

# St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

Royal Avenue, Leyland, PR25 1BS

Headteacher: Mr P. Thompson

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On behalf of the Archdiocese of Liverpool I am writing about the very important matter relating to the upkeep and future development of our Catholic schools. Unfortunately, unlike other categories of state schools, Catholic schools do not come free and 10% of any building and renovation costs have to be met by the Archdiocese.

Therefore, the continued provision of Catholic education adds up to a huge sum - for example if a school has building work totalling £500,000 then the Archdiocese has to pay £50,000 of this total. We have been fortunate to receive money from this fund over a number of years, and has been used to improve areas around school that have been identified as a priority. Our 2-phase £200,000 refurbishment of the Mercer Block is an excellent example of work that has been completed thanks to Archdiocesan funds.

To assist the Archdiocese, St Mary's must make a contribution based on our number of pupils. This money is paid directly to the Archdiocese who prioritise work and oversee developments. We have benefitted significantly from this funding in recent years and is something we could not have achieved without the Archdiocese, who use schools' levies to access Government Capital monies by being able to meet their 10% commitment.

Whilst the school has always paid this contribution on your behalf, all Catholic schools in the Archdiocese ask parents to contribute towards this levy. The contribution requested is £10.00 per year per family attending school.

Whilst we appreciate that family budgets may be tight, we believe that this figure represents very good value in ensuring that Catholic Education is maintained and developed and that St Mary's benefits from this support.

We hope that we can rely on your support in helping our school to pay its contribution towards this vital annual cost. For St Mary's and other Catholic schools to continue to have buildings fit for purpose then support from parents for a Catholic education for their children is crucial.

If you are able to meet the £10 per family target, then you will be able to make your payment via our online ScoPay facility – look for the link named 'Building Levy 2022-23'. Alternatively, you can pay by cheque or cash through Reception (in an envelope marked 'Archdiocese Levy' and with your child(s) name on).

Many thanks in anticipation of your support,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Thompson', enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

Mr P Thompson

Headteacher