs of our children. Clubs are either free or heavily subsidised to ensure there are no barriers for our families wanting children to attend and enjoy!

Why is it important?

We want all of our children to **harness their talents and creativity.** For some, this is within classroom learning, for others, it may be found on the football pitch or when they are singing in Choir Club. Chances to be part of a team, compete in tournaments, perform to an audience, work with specialist coaches – all these things are invaluable in the **formation of the whole child**, building their **sense of self** and capabilities for the future.

How will it help our pupils?

- Fitness and physical health
- Formation of positive relationships with peers/adults
- Establishing healthy habits
- Improving self-esteem and view of self
- Improves mental health/anxiety relief
- Raising aspirations
- Supported moving out of comfort zone

Examples of clubs on offer:		
FS2/KS1	**LKS2**	**UKS2**
Drawing Club	Choir club (singing/performing)	
Hull FC	Lego Club	
	Coding club	
Multi-Sports	Hull FC Multi-Sports	
Craft and lego club	N.A.PA	
	Netball club	
Tennis club	Football club	