



St Thomas Aquinas School

Quality Catholic education

Parent Information Book

Contact us

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Principal: Mrs Teresa Jarvis

Mercy Values

CHaSERS is our school-wide home learning programme which focuses on our Mercy Values. This was created to provide our students with learning experiences around each of these Mercy Values:

Compassion

Compassion is about loving and caring for your family and friends, and about showing kindness to people who are feeling sad or upset to help them feel better. The mercy value of compassion is about feeling that you can make a difference.

Hospitality

Hospitality is about making people feel welcome – whether it is someone new or someone you have known for a long time.

Social Justice

Social justice is about being responsible for one another and trying our best to be fair by taking our turn and sharing. It is about trying to make sure everyone is treated fairly and justly.

Excellence

Excellence is about trying your very best in everything that you do. It doesn't matter if something is new and really hard, or something you do every day – you give it 100% effort every time.

Respect

Respect is about recognising the gifts and talents of the people around you. It is also about being responsible for our own actions and our own choices.

Service

Service is about helping others. You help others because it is what God wants you to do, and you don't ask for pocket money or some other reward in return.

Special Character of St Thomas Aquinas School

The Special Character of St Thomas Aquinas,' as defined in the Integration Agreement, is "A Roman Catholic School in which the whole school community, through the general programme and in its religious instructions and observances, exercises the right to live and teach the values of Jesus Christ. These values are expressed in the Scriptures and in the practices, worship and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, as determined from time to time by the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese".

At St Thomas Aquinas we aim to:

- Provide professional quality education for the children of St Thomas Aquinas Parish.
- Provide a caring, learning environment at school where Christian Gospel teaching is lived out in the daily lives of our children, parents and friends of the community.
- Support Parents in passing on Catholic faith and values to their children.
- Educate children in the knowledge, beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. provide opportunities for our children and the St Thomas' Parish community to be involved in the celebrating sacramental Church.

Mission Statement

Quality Catholic Education Our Vision: A supportive environment where we live our faith and celebrate our learning in life. At St Thomas Aquinas School we are CHASERS.

We live through our Mercy Values of: Compassion, Hospitality, Social Justice, Excellence, Respect, Service.

Vision

A supportive environment where we live our faith and celebrate our learning in life. At St Thomas Aquinas School we are CHASERS. We live through our Mercy Values of: Compassion, Hospitality, Social Justice, Excellence, Respect, Service.

Mass Times

These are the Mass times for our parish community at St Thomas Aquinas Church:

Monday	7:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am
Wednesday	9:00am
Thursday	7:00pm
Friday	4:30pm
Sunday	10:30am

Religious Education

Religious Education is taught in every classroom. Children go to a class Mass every two weeks and will mark liturgical year celebrations with a whole school Mass. Prayers are held daily in the classroom and school prayers are held every fortnight.

Sacramental Programme offered in school

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Penance (or Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession) is for spiritual healing. Catholics believe Jesus left the Sacrament of Penance because only God's grace can heal a wounded soul.

After you confess your sins, the priest gives you a penance to perform. This may be doing something nice for others and/or a set of prayers, such as saying the Our Father or the Hail Mary, a certain number of times.

Confirmation

This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. The focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost and gave them courage to practise their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms Catholics during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts and fruits.

Holy Communion

The Holy Eucharist is food for the soul, so it's given and eaten during Holy Communion at the Mass. When you receive Holy Communion, you're intimately united with Jesus Christ — he literally becomes part of you. Also, by taking Holy Communion, you express your union with all Catholics who believe the same doctrines, obey the same laws, and follow the same leaders.

Bell Times

8:30am	School opens for students (Children should not be onsite before 8.30am)
9.00am	Classes begin
11.00-11.20am	Morning tea
12:45 pm	Lunch
1:45 pm	Afternoon classes begin
2:50 pm	Children go home
3.00pm	Bus departs school for Central Southland College where they get onto the bus that will take them home

Assemblies

These are usually held every second Friday morning at 9.05am. Special Assemblies are held as required. Each class will take responsibility to host the assembly throughout each term.

Behaviour Management

[Click here to view our Behaviour Management plan](#)

[Click here to view our Positive Behaviour Matrix](#)

Buses

Children are able to come to school on the bus each morning and go home each afternoon. After school, bus children are picked up by one bus which takes them to

Central Southland College where the students get onto their respective bus. Bus routes are available from school, or by phoning Go Buses on (03) 236 7921.

It is **extremely important** that the school is informed by phoning the office (by 2.30pm) or sending a note if your child is **NOT** to travel on their bus on a particular day.

Calendar

A calendar of key dates is provided on this website. Please refer to this as dates are updated frequently.

Cellphones

Pupils are not permitted cell phones at school. If they (cell phones) are brought, please hand them in to the teacher and they can be picked up by the child at 2:50 pm.

Dental Clinic

The school dental service is based at Winton Primary School. Families will receive a phone call from the dental clinic regarding your child's appointment. Should you have any concerns over your child's teeth you are able to contact the clinic at any time on 03 236 7104.

Catholic Dues

The school 'dues' are a fee that is discussed with you by the parish priest. This is dealt with by the Dunedin Diocese.

Health Nurse

The Public Health Nurse visits the school on a regular basis. If you have any queries regarding your child's health you may make an appointment to see her through the school office.

High Vis Vests

Each child is allocated a high vis vest when they start school. This is to be worn to and from school and when going on school trips or camps.

Internet Safety Use

We ask that parents sign an internet safety agreement if they wish to have their children use the internet and web while at St Thomas Aquinas School. We go over the safeguards with the children regularly.

Library

Each class has weekly library sessions. A maximum of two books is allowed at any one time. Overdue books will incur a fee if not required after two weeks being overdue. Parents will receive an email when the books are overdue.

Lost Property

Lost property is stored in a basket near the first aid area in the administration area. **It is important that all school uniform items are named.** At the end of term any uncollected lost property is donated to charity.

Medication

If a child is to be given prescription drugs during school time parents must fill out an appropriate form. The medication is kept by the school office manager. It is distributed by a designated person, at the appropriate time of the day.

New Families

Each new family will be allocated a buddy family to support them in their transition to our school.

Notices

All notices and important information is posted on HERO. It is important that all families are signed up for HERO and check it regularly.

PTA (Parent and Teacher Association)

We extend a warm welcome to all parents and caregivers of children to our school. Our aim, as a PTA, is to encourage interaction between parents, teachers and the community. We are responsible for some fundraising for specific purposes within our school during the year to support learning within our school.

Reporting to parents

Learner Conferences are held at the end of Term 2 for children in year 3-8. This is an opportunity for students, parents and teachers to discuss learning. A mid year data sheet is given out at this conference. A report is given out at the end of Term 4.

Year 0-3 students will receive a report to show children's progress on their half and full birthday anniversaries. Please note Year 0-3 students will only be reported on at these times.

School Accounts

All school accounts are shown on HERO under the Finance section.

Our banking details are:

Bank – Westpac

Branch – Winton

Account Number - 03 0960 0079609 00

A separate account is sent to each family from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunedin for an annual school fee. These are referred to as School Dues.

Sports

We offer the following sports for children to play outside of school time.

- Touch
- Summer Soccer
- Basketball (Year 7 and 8 students)
- Miniball
- Volleyball

Stationery

Stationery lists will be available at the end of each year for the following year. These can be found on HERO or on the website. Parents can purchase premade packs from our local Paper Plus. Please ensure all stationery is clearly named and prior to the start of the school year.

School Swimming

All children take part in swimming lessons with their classes in term 4 at Central Southland College pool. It is expected that all children participate as it is part of our school curriculum.

Sunhats

During term 1 and 4 all children are required to wear our school regulation sun hat for outdoor activities at morning tea, lunchtimes and class outdoor activities.

Technology

Our Years 7 & 8 students partake in technology classes at Winton Primary School every term.

Uniform

[Please follow the link for uniform information](#)