



ST MARY'S CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learn. Grow. Shine.

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and all people" Luke 2:52

A School for Everybody

Welcome to St Marys CE Primary School

Stefan Roos, Executive Headteacher, says:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school. St Mary's C.E. Primary School is a diverse and inclusive two form entry primary school with a nursery, situated in Finchley Central. Our school truly serves the community and we welcome children from all faiths and other backgrounds.

Christian ethos

St Mary's school has a strong Christian ethos, underpinned by the Christian values of Compassion, Endurance, Reverence, Hope, Service and Thankfulness, which forms the foundation of our interactions with each other in school.

Our Biblical inspiration, from Luke 2:52, forms the foundation of our vision:

'Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and all people'

Learn, Grow and Shine

Our children and adults Learn, Grow and Shine, and their learning and development at St Mary's takes place within a Christian atmosphere and environment where all children, regardless of their background or needs, can flourish. We provide a caring and supportive learning environment, where we aim to (our Vision):

- Deliver educational excellence and foster a life-long love of learning.
- Build strong personal and community relationships through Christian values.
- Help children and adults flourish and fulfil their God given potential.
- Provide a welcoming, safe and inclusive Christian environment.

How do we know that we achieve this?

- Our academic outcomes are consistently above the National and Barnet averages and by the end of Key Stage 2 significantly above these measures, with progress scores putting us in the top 10% of schools in England.
- Relationships in school are caring, respectful and inclusive, including relationships between children and adults. Safeguarding measures are excellent.
- Children do not only flourish academically, but in all aspects of school life. This is supported by a wide range of clubs and extracurricular activities, as well as excellent mental health and professional counselling.



- Our school reflects the complete spectrum of diversity in our community and everybody is valued.

Skilled and dedicated

We have a skilled and dedicated team of adults in school, and they help all our children to achieve excellent academic outcomes, as well as supporting them to flourish mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. We also have specialist teachers delivering Music and PE.

Variety

While learning remains at the forefront of what we do in school, there is so much more to our school. We offer a variety of clubs, music lessons, trips and in school events, as well as a wide range of music and sports events.

Our children also take part in a wide range of sports and music events and competitions. Our children receive very good results, and our school choir and peripatetic music lessons are always popular.

Spiritual growth

We also offer opportunities to grow spiritually, whether through our daily acts of worship or by making use of our prayer and reflection space. Our children show this through the way they get on with each other, their awe and wonder for God's creation and the way they engage in charitable activities.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. As a school, we greatly value our relationships with parents through parent meetings, class representatives and the PTA. We work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here so that you are fully informed about their progress at school.

Get in touch

These are only a few of the things which add to our school being a great place for children to be. We would love to show you around our school and hope that we will be able to welcome you to St Mary's soon. To make an appointment to visit, please contact the school office on 020 8343 0866 / 020 8343 0864 or E-mail: office@stmarysn3.barnetmail.net



Omar and his two daughters Imaan and Eliza feel their lives are enriched by their multi-cultural community at St Mary's Church of England School.

Whole person approach

Building confidence and strengthening children's sense of self is an important part of life at St Mary's. "They provide leadership opportunities for different things, ambassador roles are available for the children to take on. My youngest is Cultural Ambassador for her class and she's got a couple of other roles that provide a very wholesome approach to her life at school. She's enjoying that leadership experience," says Omar.

Christian values

"It's a Church of England school and we're Muslim. The Christian ethos of the school feels inclusive and is very much in line with our values and principles. The children enjoy learning about different religions, and I think it adds a valuable perspective to their outlook on life. People have their own opinions, but I think the way school provides knowledge and perspective about different things in the world helps the children build their own values and helps them to see we're all very similar in some ways. During the Euro's, they used it as a way to teach the children about different countries and traditions, so whether it's religiously based or not it all feels very inclusive," says Omar.

Moving on

Imaan started her journey at St Mary's in the nursery and has just finished year 6. "Imaan is excited to be starting secondary school, she's moving to a good school so we're very pleased. It's a case of mixed feelings as she's moving to be with new people in a new place but that's just part of life. School have been great at supporting the transition. They've made the last few weeks very memorable, there has been a church service and a leavers' party, and there was shirt signing on the last day. They made it as special as possible," says Omar.

Favourite activities

Both girls enjoy school and have their individual favourite lessons. "Imaan enjoys learning religious education and Eliza likes PE and drama. The girls' football team has done very well and there is a whole host of extra-curricular activities and clubs that they can get involved with. Sports day is a huge event on the school calendar, everyone looks forward to it. One of the things we benefit from and have the privilege to do, is to visit the big museums and make trips into London, school take advantage of what's nearby," says Omar.

International community

Being in North London St Mary's attracts families that have moved to the area from all over the world. "I would say to new families moving to the area that St Mary's is probably one of the best schools in Barnet. It's got a very traditional feel and has an international community, lots of ex-pats are here in North London from all over the globe. It wasn't something I experienced as part of primary school journey but we value it for the girls," says Omar.

A traditional London primary school

"St Mary's is traditional in the sense of its Christian and British values. It's very important from an identity perspective. The children are all well behaved and the teaching staff really care and go above and beyond. I couldn't recommend it highly enough. If I had any friends ask as to where to send their children, I'd say this is the one definitely" says Omar.

Children say:

Imaan says: "I'm happy I went to St Mary's."

Eliza says: "I enjoy playing games with my friends."

School day

Our school hours

Nursery

- Morning Session: 8.50am –11.50am
- Lunch Session: 11.50am – 12.30pm
- Afternoon Session: 12.30pm – 3.30pm

Key Stage 1 and Reception

8.55am – 3.20pm

Key Stage 2

8.55am – 3.25pm

Wraparound care

Wraparound care

Wraparound care is available from 7.30am until the start of school at 8.45am and from the end of the school day till 6pm.

Breakfast Club

Children receive breakfast (if they arrive before 8.40am) before being taken to their classrooms.

Afterschool Club

Children receive light refreshments and snacks (sandwich, biscuit, fruit) and can participate in activities inside and outside. It also has provision for the children to complete homework while at the club

Uniform

Most of the St Mary’s school uniform can be purchased in high street stores. Official school uniform items (anything with a school logo) can be bought from the School Uniform shop, details can be provided by school office. Whilst plain blue jumpers are allowed, the school logo jumpers/cardigans are very popular, durable and competitively priced.



Food in school – GOLD Food for Life standard

Our school lunch meals are provided by ‘Radish’. We are a healthy school, and our children tell us that they enjoy their school lunches.

‘Radish’ focusses not only on nutrition but also in encouraging children to try and enjoy new foods, and in promoting the benefits of a healthy diet. Our menu meets the Gold Food for Life food standards, which means that at least 85% of meals are freshly prepared on site. It also means that meat, fruit and vegetables are sourced from local suppliers. Freshly baked bread, a varied salad bar and fresh fruit are available daily. Our menus also meet all dietary needs, so that everybody can enjoy and healthy and delicious school meal.

Free school meals

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free school meals under the government’s Universal Infant Free School Meals funding. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 also qualify for free lunches, under the Mayor of London’s scheme, for at least the 2024-25 academic year. Should this scheme cease, children of parents receiving benefits or have a low income may be eligible for Free School Meals in Year 3 and beyond.

Packed lunches & drinks

Children are also welcome to bring their own lunch and break time snacks from home; we do not allow nuts (or snacks containing nuts), crisps, biscuits or chocolate. Children bring in a water bottle to school which can be refilled at designated water stations.



St Mary’s has been a supportive influence for David and his daughter Rebecca

Getting to know each other

Rebecca started in Reception and finds school great. She’s excited to attend and misses it when we’re away. Being new to the country, school have been great in guiding me and assisting with the education system and how everything works”, says David.

Helping to manage change

David feels Rebecca has been supported by her teachers and staff at St Mary’s, that they are proactive in caring and nurturing for every aspect of student’s development, not just academic progress. “There have been periods when Rebecca has had ups and downs and school have always been there. They are extremely supportive especially when there are things happening outside of school that can impact behaviours in school. Mr Roos was prompt to chat with me and provide support. They are very proactive to offer support. They have a 360 approach and are very attentive,” says David.

Always lots to do

There are lots of activities to get involved with - the summer and winter fair. They are all great ways to feel connected with the school. The communication and dialogue with school has always been good and staff are open and approachable for everyone. I go into school twice a year to learn of Rebecca’s progress as well as whether she needs support at home. Rebecca is a hyperactive girls, I that very well as I was very similar”, says David.

Always visible

Seeing a friendly face on the way into school is important at St Mary’s, just like being wished a good evening at home time. Teachers and leaders are always very present at school. They are often outside making sure everyone arrives and leaves safely. Everyone is very visible,” says David.

Trips outside of school

St Mary’s takes advantage of being close to London’s main attractions and visits to museums and places of interest are regular events. “Rebecca enjoys research projects and the art classes. She’s very creative. Rebecca enjoys the school trips and has loved all of them. With the choir she has done a music festival and went to sing at the Royal Albert Hall,” says David.

Specialist partnership

Terapia is an external partner of St Mary’s who specialise in providing therapeutic support for children and parents. Rebecca is excited to be heading into year 5. There are different influences from different teachers at school and every Monday she has a one-to-one session that is full of creativity, run by Terapia. She always looks forward to those sessions and the staff keep me up to date with how the sessions are going, which I appreciate”, says David.

Part of the community

Living close to school means David and Rebecca can walk together every day. On their walk to school they see familiar faces and feel part of the school community. They have both made friends and feel connected to their local neighbourhood. “I would highly recommend the school to anyone considering sending their child to St Mary’s. It would always be my first choice. It’s a great school,” says David.

Curriculum: big dreams and aspirations

Inclusive

Our curriculum reflects the school's vision and values. The curriculum is inclusive and meets the needs of all children in the school, helping them to reach their potential to **Learn. Grow. Shine.**

Broad and balanced

Our curriculum is broad and balanced with many opportunities for creativity. We recognise, celebrate and reflect the rich diversity of our community through the curriculum. It is relevant to all of our children because it constantly evolves, responding to the needs and interests of our learners and to changes in our world and the local community.

Over and above

The curriculum meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and our syllabus for religious education. It ensures that our children develop excellent attitudes to their learning; collaboration; positive and aspirational mindsets; endurance and responsibility; tolerance and empathy; a love of learning and willingness to take risks.

Successful individuals

The curriculum aims to give our children the experience and confidence to help them develop into successful individuals who have big dreams and aspirations and understand the amazing contributions they can make to the world.

Meeting, experiencing and flourishing

All children, including SEND and disadvantaged pupils, make good progress. Our pupils are well prepared for the next stage of education through:

- Consistently exceeding the expected standard or higher in their year 1 phonics screening, KS2 SATs and the end of the EYFS compared with local and national data.
- Experiencing the cultural capital provided in each subject area in its curriculum content, breadth and balance, including throughout clubs, visitors and educational visits.
- Flourishing not only academically, but emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually.



**Rebecca's five children
all attended St Mary's
and have grown into
happy, confident
individuals**

Five children together at school

At one point all the siblings were at St Mary's together. "Come September I'll only have Emilia at the school - there were a few tears as her twins brothers moved on to secondary school but she has many lovely friends to keep her company! My niece and nephew also attended the school so St Mary's feels very much part of our family life. As other parents will understand, siblings are often very different characters but all our children have had a great experience going through the school," says Rebecca.

Developing in all areas

"Emilia has always benefited from the school being a warm and friendly place: it's this special environment that has helped her to flourish. She has always been surrounded by encouraging and enthusiastic teachers who have enabled her develop inside and outside the classroom. Academically, she's doing really well and I know that she's going to come away in a strong position for secondary schools. Beyond this she has had the chance to explore many different extracurricular activities. She loves singing and is a member of the choir; a real highlight this year was when they went to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, which was a fantastic experience. At the moment Emilia especially loves PE - she could barely sleep with excitement the night before sports day. She has joined netball and dodgeball clubs and has school swimming lessons at the nearby pool. She has attended cake decorating and science club with equal enthusiasm - I really appreciate the variety of opportunities she has had to learn new skills. The children are also really encouraged to take on various roles within school (school council, eco warriors etc) and to participate in fundraising for different causes. Overall, for Emilia and all of her brothers, academic progress is supplemented by a rich variety of experiences," says Rebecca.

Spotting each child's potential

Rebecca has been impressed by St Mary's teachers' abilities to develop each of her children's potential.. "Over the years I've realised that teachers can encourage your children and support their development in ways that really surprise you as a parent. The child who I thought was very shy in Reception gave speeches as House Captain in Year 6! The teachers do an amazing job of helping children find new talents. My children have all taken something away from St Mary's that was beyond my expectations" says Rebecca.

Full of positives

When choosing a school it's easy to focus on one priority. St Mary's has many positives which makes decision-making easier. "It is a Church of England school and that really come across in the best possible way - being compassionate, understanding and thoughtful in the world is part of every day school life. It has always felt like a very welcoming and inclusive environment. The school has a family feel and it's been a real positive participating in the community and PTA events".

Come and walk around

"I always think it's useful for families to visit potential schools and just take a walk around, that's a great way to get a snap shot of school life. It makes a difference to see how you feel when you see a school in action. Everyone wants their child to become who they are capable of being and to find a place where they belong. St Mary's is a happy place where children can really thrive" says Rebecca.

Children say:

Emilia says: "It feels like a second home because my teachers are so kind to me. I love having friends in different classes throughout the school."

Enriched curriculum: visits and experiences, clubs, P.E. and music

Visits and experiences

We aim to provide a wide range of visits and experiences for children to enhance their learning outside the classroom. Recently, we visited or arranged:

- The Tower of London, Natural History Museum, Science Museum, National Gallery, Verulamium Museum, RAF Museum, London Zoo, Transport Museum, Kew Gardens, Kenwood House
- Places of worship including a Buddhist temple, local churches, Synagogues and Islamic centres
- Church Workshops at local churches for Years 1-6
- Musical trips including performances at the Barnet Music Festival and at Prom Praise at the Royal Albert Hall and visits to the Barbican to see the London Symphony Orchestra
- Participation at sporting events such as Athletics championships, Football and Netball tournaments, visits and sports workshops from Middlesex County Cricket, Orienteering exercises
- Residential trips for year 5 and year 6 to Juniper Hall and Osmington Bay

In school events such as:

- Vikings experience
- World Book Day / Week with Author visits
- Science week workshops led by Sublime Science
- Visit from parent female scientist
- Debate Challenges
- Sports competitions

- Drama workshops
- Anti-Bullying Workshops
- International Day
- Euro Football Teams Tournament
- Road Safety Awareness workshops
- Bikeability Training
- World Mental Health Day
- Neurodiversity Week
- Black History Week
- Christmas Pantomime
- Carol Services
- Curriculum and Wellbeing Workshops for Parents
- Charity Fundraising Events: Comic Relief, Children In Need, Sleep Out Challenges

Clubs

We are fortunate to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular clubs, which currently include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Cake decorating | • Gymnastics |
| • Tennis | • Choir |
| • Chess | • Art & Craft clubs |
| • Multisports | • Football |
| • Coding | • Table Tennis |
| • Science | • Dodgeball |
| • Dance | • Phonics |
| • French | • Netball |
| • Striking and Fielding Sports | |

PE and Music

Our dedicated PE and Music teachers develop and teach a wide curriculum for all abilities across the whole school.

The PE curriculum is supplemented by boys and girls football leagues, mixed netball, athletics, sports tournaments including dodgeball, multisports and rugby, swimming competitions, dance festivals, cross-country events and more! We also bring in local experts throughout the year to help support cricket, archery, table tennis, dance and gymnastics. In 2023/2024 our school achieved a gold award from Barnet Partnership for Sport for our involvement with intra/inter schools competitions, extra-curricular activities and general participation levels in sports.

Music is taught by a dedicated music teacher and supplemented by our wide range of individual and group music lessons delivered by the Barnet Education Arts Trust as well as our school choir and group ensembles.



A small school with big opportunities for Maeve and Greg's three children

A small school with big opportunities

Maeve & Greg's three children have settled well into life at St Mary's and their lives are very much connected with the school community. "The school is sufficiently small that you feel you know the teachers, and the teachers know your children – it feels like an individual relationship for each child. At the same time, the school's large enough to offer a really wide range of activities and experiences. For us, it's great being able to attend a local school that has a strong community feel. We've got to know lots of local families and the children have plenty friends nearby," says Maeve.

Each child is an individual

At St Mary's, children are seen as individuals with unique interests and ways of learning.

"The children are accepted and supported for whoever they are, and the school acknowledges that there are lots of different ways of being in the world. They tailor as best they can the provision in a busy classroom for children who need adjustments," says Greg.

Christian values

"The school calls them Christian values but they are also human values. Our children have had certificates for acts of kindness, as well as perseverance, and school is very supportive of them as individuals. Greg was even presented with a certificate in assembly for endurance after completing the London Marathon! The school had been fantastic in supporting his fundraising and it was a lovely way for him to share his story with all the children," says Maeve.

A nurturing approach where children grow in confidence

Terapia is a locally based organisation who train people in child and adolescent psychotherapy. They are in a partnership with the school and provide therapeutic support for some children as well as mental health support for parents.

"There is a strong sense of children's emotional well-being at St Mary's; the whole staff bring a sense of nurturing and friendliness which is felt throughout the school," says Maeve.

Loving learning

"The children have enjoyed learning about volcanoes; that was a big Year 4 topic. Cara also enjoyed having caterpillars in the school nursery – they were kept in the classroom so that the children could watch them turn into butterflies and then they were released into the wild. Then there are various events throughout the year like Christmas and summer fairs. The annual sports day is always a lovely occasion, where they really focus on celebrating team effort," says Greg.

Feeling safe and secure

Safety and care is highly valued at St Mary's. "It feels like the children are safe and protected. It's very much a child-focussed environment and school take care to teach the children to be self-aware and safe in various aspects of day-to-day life," says Greg.

A light filled atrium at the heart of the school building

The building is modern, with a light-filled central atrium. "All the classrooms open out into the atrium; it's like the backbone of the school. There's a central play area outside and a green field that the children have access to all year round. The school is also at the end of a cul-de-sac so it's very quiet and safe without traffic. Inside, the school is filled with the children's paintings and drawings. There are quiet spaces and areas for one-to-one sessions, so the building does really reflect the whole-person approach the school takes to learning," says Maeve.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all

Special Educational Needs (SEND)

We identify children as having special educational needs if they meet the definition as set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice. Every pupil with SEND is supported in a way that will enable them to fulfil their full potential. This is achieved by ensuring that their health and wellbeing needs are met and that they are well supported to make similar academic progress to other children.

Provison

We embrace this provision in every aspect of school life. This can be see in personal teaching and learning approaches; access to technology across the curriculum; flexible learning pathways and out of hours learning activites. We provide support for emotional wellbeing and flexible timetables and ensure that that we engage children in the assessment of their progress and future provision.

More-able children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as exceptionally able or talented will have opportunities to challenge themselves through curriculum work, additional learning activities and opportunities arising in the local community.



Admissions and getting involved

Admissions procedure

The Admissions Policies of St Mary's seek a balance between those who come from a Christian background and those who come from other faith backgrounds or world views. We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and faith traditions. We do, however, expect that everyone who comes to St Mary's will be fully supportive of the school's Christian foundation and ethos. This is in line with our aim to be a distinctive school, but also an inclusive school.

Applications for in-year and reception places should be made through the local authority www.barnet.gov.uk. 020 8359 2000. Parents applying for a foundation (church) place should also complete supplementary information forms and return these to the school office. Applications for Nursery should be submitted before the closing dates. Applications received after the closing date may still be considered and places granted if they are available. Please contact the school office for more details.

Getting involved

Governors

All governing bodies of schools are called to act as 'critical friends' to the leadership of their schools, providing strategic leadership and accountability. Parent governors are included as part of the governing body make up.

PTA

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an organisation of parents and staff. Its role is to encourage closer links between home and school. The PTA organises a number of fundraising events to provide an opportunity for parents, staff and pupils to get together. The funds raised go back into the school to purchase much needed additional resources. The PTA holds a number of meetings through the school year to discuss how the funds are spent and which projects / equipment should be funded. If you would like to get involved with the PTA or become a Trustee, please contact the PTA secretary at pta.stmarysn3@gmail.com.



Prayer Group

Our prayer group in school is open to anyone linked to St Mary's. The group meets regularly to pray together for the children, the school and those involved in the life of the school. For more information, please contact us at st.marys.school.prayergroup@gmail.com

Volunteers

We welcome family members into school to help activities such as reading with children or helping in the library. Please contact the school office for details.

Our Vision and Values

At St Mary's, Christian values are at the heart of our school's vision. Through our faith in God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we ensure that our values embrace the whole school community and have a commitment to every child achieving their God-given potential, regardless of ability, age, gender, faith, language, race or culture.

Endurance

When we face challenging situations, we show perseverance and patience, and the resilience and courage to achieve our goals.

Service

We use all our gifts to serve others generously in love, humility and respect, trying to become servant leaders like Jesus.

Reverence

We marvel at creation and the diversity within it and we work together to make this world a better place, treating each person as a unique individual and caring for and honouring the whole of creation.

Hope

We are resilient and steadfast in our school and in the world, believing and working for a world of peace, justice and unity.

Compassion

We care for those who share our school and those less fortunate in the world, showing empathy, love and kindness.

Thankfulness

We live lives full of gratitude for all that we have and all that others have done for us, and show this through our words and deeds.



ST MARY'S CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's C of E Primary School
Dollis Park, Finchley, London, N3 1BT

Telephone: 020 8343 0866 / 020 8343 0864
E-mail: office@stmarysn3.barnetmail.net
Website: www.stmarysn3.barnet.sch.uk

Devised and produced by Stoneworks Education Ltd www.stoneworkseducation.co.uk

© Stoneworks Education Limited 2014-2024. All rights reserved.