



# ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LEYLAND



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



# Welcome to St Mary's

# WELCOME FROM ST MARY'S HEADTEACHER

## Thank you for considering St Mary's Catholic High School for your child's education.

We are a school community that continues to thrive and build on the successes of recent years. At St Mary's, we set high standards and expect the very best of our pupils. In so doing, every child is given the opportunity to flourish and fulfil their God-given potential.

Our school has a calm and purposeful working environment, with a rich extra-curricular provision, allowing pupils the opportunity to excel. They are wonderfully supported by staff who are hard-working, caring and committed. In short, we are a community where all members are valued and respected.

**The inspiration for all we do comes from our Catholic faith and is based on the Gospel values of love, honesty, respect and forgiveness. In so doing, we believe our Mission, which is to 'let your light shine', comes alive, allowing pupils to feel safe and have the confidence to develop their talents.**

Parents considering St Mary's are more than welcome to book an appointment and visit us at any time, we would be delighted for you to see the school in action.

Many thanks for showing interest in St Mary's. I know that choosing the right secondary school for your child is not always straightforward or easy. However, I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into why we are proud of our school and the work we do here.

PHIL THOMPSON  
**HEADTEACHER**



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



Let your  
light shine

# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE...

**As a Catholic school, the person of Jesus and the teaching of the Gospel are at the heart of our ethos.** We understand the meaning of community and have strong links with parents, with our family of schools and with local parishes. We also appreciate that we have an obligation to **challenge pupils to strive for the highest standards, both in their learning and in their lives.**

A recent report noted that 'community, inclusivity and belonging are hallmarks of the school, making it a genuine family of faith.' We encourage our young people to explore their faith and spirituality so that they can enter the adult world with confidence about who they are and about the values that they hold.

Every day begins with prayer and reflection in form time or in assembly. These opportunities help pupils and teachers deal with the realities of life and create a unified purpose relating to our faith. The school's chaplaincy guides and supports provision for worship and prayer. Anthony, our School Chaplain, leads this work but he receives strong support from many other staff members as well as a team of pupil Ethos Ambassadors.

Opportunities beyond school for pupils to engage in retreats and pilgrimage visits are available and we very much encourage pupils to participate in such events. We offer retreat and pilgrimage opportunities to pupils in both upper and lower school. With our pupil-led Eco-Council, the school is engaged with ecological issues, and our work for the vulnerable and needy is an experience in which all pupils participate. The

development of a universal view of local, national and world problems is a strong motivator in support of our Option for the Poor.

The school's faith life and formation were recognised in March 2024 when we were graded 'Good' in our most recent Catholic Schools Inspection.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



# Our curriculum

# OUR CURRICULUM

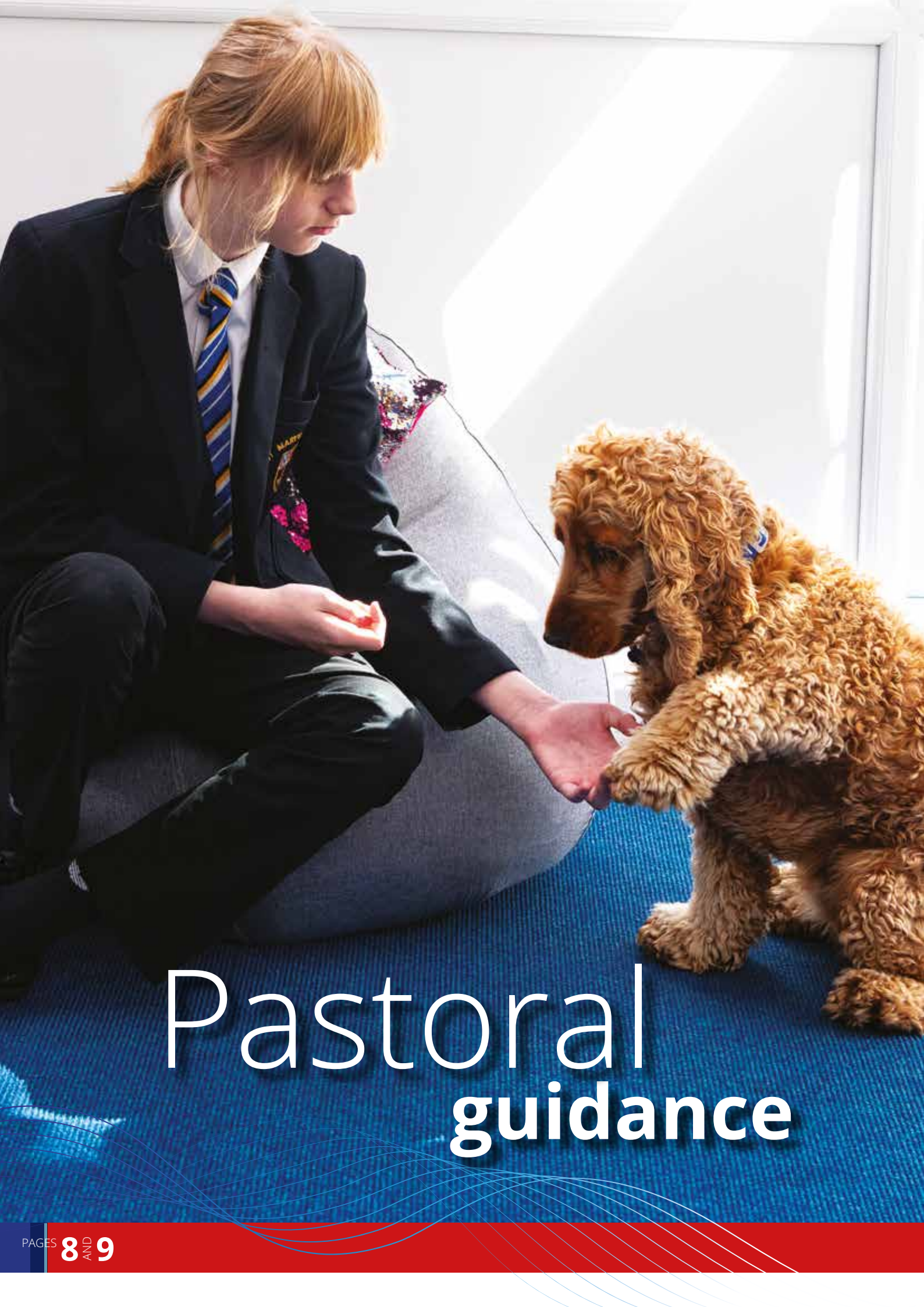
**Pupils at St Mary's experience a broad and engaging curriculum in a safe and caring environment. Pupils study with friends whose company they value and teachers they trust and respect. Friendship is the foundation of a happy life.** Bullying and unkindness, whilst never absent in any school, are dealt with firmly, sensitively and swiftly. Recent reports have noted that 'in lessons, pupils listen respectfully to their teachers and to each other.' We encourage a very positive learning culture as through tolerance and respect, all pupils make friendships for life, building confidence and assisting their learning.

School is a place for work, and we make it clear to pupils that this starts straight away in Year 7. It is also a place for enjoyment; somewhere to learn and somewhere to grow. Our challenge is to prepare today's young people for the world which awaits them. **We see education as a gift and so we must provide our pupils with experiences and memories that fire within them a love of learning that will stay long after they have left school.**



It is our commitment that all pupils will be provided with the best possible learning opportunities, regardless of ability. **We treat all pupils equally and understand that their educational needs differ greatly.** All teaching groups and pupils present their own special challenges and range of abilities. As educators, it is our aim to utilise strategies which will enable all pupils to achieve their potential as much as possible. It is easier to achieve this when teaching is linked to specific educational needs. Some pupils have a very high level of understanding, ability and creativity within a particular subject or across the curriculum. These pupils are entitled to extended stimulus and challenges. It is our intention to meet their needs as effectively as possible, and thus let their light shine.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



# Pastoral guidance



## PASTORAL GUIDANCE

Support for learning is given by all teachers, but there are times when pupils need additional help. **Our strong pastoral system means that a member of the highly skilled team is available for support at all times of the day.** Mr Diffley, a Maths teacher, is the very experienced Pastoral Leader for Year 7. He is supported by a full time Pastoral Assistant in Mrs McEachnie. This model is repeated in every other year group with teachers leading and being supported by full time Pastoral Assistants.

Our pastoral support, offering provision for matters such as behaviour and attendance, is also very strong. Staff and resources are deployed to facilitate care and guidance, thus **enabling all pupils to become independent young people.**

Special Educational Needs and Disability services are designed to ensure that children with different needs are catered for and included in the school curriculum. Should parents have questions about this aspect of school they are encouraged to contact school for further information.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



# Beyond the classroom

**Pupils' physical health and well-being are important and a variety of sporting activities are available.** We encourage all of our students to participate in activities they enjoy. We have an extensive range of sports clubs, activities and teams, with students representing the school in local, county and national competitions.

Pupils are also encouraged to be creative in performance and visual arts subjects within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. There are many opportunities to perform before audiences in school and in the community; whether pupils are on stage or responsible for other aspects such as scenery, lighting, or costumes, everyone has a chance to take part and develop their individual talents. There is a busy programme of productions, performances, displays and outings throughout the year. **St Mary's has a rich tradition of school productions maintaining very high standards.**

Many of our pupils have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and we encourage as many pupils into the scheme as possible, so that they can experience the joy of life outdoors. Outward bounds activities offer challenge to young people who benefit greatly from involvement in the scheme. **There are also opportunities for culturally enriching visits in the UK and abroad,** which are available for all children in their five years at St Mary's.



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