

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
Diocesan Multi Academy Trust

Welcome to St Mary's

Dear Parents & Carers,

On behalf of St Mary's Church of England Primary School, I extend a very warm welcome. We are very proud of our friendly, caring school and would be delighted to show you round. Ofsted has recognised St Mary's as a 'good' school and we are constantly striving to improve and to provide the best possible education for our children. SIAMS (church inspection) judged the school to be 'outstanding' and welcomed our focus on children's wellbeing and pastoral care.

At St Mary's, we aim to provide a broad range of exciting opportunities to inspire and challenge children, and to help them achieve success. Above all, we strive to instil in children a sense of curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.

We take great pride in our strong partnership with parents and our position at the heart of the community. Our links with the church help us to develop well-rounded children, who are respectful of other people, places and cultures. At St Mary's, we reinforce and develop the values and skills to assist children in their future life and learning, and to prepare them to become good citizens of the world.



I look forward to getting to know you and your children and sharing in their happy time at St Mary's C of E Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Mr Andrew Frolish (Headteacher)

Our Vision

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Unconditional love underpins all we do at St Mary's Church of England Primary School. We value and embrace the individuality of every child as they discover, learn and flourish in a place of security and love.

Love – We show love and care for everyone.
Opportunity – Our inclusive love ensures that all children have opportunities to live life to the full.
Values – Our Christian values give children the character and strength to live well and make a difference.
Education –Through our inclusive, loving care, all children flourish.

Our school vision was written after consultation with pupils, parents, staff members and Governors. We used perceptions of the school from within our community to write a statement that would guide all of our decisions and actions. The vision is rooted in the Bible and the whole school community participated in a vote to choose a Biblical reference that truly reflects our school's compassionate ethos. The powerful message of Jesus' love from *John 13:34* is at the heart of St Mary's C of E Primary School.

St Mary's is part of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust. This means that we benefit from strong links with other academies, sharing expertise and good practice. Together, we can ensure that our children achieve well in successful and supportive learning environments.



Christian Values

St Mary's is a church school and we place great emphasis on the promotion of Christian values. Reminding children of our values is our main way of reinforcing positive behaviour. Christian values are taught explicitly through whole school, Key Stage and class Worship.

Our Christian Values

Generosity
Compassion
Courage
Forgiveness
Friendship
Respect
Thankfulness
Trust
Perseverance
Justice



The school's vision is underpinned by our Christian values, which are taken from *'Roots and Fruits'*. We study a different value each half term. This is a focus for collective worship and is routinely reinforced in the classroom and throughout children's daily lives. We refer to the values as Christian values because we illustrate them through Bible stories. However, these universal values are essential for developing the character and moral foundation of all members of our community and we strive to make them relevant to children's everyday lives, exploring what the values might look like on the playground, in the classroom or at home. We use every opportunity to remind children of our ethos and praise children who display our Christian values. Every week, we give out certificates to children who have demonstrated the school's Christian values through their day-to-day behaviour and the way they treat one another. We hope that all children will 'live the values' in their everyday lives.

As a church school, we have very strong links with our local church communities. Representatives from various churches visit the school regularly to help lead Worship. The children visit St Mary's Church regularly for learning experiences and services.



Our children say…

"I like this school because everybody is kind."

"I think this school is great because there are loads of clubs and one is sure to take your interest."

"Everyone is treated fairly and all the teachers are nice."

"This school is brilliant because it focuses a lot on Christian values and that makes people contented."

"This school is great! It is welcoming, friendly and we're always getting involved!"

"This school is brilliant because everybody accepts you."

Our parents say…

"This wonderful school continues to be everything a parent could hope for."

"The school is lovely and seems to make real strides towards ensuring all children are nurtured and learning."

"We all enjoy coming to the school as it's friendly and welcoming. We look forward to more happy memories next year."

"She has had an excellent year, grown in confidence and still enjoys school every day."

"It's been a fantastic place of learning and friendship. The school has excellent values and has given her the best grounding for her future life."



Learning at St Mary's

At St Mary's, we believe that an ambitious, exciting curriculum is the key to transforming children's lives and developing them into lifelong learners. Fostering children's curiosity will give them a desire to learn that both enriches them and equips them with the skills, values, and attitudes needed to find their place in modern Britain and the wider world. Our curriculum has been designed with great care by our teachers collectively in order that there are opportunities to acquire deep and meaningful knowledge and explore a broad range of skills to apply this knowledge, thus preparing children for life beyond school.



Children's learning is driven by high expectations so that they can succeed academically. However, the curriculum is also our most important tool in developing children more broadly, supporting their creative and sporting aspirations and enabling children to grow up spiritually in the context of our strong Christian culture. We help children to build a moral foundation through the explicit teaching of Christian values that are compatible with modern British values, in order that they develop qualities such as respect, compassion, tolerance and forgiveness.





Activities will be designed to build confidence and self-esteem, which in turn will support children's mental health and wellbeing.

Curriculum Key Principles

- **Knowledge and skills** – The knowledge and concepts children acquire through our curriculum must be powerful and planned in a systematic way. Teachers must constantly question the purpose and value of what they are teaching and how learning is structured and reinforced through the accumulation of related concepts. The more children know, the more they can build on this foundation with future learning. The acquisition of skills is also crucial because any body of knowledge is only useful if it can be applied effectively in different situations. A successful curriculum must provide both knowledge and key skills and our teachers plan consciously how these aspects work together to aid children's learning.
- **Overarching concepts** – It is vital that the knowledge and skills children learn are co-ordinated and coherent. In order to achieve this in our curriculum, teachers have identified the key concepts or overarching ideas within each subject. In order that children can access them, we call these the '**Big Ideas**'. Pupils' intellectual development and knowledge-retention is supported by structuring learning according to these few carefully selected 'Big Ideas' and returning to them frequently, giving context and familiar language on which to build new learning. It is essential that these 'Big Ideas' are continually returned to and reinforced in order to create an organised, easily-understood and progressive structure of learning. This principle is about making connections and constant reference to a bigger picture. Future learning, authentic cross-curricular understanding and the detail of deeper learning take place within this coherent structure.





- **Engagement** – A curriculum that fails to engage pupils will not be effective. We have identified that our pupils respond well to inspiring stimuli to generate productivity; opportunities for active or outdoor learning; and exciting tasks that allow them to explore their creativity. Wherever possible, these opportunities are built into our curriculum maps explicitly.



- **Personal development** – The curriculum is our most important tool for developing children's character and shaping how they see and interact with the world. Activities are planned that provide opportunities for spiritual and social growth, through which children learn to lead others and lead themselves. We explicitly teach a range of Christian values that create a moral foundation and support children into becoming positive, contributing members of society. Through exposure to diverse people and cultures, children learn the importance of tolerance and respect for all.
- **Vocabulary and reading** – In order for pupils to access learning in any subject, they must be taught the correct technical vocabulary, allowing them to understand, analyse and communicate. At St Mary's, teachers plan when language and key terms will be introduced, explained and taught explicitly. Curriculum maps show how this technical language is then revisited and reinforced regularly. Similarly, the ability to read fluently and understand a range of texts is essential for all future learning. Therefore, an emphasis on reading for both pleasure and information underpins the whole curriculum.
- **Learning behaviour** - Pupils' learning behaviour has a significant impact on their ability to access the curriculum. If learning behaviour is a barrier, then over time this can affect a child's life-chances profoundly. Therefore, we teach children explicitly about learning and ask them to reflect on how they learn best. Across the whole school, we promote good learning behaviour through agreed language and 'Big Ideas': *Focus*, *Persevere* and *Reflect*. Children are taught the language explicitly and this is referred to during lessons, helping children to consider the most important skills, attributes and characteristics that affect learning. A system of rewards and certificates further reinforces good learning behaviour.





By the end of their time at St Mary's School, children will be confident within each academic discipline because they will have developed knowledge, skills and understanding within a coherent structure of recurring 'Big Ideas'. They will have been exposed to subject-specific technical vocabulary at key times in a planned, coherent and organised way.

Explicit teaching and repetition of key vocabulary and concepts will provide a structure for future learning, ensuring that pupils are ready for learning in the next stage of their education. This confidence will extend across a broad range of subjects, allowing for flexible learning in the future.



Pupils will develop curiosity and a desire to acquire knowledge and experience the world around them, understanding that learning enriches their lives beyond the classroom. We aim to inspire children to develop a life-long love of learning.

Younger children participate in regular Forest School activities, both on and off site, led by our qualified Forest School practitioners.

Ofsted 2020 – 'good' with 'outstanding' Early Years provision

Ofsted says…

"Pupils at St Mary's are happy and enjoy coming to school."

"Pupils are proud of their school."

Adults provide strong pastoral support and care."

"Parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive."

"Leaders have worked hard to build a curriculum that pupils enjoy and where they can achieve well."

"The teaching of reading is high quality."

"Children in the Early Years get off to a very good start. Children are highly motivated and try hard with their learning activities."

"Children play kindly with each other…"

"There are many opportunities for pupils to develop broader life skills."



SIAMS 2017 – 'outstanding'

SIAMS says…

"The excellent pastoral care and concern for individuals meets the pupils and their families at their point of need within an inclusive Christian family environment."

"…the school's Christian vision and values are lived out each day."

"Such values…are explicitly taught and rewarded, resulting in excellent relationships and behaviour."

"Every child is expected to do well, underpinned by the belief that all children can achieve."

"The emotional wellbeing of pupils and adults is one such priority."

Behaviour and Safety

We have high expectations of children's behaviour. Good behaviour is essential for effective teaching and learning to take place. Pupils benefit from an environment that is safe, respectful, peaceful, fair and forgiving. Positive behaviour is reinforced through praise and rewards and reference to our Christian values. Please refer to our Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies for more information.

Your child's wellbeing is important to us! There is a strong emphasis at St Mary's on looking after children's personal and emotional needs. Our priority is keeping children safe from harm.





Further information about Safeguarding and our procedures can be found in our Safeguarding Policy, which is published on the school website. Parents can request a paper copy of the Safeguarding Policy from the school office.

Working in Partnership with Parents

At St Mary's, we pride ourselves on our strong relationship with parents. A positive partnership between school and home is vital in raising pupils' aspirations and attainment. In addition to parents' consultations and sending home reports, we strongly encourage parents to help in class as volunteers.

Throughout the year, we organise opportunities for children to share learning with their parents. There are chances for parents to meet teachers informally and look at children's work.

Parents' views are important to us! We use surveys and meetings to give parents opportunities to reflect on school life and contribute ideas.

Our curriculum plans are published on the school website, so that parents can check what their children have been learning in school. We have produced guides for parents to help them support their children in maths, reading and with homework. Our weekly newsletter, Facebook page and website are useful ways to share information with parents and celebrate the children's learning! The school keeps in touch with parents via emails and letters, keeping parents informed about life in school. Teachers lead their class out at the end of each day and this is a good opportunity to talk to parents informally. In addition, our Pastoral Support Worker is available to talk to and provides a strong link between home and school.



The Parent Support Group is a dedicated team of parents who organise special events, such as discos and Christmas and summer fetes. Not only do they raise funds for the school, but such social events are also an essential part of the school community. We encourage all parents to get actively involved!

School Organisation



The School Day:

8:50am – The gate is opened and the bell rings. Children enter for registration and begin learning activities. Many teachers wait at the courtyard gate to greet children and this is a good opportunity for parents to speak to them informally or pass on messages.

10:30am (9:10am on Fridays) – Collective Worship – there is a strong emphasis on collective worship in the school. There is a focus on celebrating children's achievements during worship once a week.

10:45am – 11:00am – Break time

Lunchtime is staggered to avoid children waiting for too long!

3:15 – The school day ends.

St Mary's has a 26 place Nursery for three hours each morning. We also offer extended hours each afternoon. The admission number for each year group from Reception to Year 6 is 30 pupils. There is one class for each year group.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) and Year 1 enter their classrooms via the small playground. All other children enter the school through the courtyard gate adjacent to the school field.

Children in Key Stage 1 receive a free fruit or vegetable snack every morning.

School Uniform

The school's colours are **Royal Blue and Silver Grey**.



The school's emblem is the fleur de lys, which children wear with pride on their jumpers or cardigans. School uniform is available to purchase online direct with Brigade Clothing Limited

School Uniform - Grey skirt/pinafore dress/blue gingham dress or long/short grey trousers. Royal blue V-necked jumper or cardigan with school logo. Pale blue collared polo shirt (with or without the school logo) or pale blue open-necked blouse. Grey tights or grey/white socks (not trainer socks). Children should wear formal, flat, black shoes to school. They should not wear trainers for class please. However, children will need a pair of trainers to change into for playing on the field and for PE.

For PE lessons, children wear royal blue shorts with a plain, white t-shirt. Suitable white t-shirts with the school emblem are available to purchase from Brigade Clothing Limited online although parents are welcome to purchase a plain, white t-shirt elsewhere. During winter, children may wear a tracksuit for outdoor PE lessons.

Only studs or sleeper earrings are allowed to be worn whilst in school. No jewellery should be worn during physical activities, including watches. Any earring studs should be taken out.



Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Early Years Foundation Stage includes the school Nursery and the Reception class. Our Early Years setting is a bright, vibrant introduction to St Mary's, helping children develop a love of learning and a sense of curiosity. Children are encouraged to be independent and explore a wide range of resources and activities. The indoor and outdoor areas are exciting, stimulating environments, full of opportunities to play and learn. Children enjoy regular Forest School learning opportunities.

In partnership with parents, we develop children's learning and skills through following their interests and allowing children the freedom to investigate the world around them. This approach, along with explicit teaching of phonics and other basic skills, leads to happy, successful children in the Early Years!

Adults use ongoing assessments to make sure that we meet all the children's needs. Assessment information is used to provide children with activities that develop their learning and are challenging and engaging. Children can join the Nursery in the term after their third birthday. They start Reception in September of the academic year in which they turn five.

*Ofsted says about our Early Years Foundation Stage is **OUTSTANDING**…*

"Adults make sure that children in Reception learn their letters and sounds quickly."

"Children in the Early Years get off to a very good start."

"Children are highly motivated and try hard with their learning activities."

"Adults have planned the curriculum well, so young children can learn and achieve, whatever their starting point."

"Children have many opportunities to develop their interests and enjoy learning in the classroom and outside."

"Children play kindly with each other…"

"There are positive relationships with adults…"

Nursery – Universal Entitlement



The 'universal' entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds is 15 hours a week of Nursery provision for 38 weeks of the year (matching our school terms). At St Mary's C of E Primary School, **this 15 hour universal entitlement is offered through 5 morning sessions from 9:00am to midday for 5 days each week. Each of these morning sessions lasts 3 hours.** Children are eligible to join our Nursery in the term after their 3rd birthday.



Nursery – Extended 30 Hour Free Childcare Entitlement



Some children are eligible for additional hours of Nursery provision. This entitlement is an extension of the universal entitlement and provides an additional 15 hours of free Nursery provision for children who are eligible. The entitlement to 30 hours free provision (15 hours 'universal' entitlement + 15 hours additional entitlement = 30 hours) is intended to support working parents with the cost of childcare and enable them, where they wish, to return to work or to work additional hours. Further information about eligibility can be found in our Nursery Admissions Policy or online at: https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare. Alternatively, you can enquire at the school office for support.

At St Mary's C of E Primary School, **this 15-hour additional entitlement is offered through 5 afternoon sessions, finishing at 3:15pm.** Parents who are not eligible are welcome to pay for the additional hours if they wish.

Pastoral Care





At St Mary's, we prioritise the emotional wellbeing of all children. We pride ourselves on the emotional and pastoral care we provide for children and the strong links we establish with their families. We believe strongly that if we meet children's emotional needs and support children as individuals, then they will be 'ready to learn' and will be able to be the best they can be. The individual pastoral support we provide has a clear impact on children's behaviour and learning. Our Pastoral Support Worker works directly with individuals and small groups, providing support with friendships, self-esteem and understanding emotions. Happy playtimes lead to successful lesson times. We offer nurture groups at lunchtimes and staff members will observe children at playtimes to ensure they are socialising well.

Alongside the Pastoral Support Worker, our Thrive Practitioner and Service Children's Champion support children with their emotional and social development.

It is essential for the school to work in partnership with parents. Parents share their concerns with our Pastoral Support Worker, who is often available at the start and end of the school day. Teachers are also usually available to speak to directly at these times. The Pastoral Support worker can be telephoned confidentially or emailed directly on pastoral.support@stmaryshad.co.uk.

We liaise closely with many external agencies to ensure that children and families are fully supported. We arrange for external professionals to provide counselling and therapeutic services if needed.

Extra-Curricular Activities



Our Breakfast Club offers parents the option of dropping off their children from 8:00am and breakfast can be provided if necessary. Children participate in a range of activities, such as parachute games, short tennis, ten pin bowling, baking, board games and arts and crafts. Breakfast Club is a calm environment and a relaxing, enjoyable start to the school day! Our after-school club offers a similar range of activities and runs until 5:30pm each evening. Therefore, wrap-around care is available from 8:00am to 5:30pm for those who need it.

We offer lunchtime nurture groups to help children with friendships, social situations and emotions. We organise a variety of lunch-time and after-school clubs and activities. We take part in sporting competitions and festivals with local schools.



The curriculum is supported by educational visits to a range of exciting destinations. Examples include the Science Museum in London, Ipswich Museum, Ancient House Museum of Thetford Life and various castles! The children in Year 6 go on an annual week-long residential trip, which helps them to develop good team skills and independence.



Learning is also enriched by visitors to the school, such as visiting theatre companies.

Making an Application



St Mary's C of E Primary School does not have a specific catchment area and we welcome children from all surrounding areas.

We are always pleased to meet new parents and children and recommend arranging a tour of the school prior to making an application. Please telephone the school office (01473 823268) in order to arrange a tour of the school with the Headteacher. This will give you the chance to experience the school's atmosphere and ethos and to see the school in action!

Further information about the school, including a link to our latest Ofsted Inspection Report, can be found on our website: www.stmaryshad.co.uk.



We operate a fully funded school **Nursery** every school day. For advice on eligibility for extended hours provision, please speak to the school's administrative staff. Children are eligible to join the nursery in the term after they turn three. If parents wish to make an application for the **Nursery**, forms can be obtained from the school office and should be returned to the school.

Children start **Reception** in September of the academic year in which they have their 5th birthday. Applications must be made by the closing date in January ready for the following September. Parents must apply for a place in **Reception** even if their child is in the Nursery. We recommend applying online at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions, using the 'CAF 1' form. The Local Authority process **Reception** applications. The Local Authority Admissions Team can be contacted on 0345 600 0981 or admissions@suffolk.gov.uk if parents need further advice. Information can also be found in the 'Admissions to Schools in Suffolk' booklet, which is available in school.

In-year applications for other year groups should be made on 'Form ADM1', which is available online or from the school office. This form should be returned to the school office as we process our own in-year applications.



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