



Peace Mala: Accreditation Self Evaluation Form



**Peace Mala
Accredited School**

*Creative Compassionate Education that Empowers and
Embraces All ...Uniting the World in Peace*

School Accreditation



School Name:	St Matthew's CE Primary School, Stretford, Manchester M32	
Date of Submission:	July 2026	Award Aimed For: Bronze





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AREA ONE

Becoming a Peace Mala School is part of the whole School Development Plan approved by staff and the Governing Body. This is shared with the whole school community. **During every academic year, a chosen year group will study and explore Peace Mala by using the kits and educational materials. This encourages Peace Mala continuity in the school curriculum and ensures that every pupil will have encountered the message and vision of Peace Mala before they leave the school.** The school will also share good practice with other schools who are members of the global community of Peace Mala.

Evidence

St Matthew's C of E Primary School has welcomed and shares the message of Peace Mala since Miss S Lynton joined the school in September 2023. Miss Lynton is a passionate Peace Mala Ambassador for Greater Manchester and as the Head Teacher of the School, she has felt strongly that the school would benefit from the work of the Peace Mala. She was fully supported by the Governing Body, staff and children when sharing the ethos of the Peace Mala. It was quickly embedded in the day to day practice of the school with people commenting on the warmth shared by the staff and children when outsiders visited the school. At St Matthew's, we are committed to nurturing compassionate, respectful global citizens. Therefore, the Peace Mala is now a core part of our School Development Plan, fully endorsed by our staff and Governing Body and supported by our families.

Back in September 2023, all children from Year N to Year 6 were introduced to the Peace Mala and took part in a variety of Peace Mala events linked to different faith of the world throughout that year. From May 2024, the children had an established group of Junior Peace Mala children in Year 5, 6 who visited other schools and professional venues to share the message. We made links with St Agnes where Miss Lynton was previously the Deputy Head and took part in their Gold Accreditation Service in November 2023.

Children are taught in Year 5, about the message of the bracelet and take part in a whole class workshop with the Headteacher. It was decided to include the older children from Year 6 too, as to ensure that they were made aware of the message of Peace Mala ready to support the younger children across the school and prepare the children for the Peace Mala Junior Ambassadors role should they want to put themselves forward. The children had to apply for these positions and the current Peace Mala children discuss and reflect on all applications, to ensure the children who join act in a way that promotes peace.

Working alongside our Rights and Respecting charters, Peace Mala teaches all children at St Matthew's to work co-operatively and to value one another. We have recently integrated this with our Belong Project work. **Peace Mala and Trafford's Belong Programme** since May 2026 we have linked the two together directly by addressing child development from complementary angles: Peace Mala builds the outward-facing cultural, social, and spiritual framework, while the Belong Programme provides the inward-facing psychological, attachment, and trauma-responsive infrastructure.

Using our Christian Values, we share the message for tolerance and acceptance through the Peace Mala beads during our Headteacher's Assembly, we link different faith messages to current affairs during our Picture News Assemblies with Miss Lynton and linked this to our prayers. We have trained a group of Year 6 chn to support others when conflicts arise to deal



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with these positively using conflict resolution and also friendship finders, who look for loneliness out on our playgrounds and seek to support with friendships. Our Collective Worship Assemblies enables our children to explore local and world issues and it provides a time of reflection linked to the seven values, which permeates throughout the life of the school. We link these to the Peace Mala Commitments, Belong and Rights and Respecting School Charters.

As a Church of England School, we not only teach about Christianity but also other faiths, with children and staff at our school sharing their experiences and times of celebration. Staff and children have held Peace Mala Junior Ambassador Event to initially introduce Peace Mala to our families. The founder Pam Evan's joined us for this and announced our first ever Peace Mala Junior Ambassadors.

Evidencing Area 1 of the Peace Mala Accreditation focuses on deeply embedding the program's vision into our official school planning, curriculum, and community outreach. At St Matthew's we ensure:

Whole-School Strategy & Governance

- **School Development Plan (SDP):** The school explicitly includes the Peace Mala action plan within its wider SDP. This ensures the initiative receives staff resources and budget allocations to promote our Peace Mala Message.
- **Governing Body Approval:** Progress reports, strategic updates, and presentation slides are officially submitted to the [St Matthew's Governing Body](#) for review during regular meetings, sharing the work we have done with wider stakeholders or within the community.
- **SHINE Curriculum Drivers:** Peace Mala is integrated into the core [SHINE Curriculum framework](#) alongside "Belong" and "Rights Respecting Schools" accreditations to promote civic and social responsibility.

Curriculum Continuity & Engagement

- **Year Group Kits:** Our designated year groups (Year 5/6) explores the Peace Mala message every academic year. As a school we utilise physical bracelet-making kits and targeted educational materials to teach the important message of the bracelet and beads.
- **Staff:** The staff at St Matthew's have training on the Peace Mala and the meaning of each bead's message in a staff workshop. They can then use the bracelet to make links in every day practice and teaching, utilising the bracelet in its physical form.
- **The Golden Rule:** Religious Education (RE) lessons utilize the Trafford locally agreed syllabus to teach interconnectedness and the core rule: *"Treat others as you would wish them to treat you"*.
- **100% Pupil Coverage:** By rotating or fixing this study within the curriculum, the school guarantees that every pupil thoroughly interacts with the peace message before finishing Year 6.

Community Engagement & Sharing Good Practice

- **Dedicated Digital Spaces:** The school hosts a dedicated Peace Mala Webpage on its official domain to share regular updates and resources with the public on our X socials.



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- **Dedicated spaces in the school to pause for thought and promote belonging** – Space for Prayer and Rainbow Room for unsettled pupils. All staff trained in trauma awareness and
- **Notice Boards & Assemblies:** Physical displays in communal school corridors share our commitment through pupil's work, while dedicated school assemblies highlight our push to promote the message of Peace Mala and support our evidence for the accreditation.
- **Trafford Council** – Education Lead Karen Samples, heard of our work on Peace Mala and asked the children to present at both the Heads and Deputy Standing Meeting and two separate Single Service Network Briefing – sharing Peace Mala across a number of service providers.
- **Global Community Networking:** St Matthew's CE coordinates with the wider network of Peace Mala schools such as St Agnes and Summerville Primary in Salford to exchange best practices, share assembly ideas, and champion multi-faith tolerance. We have also been invited to parliament twice by MP Andrew Weston to share our work on Peace Mala and our good practice in promoting peace in the classroom.

Sharing our work beyond the classroom



St Matthew's with St Agnes CE Primary Presenting the work of the Peace Mala to Trafford Standing Heads Meeting, 2024. St Matthews CE Presenting to Trafford Single Service Teams at the Hotel Football and at Sale Rugby Club, June 2024 sharing our commitment to teaching peace.



St Matthew's Primary @St... · 11/12/2023

Pam Evans, the founder of @peacemala visited our school recently to show her support as we start our journey towards our Peace Mala Accreditation. She loved her time at our school, commenting on how warm and friendly our St Matthew's family is! #teachpeace



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Special Guest

At the start of our Peace Mala Journey, Pam Evens MBE, the founder of Peace Mala visited our school. The work of Peace Mala is not a luxury or a decoration. Pam explained she was excited about the journey we would be undertaking. She explained that the Peace Mala was transforming the lives of children across the country. She explained that the children would become useful and important members of society. In this way they will reach out to their brothers and sisters all over the world in love and affection - the foundation for true world citizenship.

Pam explained that engaging the minds of children and young people with Peace Mala educational activities means we have greater hope of helping to create a more responsible, caring and compassionate society. Peace Mala is a powerful and effective educational tool which helps make this happen and our children took the challenge she set and our first Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors were announced by Pam in a special assembly.



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Further Evidence

School website Peace Mala Page [Peace Mala St Matthew's CE](#)

School's website Headteachers [Welcome Page](#)

X account for St Matthew's CE <https://x.com/StMatthewsPri>



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AREA TWO

By engaging with Peace Mala the school is committed to **education for global citizenship** through the promotion of understanding, respect, friendship, tolerance and peace between all communities, cultures and enlightened, compassionate faiths. **Peace Mala promotes and encourages community cohesion.**

Evidence

At St Matthew's CE Primary School, we are committed to the Peace Mala and integrate the programme directly into our day to day life at school. Our St Matthew's Way, curriculum, and public outreach are all built on the key message of peace. We believe that we constantly encourage social and community cohesion around our school and surrounding community by putting on family and wider community events.

St Matthew's explicitly lists it's work towards Peace Mala Accreditation as a core driver within our "SHINE Curriculum" alongside our RE (Trafford syllabus), RRSA work, BELONG School Status and PSHE (HeartSmart and Think Equal) sessions to teach social responsibility from Nursery through to Year 6. Theological Alignment: The leadership team formally links Peace Mala work directly to the school's Christian values, specifically teaching the Parable of the Good Samaritan to reinforce the "Golden Rule" and bridge community divides.

Peace Mala and Trafford's Belong Programme link together directly, addressing child development from complementary angles: Peace Mala builds the outward-facing cultural, social, and spiritual framework, while the Belong Programme provides the inward-facing psychological, attachment, and trauma-responsive infrastructure. We ensure our children have the resilience to advocate for peace in their community and beyond. [MP Andrew Weston](#) has been so impressed with the school's work on teaching peace, that we were fortunate enough to be invited to the Houses of Parliament to carry out a Peace Mala workshop with MPs from across the country. The session was well attended with a number of MPs attending; including the Deputy Speaker of the House, [Rt Hon Caroline Nokes](#).



Andrew Weston MP

19 March · Q

It was an absolute joy to welcome to Parliament the Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors of St Matthews Primary School in Stretford.

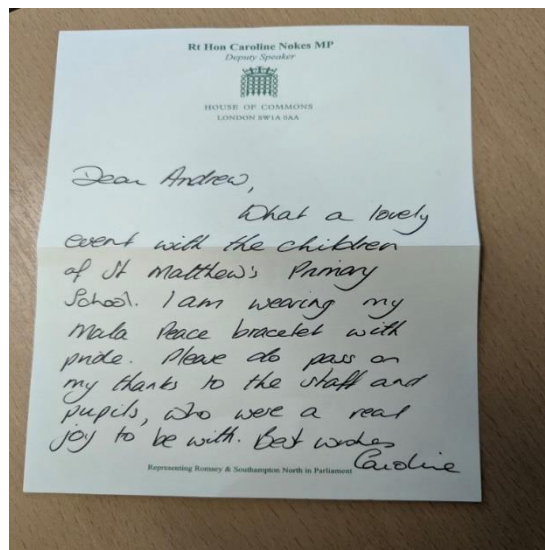
The children travelled down from Stretford yesterday to host a workshop for MPs to make Peace Mala bracelets promoting friendship, respect and peace between people of all cultures, faiths, beliefs and none.

The children of St Matthews are passionate advocates for peace and multi-faith friendship, and we were joined by MPs from different political parties to remember that we are all inter-connected and that diversity is always something to be celebrated.



38

3 comments · 7 shares





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Peace Mala Workshop, St Matthew's CE and MPs, March 2026

Teaching Peace with the Lord Mayor of Trafford– [here](#)

Back in May 2024, our Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors and our Steering Group were asked if they would like a tour of Trafford Town Hall with The Mayor of Trafford and the Leader of Trafford Council Tom Ross. We learnt so much about the history of the building and Trafford and got to share our message of peace. We know that



Collective Worship

St Matthew's Primary School's Collective Worship focuses on our school values throughout the school week. Daily Collective Worship is led either by the class teachers, as are the daily prayers. All classrooms have a collective worship area which offer a place to reflect on Christian Values of the school. The staff ask the children to share a thought/prayer at the end of each day.

Linking the Peace Mala to our school values we have created a school curriculum provides opportunities for children to further develop their understanding of global citizenship, world faiths, the environment and community cohesion e.g. Rights and Respecting School Work, Belong Project, Think Equal, Charity Coffee and Cake Mornings, and 'Community Projects' such as food banks and community grounds/church cleans on St Matthew's Day. We want our children to be participating in improving the community. we



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worked both inside school within the wider community. A good example of this is our '[School Streets](#)' Application in June 2025. We could see the environmental costs of our families driving into the school cul-de-sac and the risks and stresses caused to both residents and families. In January 2026, we became a school street, which means we have created a cleaner air zone around the school at drop off and pick up times.

St Matthew's C of E embraces the rights of the child through its development as a Rights Respecting School based on the charters. Whole School and Class charters, compiled by the children, reinforce the link between rights and responsibilities. These should now be linked and carefully weaved within our Peace Mala Commitments too.



The school has policies supporting equality, inclusion and diversity which can be found on our school website. The Peace Mala is promoted by all staff through reflective comments and in assemblies led by the Head.

Giving Harvest gifts for the elderly and tins for Trafford's homeless shows the children that they are actively looking out for vulnerable groups within their immediate community, turning the Golden Rule into a physical action. Events, for both local and national charities, are a regular occurrence at our school, supporting the local community with Harvest gifts for the elderly, money for the local church and tins for Trafford's homeless, British Heart Foundation Bag Collection, Save the children and Children in Need to name a few.

Support from the Diocese of Manchester

On January 2024 we invited Bishop Mark, director of Manchester Church of England Diocese into school and presented him with a bracelet and asked if he could help us spread the message further. He was extremely passionate about the Peace Mala and has supported Peace Mala events with Miss Lynton.



St Matthew's Primary @St... · 26/01/2024



Today we had @BishMiddleton visit our St Matthew's Family at school. He always inspires us to do better whenever he visits our school as he shares our passion for @PeaceMala and kindness. Our children were perfect as always, sharing all that we do at school!



Diocese of Manchester and 宁宁





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AREA THREE

By using Peace Mala in the classroom, the school supports **human rights** and helps **prevent bullying and all forms of prejudice.**

Evidence

The whole school was introduced to the Peace Mala on International Peace Day 21st September 2023, in a special assembly. All children attended to learn about the global stand down of arms and discuss the importance of sharing our message of hope, on this day. The children also learnt to sign and sing 'I'd like to teach the world to sing', so they could share the song of hope with someone who is hearing impaired. We looked at emphasising that the sign peace, as it reminds so many of us of the shape of a smile and the importance of sharing our voices with those who may not be able to share their as easily. We want no barriers to our message of peace and are passionate that everyone is included.

Collective Worship

Assemblies provided the children with opportunities to hear about the lives and times of historical characters, such as Desmond Tutu and Martin Luther King, who stood up for human rights. Year 6 studied Black Slavery and discussed the importance of not accepting 'Banter' if we believe this is causing harm to another. Through this work the children could reflect upon issues and discuss the real impact behaviours have had on others, historically and sadly in more recent times. Our work was linked to behaviour we see at school and in our community, challenging behaviours that impact negativity on our own experiences discuss daily too.

Show Racism the Red Card

Every October, St Matthew's children learn the importance of belonging through 'Show Racism the Red Card Day'. We feel it is important to promote this not only with peace in mind, our focus is on tackling racism in society. The children learn what racism means and how it affects people's rights and equality. Through discussions and activities, we learned that everyone deserves to be treated fairly and with respect, regardless of their background. The children then share some thoughtful ideas on how we can all help eliminate racism - such as speaking up



against unfairness, celebrating diversity, and showing kindness and inclusion every, single day. Our children know consistently demonstrating these important values, make our school an extremely positive and welcoming place for all. of feeling of belonging!

Odd Sock Day and Anti Bullying Week

he whole school participates in an Anti-Bullying Week and Old Sock Day. Looking at various situations through our HeartSmart and Think Equal sessions. All children were asked to be mindful of our actions on others, reiterating the Peace Mala Golden Rule of treating others how you wish to be treated yourself.



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Collective Worship was used to introduce various issues that the children may face both at home and at school, linked to the Peace Mala bracelet and a special focus was made of how the beads sit side by side, to support the children in understanding, although different in colour and the faiths they represent, their message is the same.



Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Sock Day

St Matthew's has held regular coffee mornings to ensure that parents have felt actively involved with the day to day life of the school. It has been noticed that far more parents are attending the school's coffee morning and family events arrange. Ensuring they feel like an active member of the school means difficult situations for families are discussed and resolved far more quickly.

Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors

The Peace Mala Ambassadors are 12 children that are representatives of the Peace Mala. These children meet with our Headteacher, Miss Lynton (Peace Mala Lead) and look at ways we can help to build friendships and support pupils during play times and throughout the school day. These children also present to many different professionals of the importance of teaching peace. Presenting to Trafford Headteachers, Social Workers and NHS staff and inviting them to visit our school to see the benefits of teaching peace in across the school day.



Reflection Spaces

Children participate in 'shared prayers' at our various prayer stations around the school. These are to allow the children to share a thought or prayer that they have for others, where others can



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read their prayers too. This has raised their empathy for others and given the children an awareness of their feelings and at various points or in response to particular events.



We have supported the children with their understanding of different faiths through carefully planned assemblies linked to the Peace Mala and what it means to be tolerant. We have encouraged the children to share their worries through the use of a space for prayer near our Year 6 classroom or in Rainbow Room and when it is felt necessary, some children are offered a place of prayer who feel they need it.

Being a Belong School

St Matthew's Children are always asked to make links with RRSA, Belong and Peace Mala when they are struggling to navigate their feelings. Once they have considered how their behaviour impacts on others, we discuss what we could change and ask how we should treat others, making link to the golden rule. This included the rights of refugee children who come into our country, we have many children from many countries joining our school seeking refuge. We raised the importance of them letting their lights shine too.





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Friendship finders

Our Friendship finders are trained children who volunteer to help classmates combat loneliness and build social connections during recess by spotting isolated children, managing playground issues and leading inclusive playground games. Easily identified by their bright high-visibility vests, these leaders also resolve minor conflicts peacefully and model positive behaviour for their peers. By actively ensuring that no child feels left out or forgotten in the playground, these dedicated volunteers truly embody our school motto: **"let your light shine."**



<https://x.com/StMatthewsPri/status/1981488048765387218>



AREA FOUR

Peace Mala encourages the school to raise **awareness of issues of global interdependence** and encourages **active compassion by** learners that will lead to positive changes locally and globally.

Evidence

St. Matthew's supported Lyme Disease UK's annual "**Wake Up to Lyme**" campaign by hosting local awareness and fundraising activities within their community to help educate the public on tick safety and bite prevention. A charity close to one of our families hearts, we displayed educational posters and distributed informative leaflets at one of 'Let your light shine' for our families and the local community. We also wore green to raise awareness, sharing the prevention messages about tick awareness in outdoor and grassy areas. Which is so important as our school has vast grounds and backs on to Stretford Meadows, which many of our families visit daily in the summer months.



St Matthew's Primary @St... · 17/05/2024



We are so incredibly proud of supporting this member of our St Matthew's family and their message of awareness. Lyme Disease can have a huge impact on families. Knowledge is power, so learning more about this disease can definitely prevent any risks to loved ones ❤️

#wakeuptolyme





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Work with Stretford Public Hall

Through the teaching of global interdependence through collective worship, lessons, visitors and engaging in activities, we have ensured that the children are aware that they can make a difference. The children are always asked to make links to RRSA, Belong and Peace Mala when they considered how their behaviour impacts on others and how we should treat others as we wish to be treated. This included the rights of



refugee children who come into our country. We were concerned with the laws of the UK and how well these effected the children of refugees. We believe that all people should be treated equally and did not believe this was the case for refugee children in particular. As a school, we keep a bank of uniform and clothing to support our families facing crisis moments. We want our families to feel they belong as soon as they join us and money should not be a barrier to this. We also donate book bags and work alongside Stretford Public Hall to support our most vulnerable families into work, with foodbanks, ESOL classes and energy advice. We raised the profile of the services that Stretford Public Hall offered by taking the whole school to visit.



Our Whole School Trip to Stretford Public Hall, October 2025



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RRSA Charters

Through our work as a Rights Respecting School and Think Equal in EYFS, we have provided the children of St Matthew's with a variety of stories and examples which have given the children an awareness of others both locally and around the world. This lead to our work supporting the community on a variety of occasions too. We invite our families into school to share their experiences to ensure that our children are aware of the different communities that are within our school and the importance of being compassionate when sharing our Peace Mala message with others.

At St Matthew's environmental issues have been raised with our local MP. Eco team work hard across the school collecting/recording waste paper and checking that no lights are left on. The school is committed to reusing, reducing and recycling. We have recently swapped to a recycling system for our food too and now all waste is reuse on a large scale by Trafford Council.

Charity Work

For a number of years, the children have been raising money for various charities such as Children in Need and Save the children through Christmas Jumper Day. During the collections for these charities we discuss our global impact and how we are supporting the rights of the children who may not be as fortunate as us.



Andrew Western MP @A... · 11/12/2023

I recently met the steering group at St Matthew's in Stretford. They told me about their recent protest on Chester Road. They are calling for extra road safety measures to be brought in. I'll be writing to Trafford Council & Greater Manchester Police to express their concerns.



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Save the Children, Christmas Jumper Day and Children in Need

Through the teaching of global interdependence through collective worship, lessons, visitors and engaging in activities, we have ensured that the children are aware that they can make a difference. The children are always asked to make links to RRSA, Belong and Peace Mala when



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they considered how their behaviour impacts on others and how we should treat others as we wish to be treated. This included the rights of refugee children who come into our country. We were concerned with the laws of the UK and how well these effected the children of refugees. We believe that all people should be treated equally and did not believe this was the case for refugee children in particular.

Toilet Twinning

A part of our UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School work, pupils and the school community raised money for Toilet Twinning. This is a charity project which funds basic sanitation, clean water, and hygiene training in poor communities globally. Donations help "twin" school facilities with overseas latrines. How Toilet Twinning Works? By donating £60 "twins" a single toilet or facility is provided to a country with less than our own. Global Impact is seen as the funds go to families and villages to build safe, private latrines.

Harvest Donations

This year, the Harvest collections were donated to Manchester Homeless Support Charity via St Matthew's Church. However, in past years they have been divided between local needs and those further afield. During the celebration of Eid many of our families supported the elderly on their streets and the children shared with the staff how this made them feel and the importance of supporting those who have less than ourselves.



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AREA FIVE

Peace Mala encourages the **celebration of cultural, racial and religious diversity** through art, music, drama and dance.

Evidence

Our Headteacher, Miss Lynton promotes peace working alongside different communities and spreading our message of hope as a school for global peace through our Peace Mala work beyond our school. Over the years she has attended many events as a representative for Peace Mala. Please click [here](#) to see her at Manchester Fo Guang Shan Temple, where she was invited to attend the Buddha's birthday.



St Matthew's Primary @St... · 16/02/2026



As a part of our Chinese New Year Celebrations we listened to The Venerable as she taught us how to meditate. It is so important for us as a @PeaceMala and Belong School to learn about the festivals of others. Buddhism promotes kindness to all creatures and beings! 🇬🇧 🐾





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Whole school meditation with the Venerable from Manchester Fo Guang Shan Temp to music

St Matthew's have made links with St Agnes Primary School in Longsight and Summerville Primary in Salford, to ensure our children had the opportunities to work alongside children from array of different faiths and backgrounds, including children with no faith. We had the opportunity to invite the children to St Matthews' too, when the children from St Agnes took part in arts and crafts and led an assembly on how they celebrate Eid with us last year. Both ourselves and St Agnes helped lead a Diversity Day Event at Summerville Primary in July 2025, where we led a workshop on Peace Mala bracelet making and peace art work.





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Whilst we were at Summerfield we learnt that Salford has a large travelling community and this was something that the school wanted to showcase for the children. By sharing travellers' way of life, they ensured that this community matter in our peace work, preventing hate, misconceptions and stereotypes and builds trust beyond the school grounds. It also ensures all groups are seen and valued, creating true and lasting fairness for everyone.



Summerville Primary School, July 2025

As a school we arranged special events and listen to different faith leaders sharing their hope for peace and made various arts and crafts which are displayed around the school. Teachers discussed how intolerance is the root of many misunderstandings and the children are keen to share their understanding of their own faith. We have loved to see the confidence our Peace Mala work and our RRSA work has given the children.



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St Agnes CE, sharing their experience of Eid with St Matthews, 2025

Children, families and members of staff are encouraged to celebrate and share their experiences of a range of festivals with others e.g. Christmas, Chinese New Year and Eid-ul-Fitr. We have crafts for parents and the children to complete, these are based on themes and linked to the Peace Mala. The bracelet and the message of each bead is shared during the sessions and the workshops. We use the sessions or events as an opportunity to research faiths e.g. Eid/ Chinese New Year and engage in artwork, food making and tasting, music and dance.





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St Patrick's Day



Miss Bradburn playing her tin whistle in our St Patrick's Day Assembly

St Patrick's Day at St Matthew's is far more than a vibrant cultural celebration; it is a powerful annual opportunity to teach children the core values of peace, inclusion, and community harmony. By exploring the holiday's deeper roots—from St Patrick's own journey of forgiveness to Ireland's historic transition from conflict to reconciliation our children learn that unity is built through dialogue and mutual respect. Crucially, a true message of peace requires complete inclusion, recognizing the vital contributions of all heritage groups, including the Irish Traveller community, who have kept traditional music and storytelling alive for generations. When schools celebrate this diversity openly, they dismantle harmful stereotypes, foster empathy for global migration stories, and show children that lasting peace is only achieved when every community member feels seen, valued, and safe. We learnt music plays such a huge part in Irish culture.



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Eid Mubarak

Eid provides a beautiful opportunity to teach our children about peace, charity, and global unity, as the very word *Islam* is rooted in the Arabic word for peace, *Salam*. At St Matthew's we teach the spirit of the festival centres on resolving conflicts, forgiving p

ast arguments, and ensuring vulnerable groups are protected through acts of mandatory charity. For us as a school, this celebration serves as a powerful reminder that true peace requires total community harmony. A genuine message of goodwill cannot be selective; it must actively welcome all minority groups, ensuring that children from every background are never marginalised or ignored. By celebrating these core values of forgiveness, kindness, and equal support, schools teach children that lasting peace is only achieved when everyone in society feels safe, valued, and included. Our Muslim Children in Year Six lead our fantastic assembly on Ramamdan and Eid and then at the end of the school day we welcome the families in to learn more about this fantastic celebration through arts and crafts.



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At St Matthew's CE Primary School, we have 12 Peace Mala Ambassadors in our school, six children from Year 6 and six children from Year 5. These children have the special job of supporting the children around the school in their times of need, as they represent the most peaceful pupils in our school and show the most resilience in times of conflict and when issues arise. During one of our meetings we made Peace Promise Posters. These posters would sign post children who needed help to the Peace Mala Ambassadors and would allow the children to choose which one had the right qualities to suit their needs best.

These are displayed around the school building. During one Peace Mala meeting, we decided we would thank the special children or staff in our school who we believe embody what being a Peace Mala person is. At St Matthew's CE Primary we tell the children daily how wonderful they are, as we do any visitors.

The children from Year One through to Year 6 had the chance to visit St Matthew's Church this year to participate in special activities organised by the Rev Kate and her team. This is something we are passionate in protecting, as our links with St Matthew's Church are a huge part of our commitment to peace. We also perform our Nativity and Easter Productions at the church to ensure all families of all faiths feel they belong in our wider family community. The whole school decorated a bauble for our tree which was displayed in church.



St Matthew's Children at St Matthew's Church, Christmas Tree Festival



AREA SIX

With Peace Mala the school actively **promotes environmental sustainability, healthy eating, and respect for all animals and wildlife.**

Evidence



Looking after our grounds

At St Matthew's our children are proud of our beautiful grounds and do all they can to look after it. They are mindful of the wildlife we house and make bird feeders and use litter pickers to remove things that may cause the wildlife harm. We have a number of fruit trees in our orchard and can share with the children that growing our own fruit shows respect for their vast green space by actively enhancing local biodiversity, practicing ecological stewardship, and reducing our environmental footprint. By taking these practical actions, our children transform from passive observers into active protectors of their environment, demonstrating that respect is about hands-on care rather than just leaving nature alone.

At St Matthew's we are passionate about the air our children breathe and road safety. For that reason, we applied to become a School Street. Being a school street means we can legally restrict motor vehicles from gaining access outside school gates during drop-off and pick-up times, turning the road into a temporary pedestrian and cycle zone. Key benefits include improved air quality, reduced traffic congestion, enhanced road safety for children, and the promotion of active, healthy habits like walking and cycling. School Streets in Trafford are temporary, timed motor traffic restrictions on roads directly outside schools during morning drop-off (approx. 8:15–9:15 AM) and afternoon pick-up (approx. 2:45–3:30 PM). Aimed at reducing congestion and improving air quality, these zones turn into pedestrian and cycle areas, backed by [Trafford Council](#). There are a number of [health benefits](#) to becoming a School Street which are vital to our children, families and community which come from:



The Temporary Closures: the road outside the school is closed to unauthorized vehicles using signs, barriers, or volunteer setups during peak school run hours, which means cleaner air for all and safer places to cross for our children.

Active Travel: It encourages our children and families to walk, wheel, scoot, or cycle in a safer, calmer environment.



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Community Led: We rely heavily on trained local partnership with residents and parent volunteers to manage operations and day to day running of the barriers. We are also incredibly lucky and get to take part in our School Streets Play Streets event. It is always wonderful to see so many families joining in with games, laughter and play, even on days when the weather is less-than-perfect weather! A huge thank you to everyone who supported and took part - it really helped to bring our School Streets community together.

School Guinea Pigs

Blossom and Brownie, our adorable guinea pigs, are an integral part of our school life. Having these gentle creatures with us offers so much more than just a cute addition to our school or classrooms. These little friends provide our children with an incredible opportunity to learn responsibility, compassion, and care. The presence of our guinea pig friends teaches our children so much beyond traditional classroom learning. They're learning about nurturing, about the importance of gentle handling, and understanding the needs of another living being. It's a beautiful way to develop empathy and practical life skills that go far beyond academic knowledge. They're not just observing these animals; they're actively participating in their daily care, feeding, and wellbeing. This hands-on experience is invaluable in helping our children grow into caring, responsible individuals.

Eco work

St Matthew's CE participates in local environmental and sustainability initiatives—such as energy-saving community workshops hosted at the church hall and school-level waste reduction campaigns recycling in many ways—but as yet we do not hold a formal, standalone certified "Eco-status" designation at this time. However, St Matthew's CE actively participate in environmental initiative programmes as a recognized Eco-School. The school provides several opportunities for student-led environmental action to help care for the local community and the planet. Peer Reviews: Council members hold class reviews to keep all pupils informed of eco-friendly updates. Allotment Gardening: Pupils actively grow food on the school allotment to learn about sustainability. We also have an orchard on site, growing apples, pears and plums on our site. National Campaigns: The student body participates in targeted campaigns run by 'Blossom', including "Switch Off Fortnight" and "Waste Week". Finally, resource management as our children practice daily habits targeted at reducing energy usage, recycling materials, and conserving paper.



Take over Stretford Parkrun – Promoting Healthy Lifestyle

Back in July 2025, staff, pupils, and families from St Matthew's CE Primary School carried out a volunteer "takeover" at the weekly 5k Stretford parkrun held at Longford Park, managing key roles and marshalling the course to support the local community event to promote our school and the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The school community received highly positive and enthusiastic feedback from the runners who participated in the event.

Councillor Tom Ross Supporting our Parkrun Take Over



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High-Energy Encouragement: Runners highlighted the incredible enthusiasm of the student and staff marshals, noting that the cheering, music and support along the route gave participants an extra boost of motivation.

- **Flawless Organisation:** Participants praised the school volunteers for how smoothly the event ran, noting that critical areas like timekeeping, funnel management, and barcode scanning were handled efficiently without any glitches.
- **Welcoming Atmosphere:** The school community appreciated the vibrant, family-friendly energy the school brought to Longford Park, which made the 5k feel particularly inclusive for first-timers and walkers.



Parkrun Takeover, July 2025. Click [here](#) to see the live music we provided at the event!

Traffic protest

St Matthew's have been seen as advocates for change by MP Andrew Weston who was impressed with our traffic protests to make sure all children can cross Chester Road Safely. He invited us to see him in London at the Houses of Parliament in February 2025 and we were able to share our concerns about the rise in hate crime in our area and our issues with traffic near the school. He took us on a tour of both the House of Common and the House of Lords as a means of thanking us for our work in the community!

<https://www.andrewwestern.co.uk/2023/12/08/andrew-meets-local-school-children-to-discuss-their-recent-protest-on-chester-road/>

Our Traffic Protest made the local press,

Back in November and December 2023, teachers and parents from St Matthew's shared their fear for the safety of the 190 pupils from the school, most of whom walk to school from the nearby Lacey Street estate. We called for extra safety measures on Chester Road - a main route



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in and out of Manchester - which children and parents have to cross to improve safety for our families and the surrounding community.



<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/school-issues-urgent-warning-set-28195553>

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/we-not-going-stop-passionate-28253199>

Myro, Local Artist

Local artist [Myro Doodles](#) has created a number of beautiful hand-drawn murals that promote peace, kindness, and mental wellbeing by transforming plain walls into calm, thoughtful, and inclusive spaces at St Matthew's. Her bespoke artwork actively fosters peaceful school environments through specific design choices tailored to the children's needs. Our children have been lucky enough to observe her artwork in process over the years- all related to our values and passionate promotion of peace.





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Collaborative Design

Myro heavily involves the children in the creative process, actively brainstorming with school councils and embedding their animal drawings and ideas directly into the final design. This gives our children a profound sense of achievement, belonging, and shared community ownership of their learning spaces.



St Matthew's Primary
@StMatthewsPri

We are just in awe of the wonderful work of
@MyroDoodles in our school hall today! She managed...



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AREA SEVEN

With Peace Mala the school encourages **Peace Education** by forming a School Peace Council and engaging in peace activities.

Suggested Actions

Evidence

At St Matthew's CE Primary School, peace education and active global citizenship are deeply integrated into the school's core identity. We provide clear, tangible evidence of how we encourage peace education through our work completed by our Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors and Headteacher over the past three years, our multi-faith engagement, and national advocacy.

Parliamentary Workshop and National Advocacy

The most prominent evidence of St Matthew's peace education in action was our high-profile national outreach when our children were invited to London to teach Peace. We have Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors as well as a traditional school council, our focus on peace and togetherness empowers our children as well as our Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors.

House of Commons Workshop for MPs: At the invitation of Andrew Western MP, our Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors travelled to London to run a Peace Mala workshop for Member of Parliaments (MPs) in March 2026. Teaching the Golden Rule; the children sat down with MPs—including the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Caroline Nokes—to teach them how to make the symbolic rainbow bracelets and share the message of interconnectedness across different faiths and cultures.





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School-Based Peace Activities and Inter-Faith Events

On the school grounds, we routinely translate the Peace Mala vision into practical activities and events for our children and families. We celebrate days a variety of festivals and promote wider

Community Cultural Celebrations: The school documents its peace work through events like the Eid Mubarak Arts and Crafts Event, specifically designed to promote inter-faith understanding and celebrate differences.

Curriculum Integration: Peace Mala principles are hardwired directly into the St Matthew's SHINE Curriculum alongside Religious Education and our PSHE Curriculum, ensuring social responsibility is taught progressively.

Dual Accreditations: Our teaching of the Peace Mala framework is backed by the school's parallel work as a UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting School and Belong School Status validating our daily commitment to human rights, anti-bullying, and conflict resolution.

SIAMS inspection, 2024

Back in February 2024, St Matthew's successfully achieved the highest possible outcome of 'Living Up to its Foundation as a Church School' during our SIAMS Inspection. Inspectors evaluated how effectively the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enables all pupils and adults to flourish. Our Peace Mala work links directly onto the SIAMS evaluation criteria using three main pillars:

Our Theological Vision: "Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16) The SIAMS framework heavily evaluates whether a school's Christian vision is merely a slogan or a lived reality. As a school we link Peace Mala to this vision socially and spiritually. Evidence of this can be found in the report, where the inspectors state our school fosters a positive, welcoming environment that enables pupils and staff to flourish spiritually, morally, socially, and academically.

Our Motto in Action: Our school motto, "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16), drives our entire curriculum through our teaching. We evidence Peace Mala as a practical way for our children to "shine" by becoming leaders, resolving conflicts, and showing compassion way beyond our school grounds.

The Good Samaritan Connection: St Matthew's bases its school ethics on the **Parable of the Good Samaritan**, teaching children to cross cultural borders to care for others. Peace Mala's "Golden Rule" (*"Treat others as you would wish them to treat you"*) provides our children with a tangible, daily template to practice this Biblical command.

Leadership Drive: Our Headteacher Miss Lynton serves as both the school's Peace Mala Lead and the Peace Mala Ambassador for Greater Manchester. This high-level leadership alignment is direct proof of the school's active commitment to embedding an inclusive, value-driven environment from the top down

Our Classrooms

Each classroom at St Matthew's has a reflection/prayer area which children are encouraged to visit and reflect. There are also different places around the school and a place for prayer at any time in the school day (Rainbow Room and A Place for Prayer). These areas are called Our Encounter with God areas. The church and its garden also offer a place for reflection by the children when they visit St Matthew's Church which all children do at least once a term.



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Reflection Areas



Peace Mala Ambassadors

Children have to apply for the role of Peace Mala Ambassadors and then have regular meetings with the Headteacher, looking at current worries our pupils may share, including how to deal with conflict resolution. Our Rights Respecting School aids in the restoration of peace in the busy life of the school. All children have the charters displayed in their classrooms, the children are passionate about their rights and the rights of others and have recently had their arguments for road safety rights discussed in Parliament with our Local MP Andrew Weston sharing our concerns as a Trafford School concerned for our safety.





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The School Council, Junior Peace Mala Ambassadors and Steering Group serve as the school's peace council, supporting social interactions and relationships across the school.

Hello Autumn, Let Your Light Shine Festival and Community Gardening Events

These are seasonal and community outreach gatherings hosted at our school each year. The **Hello Autumn** and **Let Your Light Shine** events held on a Saturday are community festivals featuring seasonal activities like pumpkin hunts, outdoor fun, and treats, tied to the school's core motto 'Let your light shine' and the harvest season. We have also held **Community Gardening Events** involve planting and outdoor care with neighbours and pupils, opening our vast grounds to the community on a Sunday.

Shared Values: [Peace Mala](#) is an educational project that promotes friendship, respect, and peace across different cultures, faiths, and beliefs, centred on the Golden Rule to treat others as you wish to be treated, these events are organised to bring people together and create a community of trust around us and share our wonderful green space.

Social Responsibility: St Matthew's integrates Peace Mala into its curriculum to teach pupils mutual respect, citizenship, and care for the wider community, seen with multicultural performances at our Let Your Light Shine which our families can join in with!

Action in the Community: The gardening, seasonal festivals, and outreach projects act out these exact values by bringing diverse neighbours, local groups, and families together in a spirit of friendship and shared stewardship of our school environment!

Hello Autumn Pumpkin Hunt

Community events like our Hello Autumn Pumpkin Hunt at St Matthew's CE Primary, bring families and



St Matthew's Primary @St... · 18/10/2025



A huge thank you to all of our friends and families at St Matthew's today! Our Hello Autumn Event was one to remember! A special thanks to all our staff too, who gave up their Saturday morning to give back to our local community! At St Matthew's, we let our light shine 🍁🍁🍁



Cllr Tom Ross @TomWRoss · 2h



I thoroughly enjoyed visiting the @StMatthewsPri 'Hello Autumn' festival this morning- a lovely chance to enjoy the school's autumnal surroundings with a cake and hot chocolate! There's a pumpkin hunt on until 1pm- open to the whole community 🍁🍁



neighbours together. They offer a fun, safe space to share food, enjoy the outdoors, and build a strong sense of belonging and teamwork in the local area.



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Let Your Light Shine Festival – Community Event

The St Matthew's Let Your Light Shine Festival in May 2024 and 2025 was truly magical because it brought the school's core spiritual vision to life through a vibrant, joyful celebration of community and diversity. Inspired by Matthew 5:16, the event gave every child a proud platform to showcase their unique talents, fostering an atmosphere of profound belonging and mutual respect aligned with Peace Mala principles. From high-energy carnival activities and the school's fabulous dog show to intentional pastoral support that ensured every student felt safe and valued, the afternoon beautifully blended unbridled fun with deep-rooted kindness, uniting families, neighbours, and staff as one diverse community.



St Matthew's Primary @St... · 18/05/2024



Come and join us at the Let Your Light Shine Festival! We have lots of wonderful things to do at St Matthew's today! Come and join in all the fun



Letting our Lights Shine Together



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Our Community Dog Show

A part of our annual Let Your Light Shine Festival, our Dog Show creates a place of inclusivity and community bonds are formed. Peace Mala's core teaching centres on the Golden Rule: "Treat others as you would wish them to treat you". The dog show opens the school gates to the *entire* wider Stretford community—whether they are connected to the school or not—breaking down barriers and encouraging friendship across different backgrounds through their shared love of animals. At the show each dog was blessed by Rev Kate.





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Sunday Grounds Tidy and Gardening Event

The Sunday Family Gardening Event at St Matthew's CE Primary School promotes peace by uniting a diverse local community through shared environmental stewardship and cooperative local action. As we hope to be a Peace Mala school, St Matthew's actively weaves values of friendship, respect, and global citizenship into its community project. Events like these:

Bridging Intercultural and Interfaith Divides

- **Promoting Inclusivity:** The event brings together families from all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds in a shared, neutral space.
- **Encouraging Mutual Respect:** Working side-by-side on our school grounds models the core British values of tolerance and collaborative friendship.
- **Living out our Peace Mala Values:** The hands-on project serves as a practical extension of our school's mission to highlight human interconnectedness.

Fostering Community and Intergenerational Connection

- **Strengthening Social Cohesion:** The gathering transforms the school grounds into a neighbourhood hub, weakening social isolation and building local safety nets for all we serve.
- **Building Intergenerational Bridges:** Children, parents, and school staff work as equals, opening casual lines of dialogue that break down age-based barriers.
- **Working Together as a School Family:** Sharing the work of caring for our large school grounds establishes a sense of collective belonging and pride in local surrounding!



Art Work



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Our Amazing St Matthew's Family, Good to Garden Event.

Thank you for completing your Accreditation Self-Evaluation Form!
As soon as we receive this it will be sent to our Board of Trustees and Educational Advisors for approval.

We look forward to you joining our growing family of Peace Mala Accredited Schools.



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