



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL AND NURSERY TRANSITION POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full - John 10:10

As a Catholic school, God is at the heart of all we do. We believe that each person is made in His image, deserving to be treated with respect and dignity.

Showing respect, love and care for everyone and everything, we aim to develop harmony between pupils, parents, the school and Parish and grow as a Christian community.

We aim to embed the virtues in every child to believe in themselves to be the best that they can be and leave school as well-rounded individuals who care about themselves, others, and the world.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the Health and Safety Policy, Medical Needs Policy, First Aid Policy, Safeguarding Policy and the Preschool/Nursery Policy

Date drafted: September 2025

Date ratified by the Governing Body: January 2026

Date for review by Staff and Governors: September 2026

St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Lewis Road | Cheltenham | Gloucestershire | GL51 0HZ

Head Teacher: Mrs K Turner

Tel: 01242 513339 | Fax: 01242 257402 | Email: admin@st-thomasmore.gloucs.sch.uk

www.st-thomasmore.gloucs.sch.uk

Transition concerns the change a child encounters from one place to another. As children develop from birth throughout childhood they move from one learning environment to another.

Often these transitions involve a process of change that requires them to adapt their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours to meet new expectations. By the time a child reaches school age they may have already experienced several transition periods, including:

- The transition from home to Nursery
- The transition from Nursery to Preschool
- The transition from Preschool to school

AIMS

Transition is like a journey and takes time, preparation, and planning.

Adults can help a child's journey into unfamiliar territory by supporting them before, during and after the transition occurs. At St Thomas More Preschool/ Nursery, staff collaborate with parents, carers, and teachers, sharing information they have about the child and what support he or she may need.

We believe all children should feel comfortable, confident, and as emotionally secure as possible as they move through phases or settings.

Young children need to feel they are a valuable and competent member of the new social group, and we help them to develop positive attitudes towards the range of new experiences they will encounter. We will help them retain the self-confidence and self-respect they have already gained from us.

TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL/ NURSERY - SETTLING IN

When Starting Preschool/Nursery:

- a home visit is arranged with parents, so staff can get to know the child and parents in familiar surroundings
- Children and parents are always welcomed warmly and invitingly into Preschool/ Nursery
- Children and their parents to be aware of who their child's individual key person is
- Staff provide parents/carers with relevant information regarding the policies and procedures of the Preschool/ Nursery
- Staff plan settling in visits and introductory sessions (lasting 1-2 hours). These will be provided free of charge over a one- or two-week period dependent on individual needs, age, and stage of development.
- Staff welcome parents/carers to stay with their child during the first few sessions until the child feels settled and the parents/carers feel comfortable about leaving him/her. Encourage parents to bring any form of comforter to aid the settling process.
- Staff encourage parents/carers, where appropriate, to separate themselves from their children for brief periods at first, gradually building up to longer absences
- Staff respect the circumstances of all families, including those who are unable to stay for extended periods of time in the Preschool / Nursery and reassure them of their child's progress towards settling in

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

During the term before school:

- For children transitioning from Preschool into EYFS we will start creating more opportunities for free flow between the two rooms and opportunities to spend time with class teachers
- We will talk in positive terms about the new experience and welcome feedback from children, being sensitive to any concerns.
- We read "Starting School" stories
- We encourage children to talk about their school visits (if starting at another setting) and even to bring in their new uniform to show us, if they wish
- An accurate transition record completed in partnership with the parents will be passed on to the child's new teacher if the child is not transitioning into the main school
- Children attending St Thomas More Catholic Primary School receive additional transition 'Stay and Play' sessions