



St Mary's Church of England (A) Primary School.

Living, loving, learning in God's care.

Our School Vision and Mission

Vision Statement

Our St Mary's church school family lives by the life and teachings of Jesus. We provide a safe and loving environment, whilst aspiring for all children to achieve their full potential within God's care.

Mission Statement

O Lord, teach me how you want me to live! Psalm 86:11

This scripture verse reminds us that our Christian values underpin how we live and how we learn, through a unique and deep curriculum, grounded in God's love.

The school will put safety and wellbeing at the centre of everything we do. Through our vision, values and motto our mission is to:

- Develop the children academically, creatively and spiritually through a high quality, stimulating and memorable curriculum, that celebrates difference and values everyone
- Encourage each child's knowledge and skills, through experiences to reach their full potential and to instil a life-long love of learning
- Share our school with the church and community to further develop religious literacy
- Foster a deeper understanding of other faiths and cultures and encourage attitudes of tolerance, democracy and advocacy

Statement of Intent for The Early Years

Intent

At St Mary's School we aim to encourage the children within the Early Years, so they are happy, inquisitive and independent learners, who develop a life-long love of learning. We understand the importance of going with the interests of the children and the fact that each child develops at their own pace.

All staff work hard as a team to create a positive, caring and welcoming atmosphere where the children feel secure yet are challenged to achieve their potential. We are fully inclusive, and all children are expected to think about the needs of others. We respect all families and aim to develop a positive two-way relationship with each one. We encourage communications with parents through informal conversations, parent's evenings and our online Learning Journal, Tapestry.

We aim to provide our children with knowledge, skills and experiences in a hands on, holistic way so that all learning is embedded in a meaningful context. We do this through a personalised, flexible curriculum that engages and motivates our children. It covers all the 7 areas of learning and supports the children's learning characteristics. We understand the importance of learning through play and we both provide learning experiences and encourage the children to develop their own.

We understand the importance of providing the children with real-life experiences and endeavour to provide them with meaningful trips and experiences to support their development.

Implementation

Within the Early Years setting, we understand that children all have different experiences and we are sensitive to this. We aim to work with parents and other Early Years settings to ensure that the transition into St Mary's is as seamless as possible. The routines within the classroom, quickly help the children to settle and feel reassured within the environment.

The children are taught within a mixed added class so we can provide an individualised curriculum, which reflects the needs and experiences of each child as they are ready. The family feel within the school, ensures that the

children within the Early Years feel encouraged and supported as they settle into our school.

The children within the Early Years follow the Early Years curriculum as stated within the development matters document.

Prime Areas

- Personal and Social Development (PSD)
- Communication and Language (CL) Written:
- Physical Development (PD)

Specific Areas

- Literacy (L)
- Mathematics (M)
- Understanding the World (UW)
- Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Through their play our children will:

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world.
- Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills
- Learn how to understand the need for rules
- Take risks and make mistakes
- Think creatively and imaginatively
- Communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems
- Develop their understanding of the values within the Christian ethos of our school

The children within the Early Years, are continuously assessed through informal observations as staff play alongside the children. These observations are shared with parents through the online learning journal Tapestry.

Impact

Children's progress is monitored closely from the moment they start, and their journey is tracked throughout the year allowing appropriate support and challenge to be put in place. Children who do not reach the required standard as they make the transition into Year 1 are monitored closely to ensure they receive the support to help them progress.

Our assessments are integral to effective learning and teaching. The results of this are children who have a sense of belonging, have a positive disposition to learning and are ready to move through the school.

Through our curriculum our children learn about risks and safety, how to make good choices and gain an understanding of boundaries. They develop into independent, confident and successful learners. This forms the building blocks of the curriculum as they continue their development through the primary school and into secondary school.