

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Prospectus



Welcome

On behalf of the Governors and Staff I would like to extend to you and your child a warm welcome to St Mary's.

We aim to work in partnership with you to create a bond of trust and support between home and school for the benefit of your unique and precious child. We believe that working together within the school's Catholic, Christian context, the governors, staff, parents and friends of the school can best meet our children's needs.

Whilst some of the children in our school are Catholic, many are from other Christian denominations, other faiths or from backgrounds of no faith. All children are treated equally.

We are proud of St Mary's and proud of the children we have the privilege to inspire and teach here. We see all our children as special. This is a small school in which we foster a caring, Christian atmosphere. It is a courteous, hardworking community where each child is encouraged to feel confident of his or her own worth and ability.

It is our duty to ensure each child achieves their personal potential, academically as well as in sport, music and the arts. We strive to fulfil this duty by creating a safe, stimulating and rewarding environment in which our children can develop both educationally and emotionally.

I hope that you will find the enclosed information useful and that it will give you some idea of the life and work of the school, as well as our sense of aims, value and fun!

Angela Herrar, Headteacher
St Mary's Catholic Primary School

"Pupils enjoy their time and many parents speak highly of the school and value the commitment of staff to their children's all-round development. "

"The head teacher has demonstrated a clear commitment to striving for high academic standards within a caring ethos."



What makes St Mary's special?

Our Mission is: To educate and develop every child's potential within our Catholic School Family.

St Mary's is a warm and welcoming school

We aim to keep parents fully informed about all school activities and their children's progress. Staff are easy to talk to and readily available. All the teachers are on the playground both before and after school to greet the children and speak to parents. Mrs Herrera, the head teacher, is also regularly in the playground to chat to parents and children. Parents' meetings are organised every term to keep all parents informed about the progress and targets set for their child. The notice board in the front playground updates parents on school events along with a fortnightly school newsletter and other letters home.



A family

Everybody who attends St Mary's or works here is seen as part of our school family. The teachers know all the children in the school as individuals and we recognise and reward each child's successes. Every Friday we have a special assembly to celebrate our children's weekly achievements both inside and outside school. Parents are encouraged to join us at this assembly and at many other occasions throughout the year, such as our music evenings, plays, and theme day assemblies. We have a family tree in our school hall made up of photographs of our whole school community.



What makes St Mary's special?

High expectations – high praise

We want every child to achieve their best and work hard to ensure that each individual achieves their full potential, both academically and in other areas. We have high expectations and an excellent record of high achievement. We are proud of our reward system and believe strongly in celebrating success where ever possible.

Through our pupil tracking system we are able to regularly monitor how children are progressing and ensure that we put in place support when pupils need it.

We have dedicated and highly qualified staff who are committed to advancing their knowledge of education for the benefit of our children.

A Catholic school

We are a Catholic primary school, part of the Plymouth Diocese Multi -Academy Trust (CAST). We have close links with the local Catholic parish in Axminster itself, but also Lyme Regis, Seaton, Honiton and Ottery St Mary. We follow Christian values throughout our school day and children are also taught to respect and value other faiths and cultures.





Teaching and Learning

What can we offer your child?

- We offer the core curriculum, delivered by a fantastic group of experienced and talented teachers who are supported by wonderful teaching assistants. We have specialist teachers in Music, French and Sport to broaden the children's learning. A large number of volunteer helpers come into school on a regular basis to listen to children read and help with many other activities and aspects of school life.
- We make the curriculum exciting and relevant to the children's needs by choosing cross curricular themes that engage the interests of the children and spark their enthusiasm. We aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to develop his or her own strengths and develop in self-esteem and confidence. We frequently have visiting specialists in the arts, science and other areas to enrich the curriculum and bring topics to life. Class visits are organised each year to places of interest related to the curriculum. For Year 6 there is an annual residential trip to an activity centre. Children throughout the school learn a cursive handwriting style which enhances their presentation.



- Our curriculum is boosted by regular theme days on a wide variety of topics which are always popular. Recent themes have included: 'Victorians', 'Mardi Gras', 'Saints' and 'Fair Trade'. The days include a mixture of music, art, dance, drama, textiles and other crafts and provide an opportunity for integration amongst the different age groups.



Enjoyment and challenge

Music

St Mary's is a 'musical' school; we recognise that musical activities can have a huge benefit on children's intellectual, personal and social skills and compliments our school assemblies and Acts of Worship. We have a specialist music teacher who offers our children an enriching and inspiring musical experience. All children are encouraged to sing well, play an instrument and join in with the various music clubs and events on offer at the school and they regularly perform to an exceptionally high standard to the wider community. The school choir has won first prize in their category for the last two years at Devon and Exeter Performing Arts Festival. The string orchestra have represented the South West at the National Youth Music festival in 2014.

P.E.

Each class has two games periods each week, one of which is taught by a visiting specialist PE teacher. In the winter terms the children enjoy netball, hockey, football, tag rugby, gym, and dance. In the summer: rounders, cricket, tennis and athletics. We take every opportunity to take part in competitive events against other schools.

Swimming lessons take place at the Flamingo Pool, a short walk from the school.

Beyond the classroom

Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. Through the variety of activities on offer, we aim for the learning experience of all our children to be enriched and for them to make a significant contribution to school life. We provide a wide range of clubs and extra-curricular activities to enrich the children and broaden their outlook. Clubs include: Chess, Choir, Hockey, Netball, Science, Drama, Tennis, Football, Tag Rugby, Orchestra and Art.





"My child is thriving; there is a caring ethos throughout the school" Parent





The Learning Environment



At St Mary's we are fortunate to have a spacious building including 6 light and well equipped classrooms as well as additional rooms for music, a library, and areas for ICT and the arts. We also have a good size hall which we make full use of for a wide selection of activities.

Many of our classrooms open directly onto outside spaces which we use creatively as part of our learning environment.

As a school we are committed to providing an outdoor environment for our children that will provide stimulating and challenging learning. With views over fields to the south, we have two playgrounds and two playing fields and we are currently investing significantly in the play areas to make them an incredible asset for the school. Designs were drawn up with the involvement of our children, parents, Governors, PTFA and other outside agencies to make the space exciting, fully useable and educational. After a successful grant application in 2012, we now have a full size hard court for netball, tennis and hockey and have almost neared completion of a large designated play/outside learning area for the Foundation Stage.

Further improvements to the landscaping will follow over the next few years and include plans for a new trim trail, a growing area and a wildlife zone.



Supporting the needs of all students

At St Mary's we value all our students and believe that each child is a unique individual with their own specific needs and talents. We welcome children whatever their level of ability and whenever they join the school.

Our Special Needs Co-ordinator (Mrs Wright) works closely with the staff in the school, our Special Needs teacher, families and a wide range of outside agencies to ensure that children who have particular needs are catered for. Individual action plans are put in place and progress is tracked to enable effective interventions.

We are very conscious that many of our children are gifted or have a particular area of talent. We recognise their abilities, extend them within the school and work alongside other schools in the area to provide activities and special events to challenge and stimulate these children.

We support a number of our children each year as they take the 11+ entrance exam for Colyton Grammar School.





School Uniform

Girls:

Navy blue skirt, pinafore or trousers.
 White blouse
 Navy blue school pullover or cardigan
 White or navy socks or navy blue tights
 Black school shoes/sandals*
 School tie
 School summer dress

Boys:

Grey trousers or shorts
 White shirt
 Navy blue school pullover
 Plain dark socks
 Black school shoes*
 School tie

*School shoes (not trainers) should be suitable for outdoor play which involves running, skipping etc. Loose fitting, high heeled or open toed shoes/sandals are not suitable.

P.E. Kit:

Gold school T-shirt
 Navy blue shorts
 Trainers
 Navy blue tracksuits for winter sports (optional)
 Strong drawstring bag clearly marked with the child's name to hold all the above.

All items with the school logo/colours are available from the school office i.e. jumpers, cardigans, ties, summer dresses, PE kit. The remainder of the uniform is available from most high street stores.

Additional Items

The school sells reversible fleeces, water bottles, sun hats and book bags. We prefer children to use the slim line school book bags as space in the cloakrooms is limited.
 Please mark all uniform with your child's name.





School Structure

Headteacher: Mrs Angela Herrera

Acting Deputy Head: Mr Patrick Germscheid

Administrator: Mrs Jayne Hart

We have **5 mixed age classes** at St Mary's.

Foundation and Key Stage 1

Kingfisher Class: *Teachers:* Mrs Nenny Wright (Mon-Thurs); Mrs Rachel Burrough (Fri)
(Reception / Year 1) *Teaching Assistant :* Mrs Serena Ailsby-Fish. (All day)

Hummingbird Class: *Teacher:* Mr Patrick Germscheid (Key stage co-ordinator)
(Years 1 / 2) *Teaching Assistant:* Ms Kathy Desanges. (Mornings)

Key Stage 2

Owl Class: (Year 3) *Teacher:* Miss Stephanie Upson
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Phyllis Manning. (Mornings)

Falcon Class: (Years 4 / 5) *Teachers:* Dr Alison Trew *Teaching Assistant:* Mrs Pauline Harris. (Mornings)

Eagle Class: (Years 5/6) *Teacher:* Mrs Katie Forder (Mon-Weds): Mrs Louise Perks
Teaching Assistant: Mrs Liz Tunks. (Mornings)

Additional Teaching Staff:

Mrs Rachel Burrough: Music (Wednesdays)
 Mrs Angela Patterson: Special Needs (Wednesdays)
 Mrs Nicola Steward: French (Tuesday mornings)
 Mr Dan Murnane: PE (Various)

Additional support staff:

Mrs Becky Loveridge
 Miss Georgina Steed
 Mrs Justina Walters
 Mrs Karen Adair
 Miss Kelly Barrett
 Mrs Pat Vincent
 Mrs Anna-Marie Lawrence
 Mrs Tessa Hampton
 Ms Rebecca Kirk

Contact Details:

Headteacher : Mrs Angela Herrera

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Please note that every effort has been made to ensure that the prospectus is accurate at the time of going to press.

