

# School Prospectus 2024-2025



*'Dat Deus incrementum'*

## **St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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Gosport

Hampshire

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**Headteacher: Alison Ternan**

**Chair of Governors: Charlotte Pugh**



## Welcome to St Mary's!

Welcome to St Mary's! Starting a new school is a new adventure for both you and your child and it is important that you take the time to find the right school for them. I have been part of the journey at St Mary's for 5 years. At St Mary's we make sure all children get a high-quality education. Please read the report from Ofsted and the Catholic Section 48 inspection. This reflects the most current inspections of our school. St Mary's is a warm and welcoming Catholic school with community, pride and joy as the core values. The school is one form entry which means each year group consists of one class. Being a smaller school means the staff know every child by name and there is a strong sense of community and belonging. St Mary's is a fully inclusive school and we value each child as an individual. We teach children how to behave in the school and we set high expectations for all pupils to ensure the behaviour is excellent at all times. This is fundamental to ensuring teaching and learning is at its highest standard across the school. If you would like to come and visit the school, please give us a call and we would happily give you a tour and answer any questions you may have. As you walk around the school you will see polite and welcoming pupils, teachers passionate about learning and a calm, happy atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Mrs Alison Ternan

Headteacher



St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
'Dat Deus incrementum'



## ST MARY'S VISION AND VALUES

**For every child to flourish and achieve great things.**

'Dat deus incrementum' (God gives Growth)

## CORE VALUES: **COMMUNITY, PRIDE AND JOY**





## WHAT DO OTHERS SAY?

*'Working with the children and staff from St Mary's is an absolute pleasure. The children were all so excited and enthusiastic to learn. Staff strike the perfect balance by creating a warm and cheerful atmosphere combined with high expectations for behaviour that allow all the children in the room to shine.'*

*SEARCH museum, Gosport*

*'Best school about. My girl left last year. They did everything to make sure she got all the help she needed.'*

*Parent from 2021-2022*

*'The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are warm and friendly and have made massive changes throughout the school.'*

*Year 5 parent*

*'St Mary's is a Catholic School but is open for everyone to attend. It is a multi-cultural and diverse body of students that attend the school.'*

*Year 5 parent*

## WHAT DO OFSTED SAY?

"Pupils are eager to come to this welcoming and inclusive school where they can learn each day. Leaders place the school values of 'pride, community and joy' at the heart of everything they do. They have high ambitions for all pupils including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)." **June 2023**

"Pupils treat each other, staff and visitors with respect. Expectations of behaviour are consistent. Children in the early years learn rules and routines from the start. As they grow in this nurturing and caring environment, pupils develop confidence and self-esteem. Pupils feel safe and trust adults to sort out any worries or disagreements. If bullying or discrimination occurs, leaders deal with it effectively" **June 2023**

"Pupils benefit from a range of opportunities that enrich their learning and ignite their interests. Leaders listen and act upon what pupils tell them about the school. Pupils like the many leadership roles and make a positive contribution to school and community life. The 'Achievement Passports' help pupils to experience activities that are enjoyable and help grow their personal, social and cultural understanding." **June 2023**

"The senior leadership team expect the best from everyone, including themselves. They successfully combine this with kindness and understanding. Subject leaders are knowledgeable and enthusiastic." **June 2023**

"The curriculum is well sequenced and broken down into small steps that build towards the important knowledge leaders want pupils to learn. Teachers explain things well. They focus on building vocabulary across all subjects, making links when appropriate." **June 2023**



## FAITH IN OUR SCHOOL

St Mary's is a Catholic school. Our vision and values are centred around our faith and it is at the core of what we do as a school. Not all pupils at St Mary's are Catholic and so we develop and nurture spirituality that encompasses all faiths and beliefs. In June 2022, the school has its Section 48 (Catholic schools inspection) and this was graded **GOOD** and the report comments on the **outstanding progress** the school has made. You can read the full report: <https://www.stmarysgosport.co.uk/section-48/>

What do Catholic schools do?

- Catholic schools share the vision of the Catholic Church
- Provide the best learning for each child to reach their potential
- Give the best context for young people to engage in worship and Christian action
- Have community members, i.e. staff, who lead worship and model Christian life and values
- Provide learning opportunities about faith: evangelisation and catechesis
- Are the place where children and young people engage daily with their faith: worship, witness of staff, opportunities to reflect, pray and put their beliefs into practice

Religious education is a core part of our curriculum, the RE curriculum includes learning about other faiths. The school has good links with the local parish and we are developing the working relationship between home, school and parish.

Monday morning – Whole school Celebration of the Word

Tuesday – KS1/ KS2 liturgy

Wednesday - Hymn practice

Thursday – Celebration assembly

Friday – Class worship



The school works closely with the St Mary's parish priest, Fr Matthew. The school holds various liturgies throughout the year and also has mass on Holy Days of Obligation in the school hall. We support the children who prepare to receive the sacraments and provide opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. Although parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship or religious education, we do expect all parents to respect and value the worship and education within our Catholic school. We serve the Parishes of Bridgemary, Lee - on-the-Solent, Stubbington and Gosport.



## GOVERNANCE AT ST MARY'S

*Written by St Mary's Catholic Primary School's Chair of Governors.*

Our main role is to support the Headteacher and the staff – the phrase often used to describe this role is 'a critical friend'. We help them to set and reach targets and to strive for excellence across the whole spectrum of school life.

Our legal duties include:-

- Setting strategic direction, policies and objectives
- Approving the school budget
- Reviewing progress against the school's budget and objectives
- Appointing, challenging and supporting the Headteacher

The Full Governing Body meets twice every term. We have sub- committees to look at specific areas. These currently include a resources committee and a curriculum committee. There are also link governors to specific areas such as Special needs, Safeguarding and Pupil premium.

## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S [PTA]

St Mary's is fortunate to have an active PTA. There are planned events over the year to help raise money for the school. If you would like to be a part of the PTA, please let our office team know and they will pass on your details.

## PETS AT ST MARY'S



In the Summer of 2023, we welcome two new members of St Mary's called Betsy and Bella (guinea pigs).

## SQUIRRELS NURSERY

Since September 2021, Squirrels nursery has been running from St Mary's school site. If you have a child who is pre-school age, please contact Daisy. Contact information can be found:

<https://www.squirrels-nurseryltd.com/>





## HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE

(STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2025 OR IN YEAR TRANSFERS)



For applications to start in Reception class children in the main round, please complete the Hampshire school application process online. You will also need to fill in the Supplementary Application Form (SAF) included in this pack and return it to the school office by the deadline. Please refer to the Hampshire guidance about the process and relevant closing dates at

<https://onlineadmissions.hants.gov.uk/> For mid-year applications, please use the above link. Hampshire County Council will notify the school regarding your application and

we will notify you with availability of spaces and start dates.

## SCHOOL BUILDINGS

As a voluntary aided school the Governing Body has to pay 10% towards all buildings and external maintenance work carried out. The Department of Education will only pay 90% of the total cost.

Parents are asked to make a £10 contribution per term per child to enable the Governing Body to meet its commitments.

Tax can be reclaimed by the governing body on donations from tax payers. Details of the Gift Aid scheme are available from the school office.

## BEHAVIOUR AT ST MARY'S

We have high expectations of behaviour and we want all children to reach their full potential before leaving the school. We have a very clear behaviour policy and the systems and expectations are explicitly taught to the children throughout the school year. If you would like to find out more information about the behaviour policy, please look on our school website.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is incredibly important for your child's educational achievement. There is evidence to show that attendance at primary affects children's outcomes at the end of Year 11. At St Mary's we award the class with the best attendance every Thursday and we will follow up any absence from school. If your child is ill/absent, you need to call the school office and inform them (02392 583979) by 9.30am.



## THE SCHOOL DAY

It is very important that your child is in school on time. Classes start their morning activities as soon as they come into class. Any time they are not in is wasted learning time.

### MORNING

- School gates open at 8.30am:
  - All children go round and straight into class.
    - *Reception parents can take their child to class and say good bye at the classroom door in the first half term of the first Autumn term.*
- Children in class by 8.45am and registers are taken.
- The school gates close at 8.45am. Anyone arriving after this time will need to sign their child into the school office and will be marked in as late.

### HOMETIME

- School gates will open at 2.55pm for parents/carers to wait on the playground
- The school day ends at 3pm
  - Reception – parents to wait outside of Reception play area to collect
  - Year 1 – From the hall doors
  - Year 2 – From classroom doors
  - Year 3 – From classroom doors
  - Year 4 - From classroom doors
  - Year 5 - From classroom doors
  - Year 6 - From classroom doors

## LUNCH TIMES

We are fortunate to have a kitchen on site and they provide delicious home-made meals for the children. There are three options each day and you will be given a copy of the menu to keep at home.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free school meals. Year 3 to Year 6 have to pay for their meals and they are £3.20 per day. Please find out if you are eligible for free school meals at the school office.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a 'uniform wearing school'. We believe that it is smart, safe and adds to the sense of community that we are building in the school. The uniform consists of:

Winter uniform [September – March]	Summer uniform [April – July]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Navy blue jumper/cardigan with the school logo</li><li>• White polo shirt with school logo</li><li>• Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore</li><li>• Grey tights when wearing skirts/pinafore</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Navy blue jumper/cardigan with the school logo</li><li>• White polo shirt with school logo</li><li>• Grey shorts or skirts</li><li>• Blue summer dresses</li></ul>

Black school shoes that are safe and appropriate for school. For health and safety reasons, sandals are not to be worn in the summer term.

## PE UNIFORM

PE (House colour with logo) t-shirt and black shorts with trainers or black plimsolls. St Mary's provides your first PE t-shirt. If you are new to the school in the year 2023-2024 the school will give this to you.

Children are not allowed to wear any form of jewellery except watches (excluding SMART watches) or small stud earrings (no hooped earrings). Stud earrings may not be worn for PE/Games. Should there be medical reasons why the studs cannot be removed they will need to be covered with tape for PE or Games in the interest of Health and Safety.

## HAIR

- Plain, narrow hair band, ribbon or scrunchie in the school colours
- Designs shaved in hair, gelled or dyed hair are not suitable for school.

## BUYING SCHOOL UNIFORM

To order uniform, go to the school website – Community section – PTA The Friends – You can see the uniform prices, choose your items and send an email to the PTA with your order. They will email back confirming they have received your order and advise you of the amount you need to pay. On receipt of your payment, they will action your order and then deliver it to your child's class.

**Any family experiencing financial difficulty should speak to the Headteacher.**



## BAGS

Book bags with the school logo available when ordering uniform.

Children should not bring toys, games, computer games etc. to school.

## MOBILE PHONES & PERSONAL PROPERTY

### **Mobile phones are not allowed in school.**

We understand that older children (Year 5 and 6) walk home and a mobile phone can be used as a safety aid. In this case, the child should hand in their phone at the start of the school day to the office or Class teacher and they can collect after they have been dismissed at the end of the day. The use of mobile phones are not allowed in school or on school property.

**Personal property** should be labelled so that we are able to return the property to your child. The school cannot take responsibility for looking after personal property. We discourage items from home coming into school.

**Fidget toys** are used in the school. The school will provide the fidget and there will be a wider discussion with parents before this is implemented. If fidget toys are not used appropriately, they will be taken away and an alternative will be explored.

## WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD NEED?

- Book bag
- School uniform
- PE kit and PE bag
- Lunch box if your child chooses to have sandwiches from home
- Water bottle – with name label

## SAFEGUARDING

At St Mary's Catholic primary School we are dedicated in promoting the welfare of all pupils. All members of staff are proactive in ensuring children are safe and supported. All members of staff are expected to be aware of and follow the safeguarding procedures, which include reporting any concerns to a designated safeguarding leader. For more information on our safeguarding procedures, you can find the policies on our school website.

The school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is Mrs Ternan and the deputy DSLs are Mr Page and Miss Gamblin.