



ST. MARY'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

With God's strength, we reach for the stars



Welcome to St Mary's Church of England Primary School



Clare Morton, Headteacher, says:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful, outstanding school.

High expectations and high priorities

St Mary's is a highly successful multicultural Church of England school where Christian principles and values are woven through, and underpin, all that we are and do. We always have high expectations and strive as teachers to encourage children to be the best they can be in all they do, so that with God's strength, together we can reach for the stars.

Warm, friendly and safe

We provide a warm, friendly, safe and welcoming environment where every family is valued and listened to, and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural wellbeing of our children is given the highest priority.

Christ, church and the community

Our links with Christ, the Church and positive relationships with local community services mean that we are a school where every child flourishes.

Fun to learn

Here, learning is fun and as ambitious as we can make it and we aim to make our broad and balanced curriculum come to life! The cultural capital at school is excellent with

opportunities for all children to take part in a wide variety of trips and outdoor learning.

"Love one another as I have loved you"

We strongly believe that the teaching of our Christian faith values - with an emphasis on Jesus's teaching to "love one another as I have loved you", John 13:34 - is what makes our school such a warm, calm and welcoming place.

High praise from Government

In 2021 had a visit from Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister, who expressed his view that St Mary's was one of the best schools he had ever visited. High praise indeed!

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here.

Get in touch

If you, too, would like to see what we can offer your child, please get in touch on 01782 235337 or email office@stmarysce.org.uk to make an appointment to visit us.

We look forward to working with you.



Lily, George, and Marcus are all thriving in the caring environment of St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Mark and Alison live in Stoke-on-Trent and are grandparents to Lily, aged 10, George, aged 6, and Marcus, aged 4. Mark helps his son, Steven, by taking his grandchildren to school and picking them up again in the afternoons, and he is an enthusiastic advocate of St Mary's



Enjoying learning

Mark and Alison are delighted with the way their grandchildren are flourishing in the supportive atmosphere of St Mary's. Mark says: "Lily is now much more confident than she used to be and is progressing well academically. George loves going to St Mary's and is the first to dress himself ready for school each morning, and Marcus is doing very well in Reception."

Good values

Mark says the staff at St Mary's are welcoming to all the children and their families. "The school have gone above and beyond to help my son and his children, and have been unbelievably supportive to us all. We admire the way they teach the Christian values and how they encourage the children to respect diversity and show compassion for each other."

Settling quickly

When Lily was due to start school, St Mary's was one of two schools that had a place for her, Mark says. "We had heard from other families that St Mary's was a superb school and so it was decided she should go there. Lily started in Year 1 and within a week was settled and happy at the school."

Keen pupil

Lily is now in Year 5 and takes great pride in her reading, Mark says. "She enjoys doing dance at an after-school club and now volunteers to help at school. She is a toast monitor in the mornings, helping to make sure toast is delivered to each classroom. We have seen a big improvement in Lily since she started at the school and she now enjoys Reading, Writing, Maths and Science."

Social skills

Lily has plenty of friends and looks forward to going to school to see them each day. "When I take her to breakfast club in the mornings, they all embrace and jump up and down because they are pleased to see each other. It is great to see how socially aware Lily has become," he says.

Playground fun

George started in the nursery at St Mary's and is now doing well In Year 1. "He is very active and full of energy, but the school handle him well and say his behaviour is good. He loves playtime, but he knows he must pay attention in class. I go to parents evening with my son and the staff have said they are very happy with George now. I have also seen how disappointed he is when he can't go to school," Mark says.

Bright start

Marcus started in the nursery at St Mary's and is making good progress in Reception. "The staff are very happy with his learning and have told us they think he is intelligent. You can tell that the children are the most important thing to every member of staff and each teacher knows all the children, even if they don't teach them," he says.

Good communication

Mark likes how approachable the staff are to parents. "They will let us know if there is something that can be done better, or improved, which is honest and helpful. We have a good dialogue with them and can chat about any concerns. Also, Lily knows she can go and talk to a member of staff if she has any worries, and I am pleased she feels she can do that."

Children say

Lily says: "I enjoy seeing my friends every day at school."

George says: "I love playtime."

Marcus says: "I like learning at school."

School day: settling in

School hours

Doors open at 8.30am and close at 8.50am. School start promptly at 9am.

The school day ends at 3.15pm for EYFS, and 3.20pm for Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2.

Wraparound care

Early Birds Breakfast Club starts at 8.00am. Toast and a drink are provided at a cost of £2.50 per day.

We have after-school clubs every day which run until 5.00pm at a cost of £6.00 per day. These are led by an external company and St. Mary's staff that encourage sports and activities for children. Children are grouped according to their ages.

After-school club sports and activities are changed over the school year but typically include arts and crafts, drama, football, dance, dodgeball, ninja warriors, circus skills, Olympics etc. Towards the end of the after-school club, children are provided with a drink and snack.

Uniform

We believe strongly in school uniform as it reflects our commitment to the equal worth of each individual. High standards of personal presentation reinforce our values of self-respect and pride in our community. Each pupil is expected to wear their uniform appropriately, in adherence to our school's standard. In doing so, our students show that they are proud to be part of St. Mary's Church of England Primary School. Our school colours are purple, yellow and grey.

Food in school

School dinners are cooked fresh every day on the school premises and are served daily in the hall. Payment is via our cashless payment system, ParentPay.

Free school meals

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 they are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal every day. Older children may also be entitled to a free meal if the family is in receipt of certain benefits.

Packed lunches

Children may alternatively bring a healthy packed lunch from home.

Fruit and milk

Foundation Stage children are entitled to free milk and fruit. Key Stage 1 children receive fruit through the government scheme. We do however provide all of our children throughout school with the option of toast from nursery to Year 6 and also, children in Key Stage 2 are provided with the choice of fruit too which is funded by the school.



Briseis and Phoenix are both fulfilling their potential in the inspiring atmosphere of St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Martin lives in Stoke-on-Trent with his daughter, Briseis, aged 8, and son, Phoenix, aged 5.



Moving forward

Martin is thrilled with the progress Briseis and Phoenix are making at St Mary's C.E. Primary School. Martin says: "Briseis has improved a lot from the level she was at when she first started at the school at the age of six, and we can see that Phoenix is already thriving there since joining the school."

First choice

Briseis used to go to a primary school near Martin's place of work, but after he stopped working there, he decided to move her to St Mary's. "I used to go there myself, so I knew it was a good school and other members of my family who have children at St Mary's spoke very highly of it. It was my number one choice when I decided to move her. After Briseis started at St Mary's, I could quickly tell that it was a much better school than the one she had been attending before," Martin says.

Motivating staff

"After Briseis joined the school, she settled in very well. From the level she was at when she first started, she improved a lot, and that is down to the teachers. Briseis likes them all and they have made her enthusiastic about learning," he says.

Good communication

"The staff are very good at speaking to parents and keeping them up to date," Martin says. "They will give you regular updates and ring you to let you know how your children are getting on. They will give you the positives and the negatives and let you know the areas to work on, which is always constructive."

Christian atmosphere

Martin thinks that religious education is well handled at the school and he likes the way that the children are taught good values. "I am pleased the local vicar goes in every day to participate in school worship. Briseis loves RE, which is well taught at St Mary's, and she is

learning a lot about the Bible. Briseis has made plenty of friends at St Mary's and plays with children from other year groups as well as the children in her own year."

Caring teachers

Martin has been impressed with the commitment of the teachers at St Mary's. "Briseis is currently having hearing problems and the teachers have raised their concerns about it. They have gone above and beyond to help her, by giving me a letter to take to the doctor saying that they are concerned about her hearing. I really appreciate their help with this."

Enjoying art

Martin is very pleased with how well Phoenix has settled in since he started at St Mary's. "I know he is well liked by the teachers, and at the recent parents' evening I was told how pleased they were with his progress. He likes drawing and painting and is currently learning Phonics. He can't read yet, but he loves having books read to him and he also speaks very well," Martin says.

Excellent facilities

"St Mary's is a modern, well-equipped school and they have good facilities for the children, including a lovely hall where they do PE. They have nice grounds with different zones for the children to use. They have an area for animals, with rabbits and tortoises, and there is also a football pitch. I think all the other parents would agree with me that St Mary's is the best school in this area. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend the school to other families."

Children say

Briseis says: "I like learning about the Bible and seeing all my friends at school."

Phoenix says: "I enjoy playing outside at school with the toys and bikes."

Curriculum: firm learning foundations for the future

Motivating, engaging and inspiring

At St Mary's, our concentric curriculum motivates, engages and inspires our pupils through a series of learning journeys that we have titled 'mini-missions'. All of the curriculum areas are then delivered through this adventure. Each adventure is designed to hook all pupils in, and acts as the vehicle for our learning.

Learning journey

The learning journey that the pupils go on covers all subjects and are captured in one book. The adventures allow for clear coverage of the National Curriculum.

Areas of the curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5
2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7
3. Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government's Early Learning Goals with seven areas of learning:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Health
- Citizenship
- Personal and Social Education
- Spanish
- Computing.

Little Saints

At St Mary's, we offer high quality education and experiences for 2 year olds. Our bespoke outdoor Pod, allows our staff and youngest children to flourish in a warm and homely setting. For enquiries regarding places, please speak to the school office.



Enriched curriculum



Experiential learning

Children have opportunities to learn, not just in the classroom, but in our extensive grounds and outdoor areas through the use of our Farm.

St Mary's School Farm

St Mary's School Farm is seen as an integral part of the school and the way in which we teach. Children have access to the farm and the animals and are responsible for the welfare of the animals and the upkeep of their environment. Children learn life skills whilst carrying out these activities and thoroughly enjoy completing all tasks. Animals that we currently have are fish, rabbits and tortoises, all of which are adored by the children and run to greet them when they are approached. This passion for the animals and the world in which we live works hand-in-hand with the school's approach to lifelong learning and the use of the outdoors as a vehicle to meet the needs of all children.

Trips

Children are given the opportunities to visit not just local places of interest, but also cities such as London, Manchester or Liverpool, where they visit museums and iconic sites.

Spain

We are able to provide a wonderful residential to Valencia in Spain. Our Y5 children have the opportunity to sample Spanish culture and experience what it is like to live in Valencia.

Outdoor learning

Here at St Mary's, we pride ourselves in giving children the best possible opportunities and hands on experiences. Every class across the school has the opportunity to join in with our exciting outdoor learning days as part of our curriculum offer. Foundation Stage take part in weekly Welly Wednesday and Fresh Air Fridays sessions.



Behaviour and self-development

Respect

At St Mary's we believe that through faith in God we can create a welcoming, caring environment where relationships are based on respect and develop positive self-esteem in each child. Staff at St Mary's are committed to maintaining high expectations of good behaviour as an essential contribution to the educational experience of children and to their happiness and well-being.

Foundations for the future: Love and Respect

The values of Love and Respect are the basis for wanting all our children to get along with each other, treating each other as they would wish to be treated and supporting each other. We encourage children to make good choices. This not only ensures a positive, happy learning environment but is also building a foundation for them to be happy and responsible citizens of the future.

Consideration for others

We operate a positive behaviour management system; where we work hard to ensure the children understand what kind of behaviour is acceptable in school and what the consequences of different types of behaviour might be. Behaviour is learnt and therefore can be changed or re-learned.

Our aim is to teach the children at St Mary's how to behave well and to be considerate and self-disciplined individuals. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Positive praise

All adults who work at St Mary's School have a responsibility for behaviour. They need, wherever possible, to support our "positive praise" culture and ensure that they treat pupils with respect and kindness. Children are expected to respond with respect to whoever is responsible for them. This includes teaching and support staff and voluntary and parent helpers.

Attendance

At St. Mary's attendance is closely monitored. Any absences should be reported via the Studybugs app. Please refer to the absence policy which can be found on our website for further clarification/guidance. All holidays during term time will not be authorised except for the May days which are granted.



Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special educational needs

The principle of inclusion is central to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) policy. The school values the abilities and achievements of all its pupils, promoting maximum development of knowledge, skills and understanding, together with personal and social growth for all. All pupils, including those with SEN and disabilities, have the same entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum and to participate in all aspects of school life. All teachers are teachers of every child, including those with SEN. The school recognises the importance of effective partnership with parents and of taking into account the 'ascertainable views of the child' in determining how individual educational needs can be met.

Aims

Our aim is to raise the aspirations and expectations of all pupils with SEN, with a clear focus on outcomes for pupils.

Identification and assessment

Pupils are only identified as SEN if they do not make adequate progress once they have had intervention/adjustments and good quality personalised teaching that is closely monitored. The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take to support the child. The school identifies the needs of pupils by considering the needs of the whole child, not just the special educational needs. Assessment is a continual process that can identify pupils who may have special educational needs.

More Able Learners

The needs for all learners are met through quality first teaching, the provision of scaffolded activities, low-threshold high-ceiling tasks, targeted questions and extension activities to ensure a broad curriculum offer.



P.E, sport and music

P.E. and sport

At St Mary's, we believe that all children should have the opportunity to engage in and enjoy physical education. All learners will develop and extend their physical, cognitive and social skills whilst working both independently and as part of a group/team.

Sporting activities

Children will be exposed to a range of sporting activities during their time at St Mary's, including:

- Swimming
- Dance
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Hockey
- Football
- Cross Country
- Athletics



Music

At St Mary's we believe that all children should be given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. We endeavour to make all our children active musicians. St Mary's allows children to explore a range of instruments, encouraging them to flourish and reach for the stars. These include:

- Ukelele
- Recorder
- Keyboard
- Choir
- Singing
- Performance
- Percussion

Music is a universal language

We believe that music is a universal language, that we all have a voice, and we encourage pupils to use it through singing and performance. Through engaging lessons, we strive to develop pupils' musicianship and critical engagement.

Confidence and creativity

We recognise that music promotes confidence, creativity and a sense of achievement. We hope to enhance pupils' love of and respect for music and themselves as these are qualities that we nurture within our children.



Admissions and getting involved



Admissions

New nursery and reception places are applied for via Stoke on Trent City Council admissions team. In-year applications are made to the school directly using the LA forms which can be obtained from the school via email or paper version.

Stoke on Trent City Council admissions team are contactable on:

Telephone: 01782 234598

Email: admissions@stoke.gov.uk

Address:

Civic Centre

Glebe Street

Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 1HH

Getting involved

Trustees

When a Parent Trustee position becomes available it will be advertised through our school communication asking for interest and application. This role is renewed every four years.

Volunteering in school

At St. Mary's are always looking for volunteers to come in and read with our children or help out with occasions and trips.

Community links

We have recently set up a school community room within our school house, where external agencies can come into school to offer courses for parents and members of the community.

Our values

- Love
- Pride
- Respect
- Endeavour

With our Christian life at the heart.



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C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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