



St. Thomas' Primary School Handbook



Welcome to St. Thomas' Primary School

I would like to welcome you and your child to St. Thomas' Primary School. This handbook contains a range of information that you might find helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the school or check the school website if you require more information.

I hope that this handbook gives you the required information of life at St. Thomas' Primary School. We look forward to having you and your child work with us and hope that this will be the start of a strong partnership.

Yours sincerely,

Celine McGuire
Acting Head Teacher

Last updated Oct 2019

Our Mission Statement

In St Thomas' Primary we value each individual and strive to treat each other with compassion, equality and fairness in order to promote honesty, respect and positivity. We believe that everyone has the right to be treated fairly in an inclusive environment where there is compassion, tolerance and respect.

Vision

In St Thomas' Primary, our vision is to provide a nurturing and positive ethos for the whole school community underpinned by the values of our Catholic faith. We believe that each individual matters and that their lives and experiences are valued and respected. We endeavour to develop the whole child, meeting individual needs in a safe, secure and stimulating environment. Every member of our school community is encouraged to take responsibility, to have high expectations of themselves and others, in order to grow and develop as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

Values

The shared values in our school, which are actively promoted, are reflected in its ethos based on the Gospel Values of the Catholic Church, which include respect, honesty, kindness, equality and fairness. We celebrate social and cultural diversity so that everyone feels valued and respected at all times.

Aims

At St Thomas' our aims are:

- To continue to develop high quality learning and teaching experiences in order to raise levels of achievement and attainment
- To provide a nurturing and motivating learning environment matched to the individual needs of all children
- To promote inclusion and equality for all children and their families and to value and celebrate diversity
- To maintain positive partnerships with parents, parishes and others in the community to encourage children to become active and responsible citizens
- To develop children who are resilient, cooperative, adaptable, self-disciplined and are able to meet the challenges of society.

Our School Motto

A priority for our school continues to build upon the strong sense of community and to extend and develop community links. Our motto 'Working Together, Learning Forever' continues to reflect our desire to work as a community and is visible around the school, part of our school uniform badge and referred to in our weekly assemblies.

School Information

You can cut out the following information and have it on your fridge, purse or work desk etc. for ease of finding the information required.

Contact Details:

8 Smithycroft Road

Riddrie

Glasgow

G33 2QJ

Phone: 0141 770 4360

Email: headteacher@st-thomas-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

www.st-thomas-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Background information:

- Co-educational school
- Roman Catholic School
- Stages taught: P1-P7
- Current Roll: 435

Organisation of Classes

The following guidelines set by the Scottish Government apply:

P1	maximum of 25 pupils
P2&3	maximum of 30 pupils
P4-7	maximum of 33 pupils
Composite classes	maximum of 25 pupils

Composite classes have pupils from more than one stage

There are eighteen primary classes with present rolls as follows:

P1a	24	P4a	31
P1b	24	P4b	31
P1c	23	P5a	33
P2a	16	P5b	28
P2b	20	P6a	23
P2c	19	P6b	27
P3a	24	P7a	20
P3b	24	P7b	25
P3c	21	P7c	22

Learning Community

St Thomas' Primary School is part of the St Mungo's Learning Community. We work in close partnership with the Learning Community which consists of 5 partner primary schools, St Mungo's Academy, Cardinal Winning Secondary and two early years establishments to raise achievement and attainment.

School Staff

Acting Head Teacher	Mrs C McGuire
Depute Head Teacher (P4 – P7)	Mr L McLaren
Depute Head Teacher (P1-P3)	Miss S Hughes
Principal Teacher	Mrs D Reid
Principal Teacher	Mrs J Chalmers
Principal Teacher	Miss L Sweeney

P1a	Mrs K McKinney
P1b	Miss K Gallagher
P1c	Mrs A Morcombe
P2a	Mrs F Kuchar
P2b	Mrs M Thomson
P2c	Miss J Graham
P3a	Mrs G Lynch
P3b	Miss S Bradley
P3c	Mrs T Mather
P4a	Mrs M Gardiner
P4b	Mrs M Gray

P5a Mrs D Christie
P5b Miss M Hay
P6a Miss N Cheaitou
P6b Miss A Bowie
P7a Miss D Docherty
P7b Miss S Bergin
P7c Mrs L McNab

Nuture Mrs M McBride
NCCT Miss J Low
Learning Support Miss A Gara

Clerical Support Assistants Mrs E McLachlan
Mrs L McGoldrick
Mrs N White

Support for Learning Workers Mrs C Battersby
Miss K Ferguson
Mrs M McKenna
Mrs M Smith (Nuture)
Miss C McDermott
Mrs L Donlin
Mrs J Marley
Miss C Maguire
Miss E Booth

School Janitor Mr J Cook

Visiting Clergy

Parish Priest Father Neil McGarrity

Enrolment

P1 enrolments take place in November and are advertised widely in the local press. When pre-school children enrol for education for the first time, parents are invited to visit the school and meet the Head Teacher. Posters with the date and time of this meeting are displayed in local churches and nursery schools. Parents wishing to enrol their child in the school should complete the online enrolment form.

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18426>

Later in the session, around April/May the Head Teacher will contact parents to invite them to visit the school with their child to take part in the pre-school induction programme. This is an opportunity for parents to learn more about the school and for the children to become familiar with their new learning environment and to meet future classmates. If possible, they will also meet their class teacher for the coming session. As appropriate, children who have additional support for learning needs will experience an enhanced transition programme to support them.

Where the child does not live within the catchment area, the parent should make contact with their local school, where placing request application forms are available and can also be completed on line. Further information on placing requests is available from the above link.

Parents who wish to seek a place in the school for their children other than at Primary One can visit the school by appointment, talk with the Head Teacher and see the facilities.

The School Day

School Opens	9.00 am
Morning Interval	10.30 am - 10.45 am
Lunchtime	12.15 pm - 1.00 pm
School Closes	3.00 pm

P1 children will remain in school until 3pm from the first day of term.

School Term Dates

Details of holiday dates are available on the Glasgow City Council website:
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17024>

Pupil Absence

Within Glasgow Primary School good attendance is encouraged at all times and children rewarded accordingly. Parents are asked to advise if their son or daughter is going to be absent. This should be done as early as possible on the first day of absence. If the young person is going to be absent for some time, it would be helpful to know at the earliest opportunity. The school uses daily text messaging to inform parents and carers of absence if no contact is made. All unexplained absences are investigated by the school and appropriate action taken. All calls must be made to the Pupil Absence Reporting Line on 0141 287 0039. The line is open between: 08.00-15.30 Monday to Friday. Alternatively you can use the online form on the Glasgow City Council website:
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18832>

Medical & Healthcare

The school nurse visits at various times during the year for routine health checks, vaccinations and medical examinations. Parents are kept informed by letter.

If a child becomes ill during the course of the school day, he/she may require to be sent home. Please ensure that you keep the school informed of all contact details.

Parents should inform the school of any medical requirements relating to their child. If a child requires medication during the school day, parents must complete the appropriate medical form. This is available on request from the school office.

Emergencies

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service, but on some occasions circumstances arise which lead to disruption. Schools may be affected by, for example, severe weather, temporary interruption of transport, power failures or difficulties of fuel supply.

In such cases, we shall do all we can to let you know about the details of our closure or re-opening by using letters, texts and the local media etc.

Clothing

Given that there is substantial parental / carer and public approval of a dress code, schools in this authority are encouraged to develop a school dress code. In encouraging a dress code account must be taken in any proposals to prevent any direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of race or gender. Any proposals will be the subject of widespread consultation with parents/ carers and young people. Against this background it should be noted that it is the policy of the Education and Social Work Services Committee to encourage schools to develop an appropriate dress code policy.

There are forms of dress that are unacceptable in school, such as items of clothing which:

- Potentially, encourage faction (such as football colours)
- Could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbolism or political slogans)
- Could cause health and safety difficulties, such as loose fitting clothing, dangling earrings
- Are made from flammable material for example shell suits in practical classes
- Could cause damage to flooring
- Carry advertising, particularly for alcohol or tobacco
- Could be used to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so.

Under no circumstances will pupils be deprived of any educational benefit as a result of not wearing clothing conforming to the school's dress code policy. It is a long standing tradition that the children of St Thomas' wear the school uniform. This tradition is still very popular with today's parents. It gives the children a sense of identity and prevents competition in fashion dressing.

The School Uniform

The school uniform is:

- White shirt
- School tie
- Grey trousers
- Grey/green skirt
- Green jumper/cardigan
- Black shoes

The PE kit is:

- Red polo shirt
- White shorts

It is important that pupils come prepared to learn and for PE this requires appropriate clothing. All jewellery should be removed. Pupils who are not participating in PE must have a note or a medical certificate. Pupils who are unable to participate in practical PE should still bring their kit to allow them to assist in the lesson by refereeing, keeping scores or assisting with the distribution of equipment. This ensures that they are still able to take part in some way in the work of the class and do not miss out on the knowledge and understanding of the course.

Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts, shorts and ties with the school logo are available for purchase at:

<https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/st-thomas-primary-school-glasgow.html>

Or in store at:
BE Schoolwear
35 Argyle St
Glasgow
G2 8AH

Tel 0141 221 4472

Our uniform was agreed in consultation with pupils and parents. It is expected that all children attending Glasgow Primary School will adhere to this dress code.

Clothing & Footwear Grants

Parents/Carers receiving Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Working Tax Credit (check link below for thresholds), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Universal Credit (check link below for thresholds) will normally be entitled to monetary grants for footwear and clothing for their children. Information and application forms may be obtained from schools and at

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17885>

School meals

Our school provides a lunch service which offers a variety of meals and snacks. Medical diets for children can be provided. Further information can be found here: [http://www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk/UserFiles/files/Medical Diet Leaflet%20-%20June%202017%20WEB.pdf](http://www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk/UserFiles/files/Medical%20Diet%20Leaflet%20-%20June%202017%20WEB.pdf). Please inform the Headteacher.

Children who prefer to bring packed lunches will be accommodated in a suitable area.

All children in P1-4 are entitled to a free school meal.

If you plan to send your child/children to breakfast club, you should inform the staff of any medical dietary requirements.

Children and young people of parents/carers receiving Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, Working Tax Credit (check link below for thresholds), Child Tax Credit only (check link below for thresholds), Universal Credit (check link below for thresholds) and income-related Employment and Support Allowance are entitled to a free midday meal. Information and application forms for free school meals may be obtained at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17885>

The Breakfast Club



Glasgow's Big Breakfast is available in all Glasgow primary schools every week day morning. Children can enjoy a nutritional breakfast of fruit juice, cereal and milk, toast and fresh fruit prior to the start of the school day. Children have the opportunity to socialise with their friends in a supervised and safe environment. Breakfast is available from 8.00am until 8.45am at a cost of £2 per day for the eldest child, £1 per day for all other siblings and free of charge to children who are entitled to free school meals

Snack Time

To support schools, parents and carers in the promotion of healthy snacks, we sell only water at a cost of 40p. Please provide your child with a snack such as fresh fruit or a healthy breakfast bar. Please remember that we are a nut free school therefore please ensure that all children's snacks and lunches are nut free.

Lunch

The Fuel Zone serves healthy food in a bright and informal environment where children can enjoy lunch. The menu is shared with parents and rotates on a three week cycle giving children more variety at lunchtime. Three meal choices are available daily: main meal,

vegetarian or snack meal. Children can select from soup and bread, fruit and vegetables, yoghurt or jelly and milk to accompany their meal. A halal menu is also available if required. Further information on meal choices can be found here : <http://www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk/meals.html>

Special Diets

If your child has a special medical diet requirement please obtain a letter detailing information about this from your dietician/doctor. Please then contact the Head Teacher who will deal with your request. Medical diets for children can be provided. Further information can be found here: [http://www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk/UserFiles/files/Medical Diet Leaflet%20-%20June%202017%20WEB.pdf](http://www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk/UserFiles/files/Medical%20Diet%20Leaflet%20-%20June%202017%20WEB.pdf)

Transport

The education authority has a policy of providing free transport to all pupils who live outwith a certain radius from their local school by the recognised shortest walking route. This means that the provision of transport could be reviewed at any time. Parents/Carers who consider they are eligible can apply online at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17882>

Transfer from Primary to Secondary School

Children and young people normally transfer between the ages of 11 ½ and 12 ½, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years of secondary education. Parents and carers will be informed of the school arrangements no later than December of P7. Children from our school normally transfer to:

St Mungo's Academy
235 Crownpoint Road
Glasgow
G40 2RA
Phone: 0141 582 0260
Email: headteacher@stmungosacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
www.st-mungosacademy.glasgow.sch.uk

St. Mungo's Academy staff work with our pupils from Primary 6 onwards to prepare them for the transfer to secondary school.

Communication with Parents

At St Thomas' Primary School we use a variety of ways to keep in touch.

Open Door Policy – the senior leadership team are available for all parents and carers at any time providing they are not teaching or in another meeting. Please either pop in to the school office or phone for an appointment.

Newsletters – will be sent out on a regular basis to keep parents informed about the work of the school.

Letters – further information which requires a response may be sent out in letter form.

School website & Twitter – will contain a great deal of information about the school. It is a good idea to check this regularly.

Text messaging – You may also receive text reminders about events/school closures etc.

Meetings - Parents and carers are welcome in the school to discuss any aspect of their child's development and progress. To avoid disappointment, it is advisable to make an appointment. There are various opportunities throughout the year when parents can discuss their child's progress with the class teacher and view the child's work.

Parents and carers are welcome at other events throughout the school year e.g. workshops, information evenings, class performances, religious and other assemblies. The school newsletter and website will keep you informed.

Emergency Contact Information

At the start of each school session, parents will be issued with the annual data check form. Please ensure that this is completed and returned to the school. It is also important that you let us know if there are changes to your telephone number(s) or to those of your emergency contacts throughout the year.

Data Protection – use of information about children and parents/carers

We collect information about children attending school (and also about parents/carers, emergency contacts etc. provided in the annual data check) to allow us to carry out the Council's functions as the education authority for the City of Glasgow. This may sometimes involve releasing personal information to other agencies and other parts of the Council, particularly in relation to child protection issues or criminal investigations, and it may also be used for research purposes (see the link below for more details regarding this).

Information held by the school is, in legal terms, processed by Glasgow City Council. The Council is registered as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018 and all personal data is treated as confidential and used only in accordance with the Data Protection Act, the General Data Protection Regulations, and the Information Use and Privacy Policy approved by the City Council. For more information on how we use personal information, or to see a copy of the Information Use and Privacy Policy, see <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18010>

Education specific privacy statements can be accessed at:
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=22069>

Appointments during school hours

If your child has an unavoidable appointment, please give them a letter for their class teacher and then collect them from the school office at the specified time.

Comments & Complaints

In St Thomas' Primary School we aim to have positive relationships across our school community. However, if you have a comment or complaint about any aspect of school life, please contact the Headteacher in the first instance.

Glasgow City Council complaints procedures are available:
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16133>

Customer Care Team
Customer & Business Services
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers
Glasgow G2 1DU

Tel: 0141 287 0900

e-mail: customercare@glasgow.gov.uk or education.customercare@glasgow.gov.uk

The above website also includes information on data protection and freedom of information.

Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence 3-18

Curriculum for Excellence has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching for all 3 to 18 year olds. It aims to help prepare children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need in a fast changing world. As part of Curriculum for Excellence all children from pre-school to the end of S3 will receive a rounded education known as a Broad General Education (BGE). Curriculum for Excellence is all about bringing real life into the classroom and taking lessons beyond it.

Through the experiences we provide at St Thomas' Primary School we want our children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. We are committed to providing children with a broad general education and focus on eight curriculum areas.

Expressive Arts	Health & Wellbeing	Languages	Mathematics
Religious & Moral	Sciences	Social Studies	Technologies

Progress in learning is indicated through curriculum levels as detailed below.

Level	Stage
Early	The pre-school years and P1 or later
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some
Third & Fourth	S1-S3, but earlier for some

Expressive arts: The inspiration and power of the arts play a vital role in enabling our children and young people to enhance their creative talent and develop their artistic skills.

Health and wellbeing: Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge, understanding and skills which they need now and in the future to help them with their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Science: Science and its practical application in healthcare and industry is central to our economic future, for our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society.

Social Studies: Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and places both past and present, societies, their beliefs and values.

Religious and moral education: Religious and moral education includes learning about Christianity, Islam and other world religions, and supports the development of beliefs and values.

Languages: Knowing other languages and understanding other cultures is a 21st century skill set for students as they prepare to live and work in a global society.

Mathematics: Mathematics equips us with the skills we need to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions.

Technologies: The range of subjects in technical education has changed significantly over the last two decades and now includes craft, design, engineering and graphics.

There will be opportunities throughout the year for parents and carers to learn more about aspects of the curriculum and to be consulted about significant changes if appropriate.

Useful websites

Education Scotland www.education.gov.scot

National Parent Forum of Scotland www.npfs.org.uk

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools

Parents are the first and best teachers of spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. The school's role is to support the parents in this task. In St Thomas' Primary we do this by creating a strong ethos in order to foster positive values such as respect, love, tolerance, understanding and justice. Being a Roman Catholic school, our ethos stems from basic Christian values. Our religious education curriculum is determined by the Church authorities laid out in accordance with the experiences and outcomes of the RERC curriculum for excellence. A minimum of two and a half hours per week is given to Religious Education based on the syllabus for RE 'This Is Our Faith' and 'God's Loving Plan'. These documents are carefully structured to take account of the children's age and stage of development. They ensure a sense of unity and coherence from Primary 1 to Primary 7. In presenting Christianity, the programmes highlight the four pillars of the Catholic Faith: Creed, Sacraments, Christian Living and Prayer. Prayers are said daily in all classes and prayer services, liturgical assemblies and Mass take place on appropriate occasions. The local Priest is a welcome visitor and helps the children to deepen, develop and express their faith.

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation take place at the appropriate stages in the children's development i.e. Reconciliation P3; First Communion P4 and Confirmation P7. As part of their Religious Education children in P6 and P7 will learn about God's plan for the creation of new life. A meeting will be held for parents / carers prior to the children beginning these lessons and all materials used with the children will be discussed at this meeting.

The Religious Education programme plays a vital role in ensuring that all pupils regardless of race, culture, class, gender or disability are developed to their full potential. We aim to help them to gain insights into the beliefs and practices of other faiths. Therefore, Judaism and Islam are introduced as per the experiences and outcomes of a curriculum for excellence. Parents and carers from religions other than Christianity may request that their children be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Only written requests detailing the proposed arrangements will be considered. Appropriate requests will be granted on not more than three occasions (days) in any one school session and the child noted in the register using code REL on these days. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from religious observance and should inform the school in writing.

Assessment and Reporting

All children are assessed both formally and informally throughout the year. This allows children and their teachers to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. A variety of assessment methods are used to enable staff to pass on information to parents about the progress of their child. Assessment records are kept by the class teacher and form the basis of discussion at Parents' Evenings in October and March/April. An interim report and end of year report are sent to parents in December and June.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress do not hesitate to contact the school.

Support for Pupils

The school has a duty to ensure that all pupils have equal access to the curriculum, with appropriate support for their needs if required. This applies to the content of lessons, teaching strategies and minor adaptations to the school environment. There are a wide range of factors which may act as a barrier to learning. We are committed to working closely with parents and carers to ensure that they are fully involved in any decisions about support for their children's needs.

Any parent or carer seeking further advice regarding this policy should contact the Headteacher in the first instance.

Further information relating to additional support needs is available on the Glasgow City Council website at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18941>

Information on the Glasgow City Councils' Parental Involvement Strategy can also be found at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17870>

Nurturing City

The Glasgow City Council vision 'towards the nurturing city', puts building positive, trusting relationships at the core of our work. We ensure children, young people and families feel they belong, they are listened to and they are valued by embedding the principles of nurture across our early years, primary and secondary establishments. Staff are trained in attachment and nurture which deepens understanding of child development and enhances effective practice by responding to the needs of all children and young people in a consistent and caring way. Nurture is a universal approach which builds resilience, helping to reduce the impact of adversity. Effective communication and collaboration with parents and carers builds an ethos of partnership working putting the child at the centre, fostering high quality learning contexts.

Each of our nurturing establishments contribute to the development of Glasgow as a nurturing city, creating safe environments which allow our children and young people to flourish by raising attainment and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

School Improvement

On an annual basis, you will receive a copy of our Standards and Quality report. Copies from previous years are available on the school website. The Standards and Quality report highlights progress in key curricular areas such as literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing. Our priorities for improvement are detailed in our School Improvement Plan which is discussed with our Parent Council. Any parent or carer seeking a copy of the plan can contact the school office or check out our website.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Children's Rights as outlined in the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) are fundamental to a good school ethos. Adults in our school will work with children to ensure they are aware of their rights and fully respect the rights of others. Therefore, the approach within St Thomas' Primary School is to build a positive ethos that demonstrates care and respect for all. Positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated. Our school operates a system of class charters to set out expected behaviour. This is celebrated through Golden Time treats, awards at assemblies and certificates sent home to parents etc.

The highest standards of behaviour are expected of pupils at all times. Where this is not the case, a variety of sanctions are used. Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging a sense of responsibility and good behaviour in their children.

Home Learning

Home learning is encouraged as it is hoped that parents will, by their interest, reinforce what their child learns in school and foster learning for life. Not all home learning has to be written. Parents can encourage reading for enjoyment or oversee rote learning e.g. of tables or spelling. Throughout the year a variety of additional shared home learning tasks will be issued with differentiated tasks dependent on stage and with some tasks related to class topic. These activities will develop Personal and Social Development and also give children the opportunity to learn at home in a fun and purposeful way. Help can be given with researching information or accompanying children to the local library.

Homework is allocated on a weekly basis in Primary 1-7. We aim to provide a variety of homework activities that will consolidate and reinforce learning taught in school. Activities will include reading, games, practical activities and preparing for class work. The format for our homework will take the following approach:

- Personal or class based reading every night
- Monday: Language Activities
- Tuesday: Maths Activities
- Wednesday: Language Activities
- Thursday: Maths Activities

The length of time for home learning will depend on the age and ability of the child:

- Primary 1-3– maximum of 20 minutes per night
- Primary 4-7 – maximum of 30 minutes per night

Extra-Curricular Activities

After school clubs are organised by staff and professionals throughout the year in specific activities such as Dance, Gymnastics, Football, Judo, Choir and French.

These clubs are for children from Primary 1-7 in the school and take place in classrooms, the gym hall or on the Muga pitch.

Parent Council

The Parent Council is a group of parents/carers who are working towards:

- Supporting the work of the school
- Gathering and representing parents' views to the Head Teacher, education authority and HMIE
- Promoting contact between the school, parents/carers, children and young people and the local community
- Fundraising
- Involvement in the appointment of senior school staff

Parent Councils are recognised in law from August 2007. As a statutory body, the Parent Council has the right to information and advice on matters which affect children and young people's education. So the school and local authority must listen to what the Parent Council says and give it a proper response. Every school's Parent Council will be different because it will be parents/carers in each school who make the key decisions. The Parent Council is also entitled to support from the education authority in fulfilling its role.

Membership of the Parent Council

Generally, members of the Parent Council must be parents/carers of children and young people who attend the school and the chairperson must have a child in the school. However, the Parent Council can decide to co-opt other members from teachers and the community who will have knowledge and skills to help them. As St Thomas' is a denominational school, St Thomas' Church has been invited to nominate a representative to be a co-opted member. Parent Council minutes are available on request.

Useful Contacts

Parentzone Scotland is a unique website for parents and carers in Scotland, from early years to beyond school. The website provides up-to-date information about learning in Scotland, and practical advice and ideas to support children's learning at home in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and science. Information is also available on Parentzone Scotland regarding additional support needs, how parents can get involved in their child's school and education. Furthermore, the website has details about schools including performance data for school leavers from S4-S6; and links to the national and local authority and school level data on the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels. Parentzone Scotland can be accessed at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>.

Connect

Connect is a national organisation that provides advice and resources for parents and carers. www.connect.scot

Enquire Scotland

Enquire is a national advice service for families with additional support needs. www.enquire.org.uk

Glasgow City Council

Education Services
City Chambers East
40 John Street
Glasgow G1 1JL

Tel: 0141 287 2000