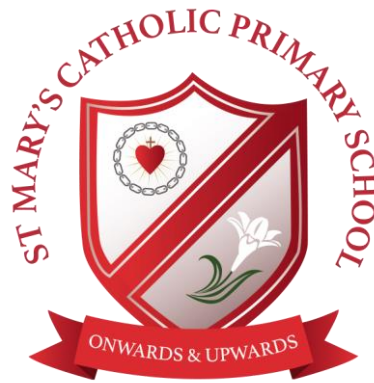


St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Mission Policy Statement



St. Mary's Catholic primary school serves the three parishes of St. Edmund's, Beckenham, St. Mark's, West Wickham and Holy Rosary Hayes. We are a mixed primary school which was built on land leased to the local authority by the Sisters of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1968. It was built to provide Catholic Education for Beckenham families.

We would like to be recognised by the quality and depth of respect and love which we show towards each other. Mutual respect and tolerance are central to our way of life at St. Mary's.

Our school is a well-known, highly respected establishment in the London Borough of Bromley. We strive to achieve high creative, academic, musical and sporting attainments, coupled with an implicit Christian, spiritual and caring ethos, which is evident to those who are in any way connected with our school community.

We appreciate the importance of the distinctive role our Catholic school plays in the community and consequently the Gospel values are central to every aspect of life at St. Mary's. We work hard to achieve this aim.

Our aims for the school community are as follows:-

1. To recognise that everyone's connected with St. Mary's has a unique value in God's eyes which we should be seeking to develop and nurture.
2. To be a totally open and welcoming community.
3. To foster positive and caring interpersonal relationships between pupils, staff and parents.
4. To maintain a keen sense of justice, shared and encouraged by both pupils and staff.
5. To foster and encourage the development of the talents of all within our community.
6. To have a policy of caring for, and offering appropriate help to those with special or emotional needs.
7. To recognise and value our multi-ethnic community and to afford the time in order to appreciate other traditions and cultures.
8. To pass on Church teaching and to encourage a development of faith at each individual's level.

St. Mary's hopes to achieve these aims as follows:-

1. The governors of the school will strive to appoint teaching staff who can combine personal Christian conviction and practice of the Catholic faith with good academic qualifications. Alternatively, non-catholic teachers who have a strong empathy with the Gospel values which form the fabric of our school community, should be welcomed, encouraged and positively supported.
2. To make prayer, worship and liturgy real educational experiences by providing the following:-
 - (a) quiet corners/prayer corners within our classrooms to develop a sense of God's presence always with us.
 - (b) assemblies that will broaden the range of experience of the children (e.g. learning about God's people, both ancient and contemporary, with connected music, and child-centred prayer)
 - (c) liturgical celebrations of real worth involving every child through a variety of experiences e.g. music, readings, prayers, artistic presentation.
 - (d) Christmas and Easter concerts which bring to life the true Gospel message and which contribute so effectively in developing a sense of awe within the children.
3. We follow the All That I Am religious education scheme of work.
4. A good working relationship between the school chaplain and the staff and pupils is actively encouraged. Our school chaplain, Father Ashley Beck is fully involved in the religious education of the children in conjunction with the class teacher and parents.
5. Each area of the curriculum follows National Curriculum guidelines and is developed according to our school requirements by staff responsible for the given areas. School time is allocated to staff members for this purpose.
6. Parents are actively involved in the classrooms and their talents and expertise are valued as an important supportive role to enhance the learning opportunities of the children.
7. Support staff are encouraged to share in the life of the school and to foster the caring attitude central to our community way of life.

8. Home/school links are strong through the involvement of both in the following activities:-

School masses, sacramental programmes, concerts, fetes, social evenings, parent/teacher evenings, open days, fund raising for charitable associations, extra curricular activities.

9. New teaching staff receive complete support from all colleagues and individual teacher expertise is developed and shared by all for the benefit of the children.
10. Teaching and learning should be enjoyable experiences. We strive as a staff to make the learning process as engaging for the children as is possible through a variety of teaching approaches and styles. Our hope is that through excellent teacher/pupil interaction, the children will develop into happy, contented, well-motivated, confident, independent individuals.
11. We are keen to encourage the rapport we share with the Department for Education and the Diocese, with whom we have a positive working relationship.

St. Mary's reviews and develops its mission statement on a regular basis.