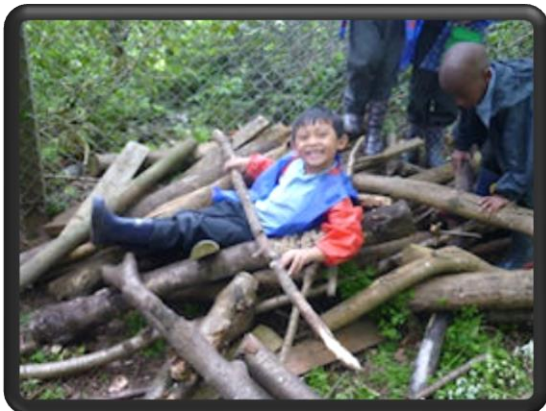


St Mary's Catholic Primary School
where learning inspires



Our School

Mission Statement

*We live out the message of Jesus
with love, understanding and care*



www.st-mary-bh.dudley.sch.uk

Our School Aims

Where learning inspires.....

every member of the school community to value and develop their God-given potential.

A worshipping community to nurture and support each child in their journey of faith.

Every child to feel that they matter.

Every child to become a thinker, leader, organiser, communicator, explorer, creator, inventor, performer and artist.

Where the line between the line between learning and fun invisible.

Every child to be a successful learner, confident individual and a responsible citizen.

Finding friendships which will last forever.

Home, school and parish to work in partnership.

Children to build skills for learning and life.

Welcome to St Mary's



Dear Parent or Carer,

We warmly welcome you to the prospectus of St Mary's Catholic Primary School. This prospectus gives an overview of our standards and style and helps you in deciding whether St Mary's is the place of learning for your child. We are a multicultural school with a very strong Catholic ethos.

Our Mission Statement makes it very clear that we value the education of the whole pupil so that each child fulfils their God-given potential. The purpose of a Catholic school is to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential in a setting marked by Gospel values and practices. We strive for excellence in teaching and an enjoyment of learning to be at the heart of all that we do.

We believe that every child, parent, member of staff and community, is unique in self and unique in qualities to offer. Our school community is enriched by the God-given talents each individual contributes and our ability to celebrate and develop them. We hope that both your family and your child will get the best out of the opportunities that St Mary's has to offer. As parents, you are the first educators of your child. We actively seek and value your contribution and commitment.

'You are the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith, may you be the best of teachers bearing witness to the faith by what you say and do.'

These words were spoken when your child was baptised. In partnership we will guide your children through a Journey of Faith and Learning as they grow into responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Your child will find our school to be a very stimulating place to learn and will be educated by an extremely motivated and professional group of high quality teaching staff. We work diligently to ensure that all our children are developed in a fun but disciplined environment and we feel very confident of meeting your expectations for your child.

We would welcome the opportunity to show you around our school so you can see how our Mission Statement is lived out by the community of St Mary's.

Yours sincerely,

Ms O' Beirne
Principal

Father Cecil
Parish Priest

Caroline Beech
Chair of Academy Committee

Where every member of the school community is valued and encouraged to develop their God-given potential.

Where a worshipping community nurtures and supports each child in their journey of faith.

Every child, parent, governor and member of the school community is unique in self, unique in qualities to offer. All aspects of our School, the relationships, the curriculum, the policies, the aims and objectives, the pastoral care and discipline have the potential to speak of God's presence in our lives helping us to unlock our potential. The purpose of a Catholic school is to jointly 'hand on the faith' in partnership with home and parish. The faith journey is begun by parents at Baptism and our aim is to support each child in their journey of faith, working alongside parents, the first educators of the children. As a Catholic school we value the importance of the spiritual journey made by pupils, staff, parents, parishioners, governors and parish priests with the school acting as a cornerstone.

Our Admissions policy is available from the office or from our school website.

Sacramental Programme

All children at St Mary's are encouraged to be as active as possible in the Parish community. As a Catholic School, St Mary's supports the pupils in Year 2 and Year 3 as they follow the Sacramental Programme, which is led by the teachers in school. The Sacramental Programme builds on the commitment made at your child's Baptism and helps them to become fuller members in the Parish Community. If you want your child to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation (confession), Confirmation and Eucharist then you are encouraged to participate in the preparation meetings and discussions before your child is presented for the sacraments. Full information on the Programme will be given to you when your child reaches Year 2, Year 3 and year 5. In Year 5 they begin preparation for the sacrament of confirmation, through a Mass of enrolment. In Year 6 children take part in a Mass of Anointment, their Confirmation day and a residential retreat to Alton Castle and a visit to St Mary's College, Oscott.



Where every child matters.

We believe that each child and members of our community matters.

Children need to feel safe and secure. Through the curriculum we aim to teach children how to make safe choices. Through enhanced site security we provide a safe and secure environment. All visitors use the Main Office so we can check who is arriving at school. We have been awarded the 360° Safe mark which recognises a high level of internet safety within the school. We are also ICT Mark accredited.

Weaved within the curriculum, are opportunities for children (and staff/ parents) to foster a healthy lifestyle. Children learn how to choose a healthy diet, have an opportunity to have a daily healthy hot school dinner and enjoy two weekly sessions of PE to promote healthy living. As a school we have been awarded the Healthy Schools Status.

We also have various extra-curricular activities to promote exercise. During the day we use play leaders who come into school during lunch breaks to organise games to get the children active. Staff have attended training on healthy lunch boxes and managing obesity and this information is passed on to parents through healthy eating workshops.

As a school there are a number of opportunities for children to make a positive contribution. Our School Council is active in making our community eco-friendly and healthy.

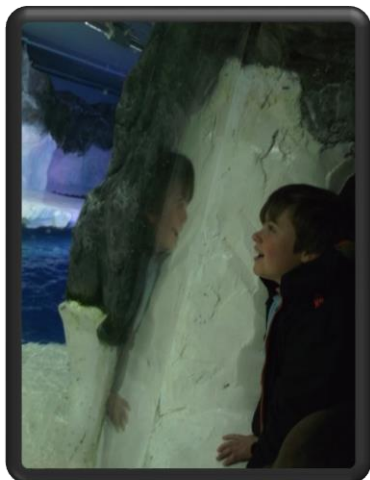
Children and staff support a number of charities through fundraising events. We have achieved the Eco flag celebrating our focus on being environmentally friendly and the Fair Trade mark. We have an allotment in which we grow our own herbs and vegetables.

Children today are the future of tomorrow. We aim to integrate lifelong learning skills and current affairs, into our curriculum. Children experience citizenship lessons to help them be responsible and reflect on social issues.

A school works in collaboration with a number of settings. We are dependent on strong links with parents, parish and the wider community. Parents are actively encouraged to come into school through Tuesday Mass, Friday's celebration assembly, our Parents' Forum and parent workshops. Parish links are strengthened through joint events and parishioners working with children. Anti Bullying Ambassadors (children in different year groups) have been trained to make sure that the playground is friendly and fun.



Where every child has the opportunity to become a thinker, leader, organiser, communicator, explorer, creator, inventor, performer and artist.



At St Mary's you will find a dynamic curriculum that will inspire and challenge all learners, preparing them to be citizens of the future. Across the school we have shaped a curriculum around the needs of our children for great learning and great fun, matched closely to a progressive set of key skills. We also offer music lessons on a range of instruments including guitars and drums. We have achieved the Artsmark Award in recognition of our efforts to strive for excellence in our provision for the arts.

The Curriculum is thematic with a focus on the progression of skills alongside the sharing of knowledge.

Religious Education (R.E.) is taught in discrete lessons using the Curriculum Directory produced by the Birmingham Diocese. Drama, art and music are some of the ways in which R.E. is taught to bring in cross curricular links making learning about our faith inspiring. Children also learn about other faiths, similarities and differences, and how we make one world in unity.

Daily lessons of English and Mathematics take place for children in Year 1 to Year 6 to develop the core skills. The skills are brought through to other subjects and regular assessments are made through our tracking procedures to ensure children are making the appropriate progress.

Early Years

Our Reception area is a perfect setting for children to reach a Good Level of Development (GLD). Children enjoy mornings of Phonics, Literacy and Mathematic activities supported by continuous provision activities that enhance the learning.

A free flow outdoor area is provided for children to explore their environment and develop physical skills in an enjoyable way. The children have daily access to a designated play area just for Reception and a secure playground and we have a Forest School area which we are in the process of developing further.



Where the line between learning and fun is invisible.

We believe at St Mary's School, that an inclusive education should be offered to all children. All teachers work hard to meet the needs of each child, be they of a physical, learning or a behavioural nature. All children are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum that will allow them to reach their full potential. As a school we are committed to be accessible to all and to meet the legal requirements of DDA. We have an Accessibility Plan which is available from the Office on request.



The School has a SEN Policy. It sets out the procedures and arrangements for children who need additional support. Parents will be provided with clear information and be involved in discussion about their child's special individual needs. They will be encouraged to contribute in any way to encourage their child's success. Our Mission Statement and policies encourage pupils to be active throughout the school ensuring that all individuals are given the chance to fulfil their potential.

We recognise that at St Mary's School there are children who excel in one or more areas of the curriculum. Where this is the case, we cater for the particular needs of these children by giving them work that is exciting, challenging and meaningful. We are able to offer Gifted and Talented Maths session to a few of our outstanding mathematicians. Every practical effort is made to ensure that pupils with disabilities have full access to the curriculum and to all areas of the school building. The school is a single storey building. The school has a disabled toilet and medical treatment room. A ramp enables access to the school for pupils or visitors with disabilities. Further details are contained in SEN Information Report.



Where every child is encouraged to be a successful learner,
confident individual and a responsible citizen.

We are proud of our school ethos. Visitors regularly comment upon the warm welcome and friendly, caring atmosphere they experience in the school. We continually seek to improve and develop the good behaviour of the children because we firmly believe that if the children behave well they are happy, and if they are happy they will learn.

At the heart of our teachings are seven rules that are rooted in Gospel values and a clear guide for Christian living and effective citizenship.

Our Rainbow Rules

We are honest
**We use our manners
and show respect**
We are good friends
We behave safely
We follow directions
We try our hardest
We look after property

This is further outlined in the Positive Behaviour and Discipline Policy which can be viewed at school or on our website.

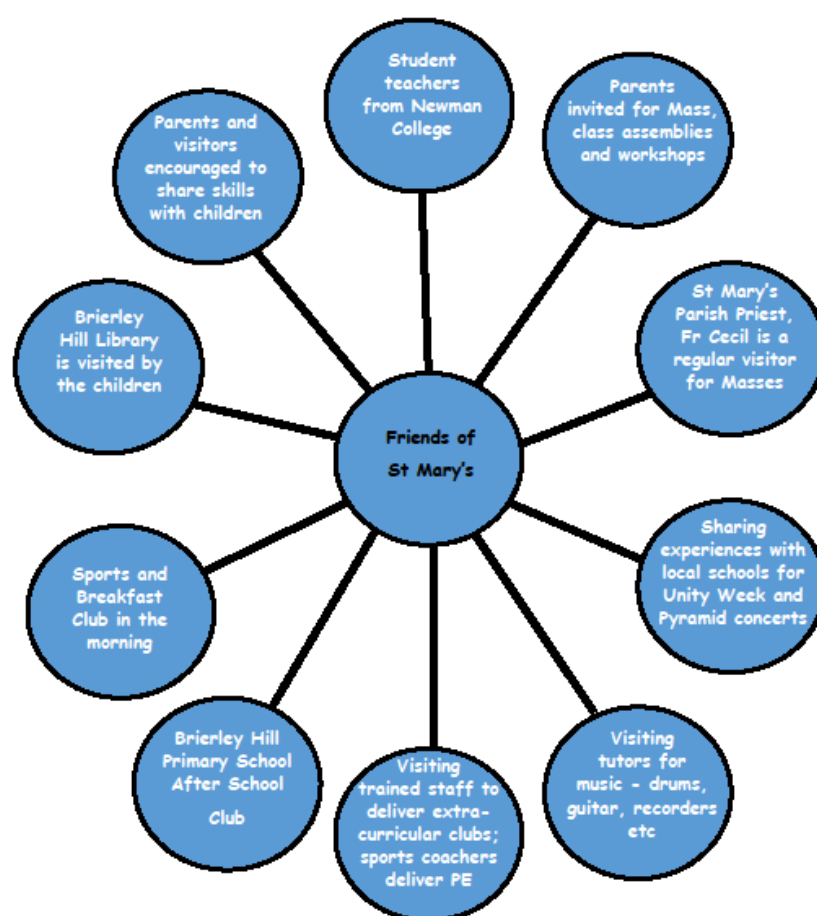
We acknowledge parent's role in fostering good behaviour and encourage a firm home - school partnership in which parents are involved at an early stage when their child's behaviour is inappropriate.

Anti-social behaviour, such as bullying or racist remarks, will not be tolerated and staff act firmly against it. We have a group of trained 'Anti- Bullying Ambassadors' in each class who will support children who are experiencing bullying behaviour. Children are encouraged to tell if they are experiencing bullying. Parents will always be involved if we suspect a case of bullying. Parents, staff and pupils have worked together to produce a policy that will facilitate support for the victim and the bully.

Where friendships are made forever.

Where home, school and parish work in partnership.

As a school we promote team spirit within the children and staff. We have good links with the Parish and wider community, some of which are detailed below. A number of our past pupils come back to the school for Work Experience or even as a member of staff.



Where children build skills for learning and life.

Further Information

The following documents are available for inspection at school:

- Any published OFSTED reports on the school; (OFSTED report October 2011 and RE Inspection report November 2011 available from our website)
- The schools' SEN Policy and Information Report;
- The schools' charging and remissions policy;
- The procedure for dealing with complaints about the curriculum;
- Statement of procedures on school records;
- School Uniform and Dress Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Details of the St Nicholas Owen Academy including partner schools. This information is also available www.stnicholasowen-mac.org.uk.

Copies of some of these documents can be supplied to parents.

Attendance for September 2014 - July 2015

Overall: 96.12%



If your child is accepted for a place, you will receive a welcome pack with comprehensive information on uniform and procedures.

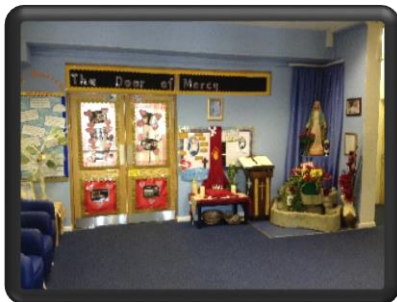
For further information:

Mrs V Hambridge (Main Reception)

Mrs D Beese (School Business Manager)

Ms O'Beirne (Principal)

Mrs C Beech (Chair of Academy Committee)



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