



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

We recently 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.



Charlie is thriving in the friendly atmosphere of St Mary C.E. Primary School

Danielle lives in Stoke-on-Trent with her son, Charlie, who is nine.

Children say

Charlie says: "Everyone at St Mary's is really friendly and I enjoy doing Maths lessons."



Supportive staff

Danielle is grateful for all the support she and Charlie have received from staff since he started at St. Mary's C.E. Primary School. She says: "The school is a lovely uplifting place and everyone has been very kind to us. I have had some health issues and the school have worked with me to make sure it hasn't affected Charlie."

Settling in

Danielle says she had heard from other parents that St Mary's C.E. Primary was a very good school. "Although we live a mile and a half from the school, we were prepared to walk there and back every day because St. Mary's is so great," Danielle says. "Charlie is young in the school year and started in the nursery at the age of three. He was very nervous because he hadn't been anywhere else before but they did everything they could to help him settle. They used to carry him in to look at the fish tanks. He enjoyed nursery because he liked mixing with other children and playing outdoors."

Enjoying learning

"He went into Reception at the age of four and even though I had to leave him at the door, he was happy to go in on the first day and never looked back. It was play-based learning and the children didn't realise they were being taught because they were having so much fun. Charlie's teachers all took the time to get to know each child really well. He is doing well in all subjects, but especially enjoys Maths. He was anxious because it took him longer to do his writing than other children, but the staff encouraged him, telling him he took longer because he wanted it to be really good."

Earning rewards

"The staff get a lot out of the children by praising them for good work and rewarding them for their achievements. They have a Star of the Week and, before the arrival of Covid 19, used to have a special assembly to celebrate children's achievements. They have Golden Time and children are chosen to have extra time outside."

Mixing well

"Charlie has enjoyed many trips out, even to the seaside. They encourage the children to mix well together and, although he is shy by nature, he has never struggled to make friends. He has also got to know children from different years and enjoys being a reading buddy to younger children."

Multicultural school

"The staff promote the Christian ethos of the school by the way they look after the children and parents and the values they share. They welcome children from other faiths and pride themselves on being a successful, multicultural school. They demonstrate good manners and show kindness and respect, receiving it from the children in return."

Fun outdoors

"There are lots of opportunities for outdoor learning as the school has a farm with rabbits, guinea pigs and tortoises and an outdoor classroom. There is nothing about school that Charlie doesn't enjoy. He wasn't confident about football for a while, but is now enjoying playing football at an after-school club," Danielle says.

Happy atmosphere

"I used to go in and read with the younger children and volunteered to help out in the school office, before Covid 19, because I wanted to give something back. The school is always a happy place and I can't say enough good things about it. From the moment you arrive, everyone is smiling and makes you feel welcome. Now Charlie is in Year Five he is being well prepared for moving up to secondary school, but I wish he didn't have to leave St Mary's. However, he knows how to make new friends and the school have encouraged him to be resilient. Every parent wants the best for their precious children and I truly believe that St Mary's gives them the best of everything."

School day: settling in

School hours

Doors open at 8.30am and school starts at 9.00am.

The school day ends at 3.00pm for EYFS, and 3.10pm for Key Stages 1 and 2.

Wraparound care

Early Birds Breakfast Club starts at 8.00am. Toast and a drink are provided at a cost of £1.50 per day.

We have after-school clubs every day which run until 5.00pm at a cost of £5.00 per day. These are led by an external company 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 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.



Finlay doesn't miss out on anything thanks to the supportive staff at St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Clare and Simon live in Stoke-on-Trent with their sons, Ben, aged 14, and Finlay, aged seven.



Inclusive school

Clare and Simon are delighted that Finlay is able to participate in everything at St Mary's, despite being in a wheelchair, because his needs are being so well catered for by the school. Clare says: "Finlay has spina bifida and before he started in the nursery, they put things in place to enable him to cope. He has to be catheterised every two hours and so the school gave Finlay a one-to-one carer. We were able to train her to do his personal care ourselves. To begin with, he was a bit tearful about starting in the nursery but he soon got used to his carer and would go to her happily each day."

Helpful staff

Clare and Simon chose St Mary's for Finlay because their eldest son, Ben, did very well there and so they knew it was a good school. Clare says: "The staff are all very helpful and check with me regularly to make sure Finlay has everything he needs. When he went up into Year One, my Mum got a job as a dinner lady at the school and so she is able to see to his personal care while she is there and he isn't quite so reliant on his one-to-one carer now."

Wheelchair friendly

"I have always found the school to be very hands on. If I request something to help Finlay it will usually be there straight away. Now he is in Year Three, he has to go upstairs to his classroom and so they had a lift installed for his wheelchair. They have also got Finlay a fire chair to get him down the stairs if he can't use the lift."

Meeting targets

"Finlay is doing well academically and meeting the targets for his age, having had some extra help with Phonics along the way. He is very articulate and speaks up for himself and says exactly what he thinks about things."

Enjoying trips

"The school are very aware of his needs and make sure he is included in everything. He goes on all the trips, and I am able to go along with the class so I can attend to his personal care during the day. They always make sure they choose transport that can accommodate his wheelchair."

Kind friends

"Finlay has been with the same group of children since he was in nursery and has made a lot of friends. The girls are very caring towards him but he can be a bit crafty and will ask them to help him zip up his coat when he can do it himself really. He has some good friends among the boys as well and will send them to do things such as fetching his water bottle. He knows they will all help him if he needs anything. Finlay has always got someone to play with. He really enjoys playtime, but he knows that some of the time he has to get on with his work. He enjoys having his schoolfriends round to the house for tea."

Approachable teachers

"Everyone at the school is very friendly and will say good morning to you and the children have all been taught to be polite. You can approach any teacher if you have concerns about something and they will pass the information on to the appropriate member of staff for you."

Sensitive support

"The school want the best for every child and, if anyone gets behind academically, they will give them one-to-one teaching. No child is ever left to struggle, but the staff deal with giving extra support in a very kind, sensitive way. It really comes across that the school want every pupil to reach their full potential."

Children say
Finlay says: "St Mary's is awesome!"

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.



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 guinea pigs, 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.

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 Muddy Mondays 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



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.



ST. MARY'S
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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