

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Oxford Road Kidlington OX5 1EA



Headteacher: Mrs Mary-Claire Hardie

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Dear Prospective Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Principal of *'our small primary school with a giant community'*

Our current Principal is here until January 2021 and we are looking forward to working with an ambitious leader who can embed the Catholic ethos and ethic of excellence with caring at St Thomas More.

Our teachers are ambitious in their dedication to the education of the whole child. We have a strong Senior Leadership Team and committed, reflective staff, keen to learn from one another. They value the principles of collaboration, openness, and approachability.

The staff, Local Academy Committee of the school, and the Multi-Academy Board are united in their vision to foster the educational and spiritual development of our children in a nurturing environment.

We are immensely proud of our children. They are consistently praised for their behaviour and positive attitude to learning not just in school but on visits within our community and beyond. They are looking for a "kind, caring Headteacher" who "listens to us" and "helps us to learn".

Our school is often described as a family. We look forward to welcoming another member of this family who can lead us in this educational journey. As a first step we would be delighted for you to experience St Thomas More first hand – come and visit our school, community and family. Our current Head Teacher would be available to show you around by appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Capilli Francis
Chair, Local Academy Committee

Chair of The Board of Directors: Mr Paul Concannon

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

Providing outstanding education for our children with 'The Joy of the Gospel' at its heart

St Thomas More is a Catholic Primary School located in the village of Kidlington, about 5 miles north of Oxford.

This is a caring school which values each member of the community. This is encompassed in our School Mission Statement. Care and concern for the wellbeing of all children, staff and families is central to our ethos. Gospel values and motivation are cultivated in all subject areas and indeed, in all of the various activities in the school.

Our Motto

Our school motto, chosen with the whole school community, is **'With Christ we Achieve, Believe and Create.'**

Achieve – To achieve our goals and celebrate our talents through determination and resilience.

Believe – Our faith in God teaches us to believe in ourselves and to respect others.

Create – To create a safe and happy learning community filled with meaningful friendships.

Aims

Together with staff, parents, parish and community we work together with children to:

- Develop an informed Christian faith
- Develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity
- To stretch and challenge themselves enabling them to achieve their maximum potential in all areas of the curriculum
- Have high self-esteem, respecting themselves, others and the environment
- Become highly motivated lifelong learners
- To stretch and challenge themselves in all areas of the curriculum
- Embrace change positively in the rapidly advancing world they are growing up in
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively
- Gain technological skills for the modern world
- Care for others and respect individual differences

Mission

At St Thomas More we are dedicated to enabling each child to succeed through experiencing quality in:

- Prayer and community worship
- A broad and balanced curriculum
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- An enriching programme of extracurricular activities and visits
- A stimulating learning environment
- A rich, varied and up to date range of learning resources
- Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning
- Learning partnerships between school, home, parish and the wider world

We demonstrate our commitment to working as a believing and learning community by:

- Striving to ensure everyone leaves our school feeling individually fulfilled and valued as a member of our community
- Recognising that we can learn from our mistakes
- Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do

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- Working collaboratively towards common goals
- Valuing people above systems
- Respecting the beliefs of others

CATHOLIC ETHOS

As a Catholic school, our belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and in his teachings as the right way to live, are fundamental to the entire ethos of our teaching, care for and attitude towards the children.

It is integral in all aspects of school life and is outlined in our mission statement, it means that in Religious Education we are not just teaching a curriculum subject but also a living faith which we are encouraging children to share in.

Collective worship is at the heart of our role as a Catholic School. Our coming together to worship and pray is that golden moment in each day when we are drawn together, enabling the spiritual development of each child and providing opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God. Other forms of worship are arranged at special times during the school year with opportunities to take part in Carol Services, celebration Masses, including Holy days of Obligation, Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation or other traditional devotions and services.

Learning in a Caring Christian Community

Each child is unique and comes with their own gifts of the Holy Spirit. We seek to develop each child's individual talents by nurturing them academically, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. The delivery of a wide and thorough curriculum helps inspire and excite enthusiasm to learn and prepares the children for the responsibilities and experiences of life. Once a year, we share the Christian community experience of Prayer Space, which introduces every child to the concept of pausing to reflect and contemplate outside the realms of worship.

The Sacraments

The school works closely with the Parish catechists involved with the preparation of children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Catholic children in our school receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in Year 3 and the Sacrament of Confirmation in Year 6.





Appendices:

Staff's wishes for our new Head Teacher

JOB DESCRIPTION

PERSON SPECIFICATION

HOW TO APPLY – The Catholic Education Service model editable application form is attached. When completed, please email it back to the school where it will be processed in strictest confidence