



St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School

Character Development Programme

What is character development?

"Character education can encompass a wide range of curricular and extra- curricular activities, including: subject lessons, dedicated character development education lessons, assemblies, sports, performance arts clubs, outward bound activities, hobby clubs, and subject learning clubs. These opportunities help young people to explore and express their character and build the skills they need for resilience, empathy and employability."

(Character Education - Framework Guidance DFE Nov ' 2019)

Why we think character education is important at St Thomas of Canterbury

1. School leaders want our children to recognise and cherish their own uniqueness and that of others - Inspired by God's love for us
2. School leaders want our children to be moral citizens, seeking truth and justice in their locality and the wider world informed by the example of Jesus.
3. School leaders want our children to succeed academically at school and university
4. School leaders want our children to succeed economically in Modern Britain

Key aims:

Pupils to develop a deep understanding of gospel values: love, care, compassion, for oneself and for others and put these into action.

Pupils to develop a strong work ethic

Pupils to develop resilience at points of high challenge

Pupils to develop effective communication skills

The Character Development Programme at St. Thomas of Canterbury

"Together with God we reach for the stars"

School Ethos

Leaders have established a pervasive ethos of high expectations of behaviour towards others in the school community, underpinned by clearly understood and shared values - love, care and compassion for others. At St. Thomas of Canterbury children are given multiple opportunities to understand the value of hard work, effort and determination. The link between hard work and success is made explicit and celebrated by all school staff. Success through hard work is praised and rewarded: within every classroom, at assemblies and prize-giving presentations.

Challenging curriculum

School leaders have designed an ambitious, high challenge curriculum that has been carefully designed and sequenced to enable pupils to enjoy success through hard work and resilience, as they make progress mastering rigorous key content.

Pedagogical approaches, like the use of Growth Mindset "learning powers" support the pupils' learning of this challenging curriculum.

Extra-curricular provision

Alongside the school's ethos and taught curriculum, there is strong provision for extra-curricular activities. The programme is designed to focus on high quality activities across a wide spectrum of different domains - musical, sporting, cultural, creative, service to others, volunteering etc. These enable pupils to participate over time, learn and improve in their chosen activities, and to compete or perform, as appropriate.

The participation of the least advantaged and most vulnerable groups of pupils is fundamental to our inclusive approach. Possible barriers to participation, like cost or family circumstance, are understood by school leaders and proactively addressed to maximise participation.

Some extra-curricular activities are specifically designed and targeted at identified groups causing concern, for example pre-school reading groups for disadvantaged pupils or additional sports club for more sedentary children.

Annual Challenge Programme

Year 6 challenge programme	
	Details of challenge
Autumn Term	Successfully complete 3 day residential, building independence, self- reliance, self-confidence
Spring Term	Raise £400 for a good cause in the locality
Summer Term	Volunteer to organise a clean- up in the local area

Year 5 challenge programme	
	Details of challenge
Autumn Term	Walk up Mam Tor in the Peak District in one day
Spring Term	Raise £300 for a good cause in the locality
Summer Term	Volunteer/service activity - make visits to a local old peoples home – be-friending service

Year 4 challenge programme	
	Details of challenge
Autumn Term	Complete a sponsored walk of Heaton Park (5 miles)
Spring Term	Raise £200 for a good cause in the locality
Summer Term	Become a prayer partner with a member of the local church