

Dr Thomlinson C of E Middle School

Prospectus



Welcome

We hope that this prospectus gives you an insight into life at Dr Thomlinson Church of England Middle School.

We are proud of being a Church school at the heart of the local community – a place where everyone is safe, respected and encouraged to develop resilience and self-belief.

Our strong ethos strives to ensure each child achieves their very best; academically – through a knowledge-rich, focused and sequenced curriculum (that has the scope and ambition of the national curriculum); culturally – through both the work in our classrooms and an extensive programme of extracurricular activities and visits; spiritually – through an ethos of interdependence that flows through the life of both our school and wider community.

We aspire to achieve this by concentrating on each child's needs and well-being. It is centred around the development of core values that address the key focus of "Where every child matters, every child succeeds".

Our exciting and enquiry-based curriculum is designed to both engage and challenge our children to develop creative and interdependent thinking through strong oracy skills. We endeavour to nurture a thirst for learning and a love of reading in all of our children.

The broad content of our curriculum is enriched by covering a wide range of subjects, talents and future careers. We realise that in order for our children to be leaders in tomorrow's world they will need to demonstrate positivity, teamwork and a belief that everyone can improve through dedication and hard work.

Success, progress and celebration are very much at the heart of what we do; we look forward to sharing this ever-evolving learning journey with you.

Do not hesitate to contact us on 01669 620287 if you require any further information or to request a tour of our school.

We look forward to meeting you.

Liam Murtagh
Headteacher

About us

The first Dr Thomlinson School was built in Rothbury in 1720 when the Reverend Doctor Thomlinson left money to found a grammar school to teach English, Latin and Greek. Students were also taught Accountancy and instructed on the Catechism.

Our present school was built in June 1965 and first opened as a Secondary Modern School before becoming a Middle School for children aged 9-13 years.

well as three first schools, Abbeyfields, Thropton and Harbottle. All the schools have a long and proud history of providing an excellent education service to their local populations.

“Highly effective senior leaders, middle leaders and teachers ensure that the majority of pupils, whatever their starting points, make good progress and those who need to catch up do so quickly.”

Ofsted, 2016

Working in partnership with the Church of England and the Local Education Authority, our Voluntary Aided School serves a large rural area.

We are part of The Three Rivers Learning Trust. Our Trust was established in 2011 and consists of a single high school, The King Edward VI High School and three feeder middle schools, Dr Thomlinson, Chantry and Newminster, as

The Learning Trust is managed by a single Board of Directors to ensure the integration of educational provision for students aged between 3 and 19.

Children from Dr Thomlinson's normally transfer to The King Edward VI School at the age of 13.

Our purpose

Our purpose is to provide a broad, balanced and relevant education that caters for the whole child in a secure and caring Christian environment.

We provide an education that enables all learners to achieve their full potential.

As individuals and as a community we strive for the very best. We:

- base the whole life of the school upon Christian core values
- have an open and welcoming school for all students that provides a safe, caring and stimulating environment in which spiritual values and human relationships are nurtured
- pursue excellence in every aspect of school life
- help students acquire the skills, concepts and positive attitudes that will help them develop spiritual values, self-understanding and sensitivity to others in accordance with Christian teaching
- are a focal point for our community so that expertise and resources can be shared for the benefit of all



Teaching and learning

We have the highest expectations of our students.

We are determined to ensure that each child achieves the very best academically, socially and personally. Our curriculum is designed to engage students and inspire them to become creative and independent thinkers with a love of learning. Our progressive and innovative curriculum has received national recognition through awards such as The Rolls Royce Science Prize. Similarly, our rich and varied curriculum is demonstrated by our school's Education Quality Marks in Religious Education, Science and Geography. Our aim is that students will leave us with the skills and knowledge that will enable them to be confident and successful citizens of the twenty-first century.

"Staff are really willing to help students, both with their subjects and in extra-curricular activities."

Student

Curriculum support

The learning support team at Dr Thomlinson Church of England Middle School strives to ensure that all students receive a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to their needs.

All of our students make good progress because well-timed intervention and individual programmes really sustain their learning. We have a proven track record of supporting and developing students of all abilities.

Our Special Education Needs Coordinator, Mrs Rebecca Moss, can be contacted through the school office and a copy of the school's SEND Information Report is available via the school website.

The school has clear and effective systems for checking on pupils' progress in order to identify any individuals or groups who need extra help.

Ofsted, 2016



Collective worship

In accordance with both our Trust Deeds and statutory requirements, the collective worship of our school is placed at the centre of our daily life.

Worship is organised on both class and a whole school basis and is led by staff, students and visitors. One of the ways our school fulfils its Christian character is by having termly services in our local church, All Saints Church, and by inviting the clergy into school once each week to lead our worship.

We can reassure parents, however, that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all students, whatever their background, is of prime concern to us as a school. However Christian values are definitely built into our ethos and teaching, and are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based.



**Well-planned,
meaningful,
age appropriate
worship is offered.**

SIAMS, 2016

Religious education

In our school students experience an environment where a religious view of life is affirmed, and where their personal quest for meaning and purpose in life is encouraged.

Our students acquire a knowledge and understanding of Christianity as a world-wide, multi-cultural living faith, whilst studying the beliefs and practices of other world religions such as Buddhism, Judaism and Islam.

Children have religious education lessons each week, following a carefully planned programme of topics based on the Newcastle Diocese

Syllabus. The Education Reform Act obliges all schools to provide Religious Education, and gives parents/carers the option to request that their child be withdrawn from both these lessons and our acts of collective worship. If parents/carers have doubts or difficulties about Religious Education or our Collective Worship, they are asked to discuss them with the Headteacher.

“Religious Education is extremely well-led and managed. It anchors the school’s values allowing learners to test out their ideas safely and to make personal choices.”

SIAMS, 2016



Enrichment

We have an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities and field trips, covering a wide range of subjects, talents and hobbies.

We actively encourage students to get involved and contribute to the life of the school as we seek to enable every child to flourish.

An important element of the extra-curricular life of the school is our House system. On entry to the school, each pupil is allocated to one of three House groups. These groups are named after the Northumberland Saints: St Aidan, St Bede and St Cuthbert.

House Captains are elected each year and they lead their Houses in a range of activities including termly Inter-House sports matches. House points are awarded for good work, behaviour and effort, initiative, organising events and for those students who go the extra mile.

Success and celebration is very much at the heart of what we do and the House Cup is presented to the winning House in a Celebration Assembly each week.

“The outstanding opportunities provided through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities enable learners to reflect on their personal values and beliefs.”

SIAMS, 2016

“The visit to the Euro Space Centre in Belgium has really made me want to take up a career in Science.”

Student

“A hockey festival organised by Dr Thomlinson Middle School inspired me to take up hockey at my local club.”

Student



Sport

Dr Thomlinson Church of England Middle School offers a wide range of sporting opportunities for its students, with all children participating in at least two hours of sport a week.

We enjoy the benefits of a swimming pool which is owned by the school and run by the Rothbury Pool and Fitness Centre.

Our extensive programme of Inter-House competitions is combined with an exciting menu of sporting extra-curricular activities.

Our school has enjoyed a number of regional sporting successes in sports as diverse as rowing, football, tag rugby and table tennis.

“Sport at Dr Thomlinson Middle School has allowed me to participate in a wide range of sports, some of which I had never experienced before.”

Student

Admissions

A full copy of our Admissions criteria, including our over-subscription criteria, can be found on our website www.drthomlinson.the3rivers.net.

The governing body of Dr Thomlinson Voluntary Aided Church of England Middle School is the Admissions Authority for the school. There are places for up to 60 pupils in Year 5 and subsequently in Years 6, 7 and 8. Most of our students come to us at the age of 9 from the First Schools of Harbottle, Thropton

and Rothbury. Students also come to us from the areas served by Swarland First School and Longhorsley St Helen's Church of England Aided First School, as well as locations further afield.

All admissions are dealt with by Northumberland County Council and information on the admission process can be found on their website www.northumberland.gov.uk.

“Pastoral care nurtures the uniqueness of each learner resulting in strong relationships, positive attitudes, high levels of self-esteem and confidence in learning.”

SIAMS, 2016



Part of
**The
Three
Rivers**
Learning Trust

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