

# Our Catholic Community

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At St Mary's our mission is to be a community which offers the best possible education based on Christian values. Every child is valued, cared for and encouraged to reach his/her potential in an atmosphere of warmth, care and hope.

At St Mary's, Christ is at the heart of everything we do, permeating throughout the school, influencing our relationships with the children, staff and parents. It is our aim that the children develop a lasting and meaningful relationship with God through the spirit of the Catholic Faith.

Our relationships, curriculum and environment all contribute to supporting the Catholic Faith. Our core values make clear to the children many of the ways they can be closer to God.

Our main aims are outlined below:

- Children will learn that Jesus wants us to think of others before ourselves.
- To develop a meaningful relationship with God as a loving and forgiving Father.
- To learn and be brought up in the teachings and doctrine of the Catholic Faith.
- To find out about the life and teachings of Jesus and relate these teachings to our own lives.
- To recognise and value our own uniqueness.
- To respect and care for people around us.
- To be aware of and respect other religions and beliefs in the world

St Mary's is a Voluntary Aided School. ('Voluntary' because our Catholic schools were originally established from funds provided by the Catholic Community and 'aided' because we receive financial support from both the Local Authority and central government (DfE). As a result, our administration involves both the Governing Body and Cheshire East Local Authority. The governors are the trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury.

St Mary's does not see itself as a closed community. We make every effort to encourage our pupils to see themselves as belonging to a number of wider and varied communities, of which, the Diocese of Shrewsbury and the locality in which we live, being our most central.

Rev. Fr. Jerome Fagin visits our school regularly, supports our school by serving as a governor and St Mary's participates formally from time to time in the life of the parish.

Mrs Fau-Goodwin is our Head Teacher and is supported by the leadership Team.

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**God bless our school  
that by working together and playing together  
we may learn to serve you and serve one another  
for Jesus' sake. Amen**

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As we are a Roman Catholic school, the foundation of our work is based on the messages we hear in the Gospels. In our aims and daily practices we strive to fulfil our belief in the teachings of Christ and how we can adapt such teachings in a way that is meaningful to our children and useful regarding the society in which we live.

Our school caters for and welcomes Catholic, non-Catholic and of course children of other faiths whose parents, in exercising their right of parental choice, desire such a church education for their children.

This helps to develop a rich and diverse school population where all children are treated equally and can make a positive contribution to the ethos and mission of the school.

Although we can do everything in our power to ensure your child receives the best possible education, we know we cannot do it alone. Therefore, we encourage and require the support of parents if we are to fulfil our mission. The contribution of parents should never be underestimated and because of this we try to involve them wherever possible. When your child becomes a pupil at St Mary's, you become a teacher working with the staff of the school.

**In the hands of the Lord, we live, learn and love together.**

At St Mary's we believe that, as a Catholic School, we should live following the teaching of our faith with Jesus as our model. We believe that this will be achieved by:

- Valuing, respecting and caring for each other.
- Providing high quality teaching and learning in a caring and supportive environment.
- Providing a rich, balanced and exciting curriculum which ensures that each pupil is helped to fulfil their full potential.
- Encouraging and providing opportunities to develop links with the home, parish and local community.

In choosing St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery for your child's education, you have made a commitment to the values implicit in the ethos of a Catholic school. In order for those values to become fully developed in your child, we believe that the strength of partnership between home and school must be considerable. We hope that parents will work to support the school in encouraging the principles of Christianity and humanity, which we feel should govern children's attitude to life.

We strive to provide a secure and caring environment in which all children can recognise their own self-worth and realise their full potential. We aim to foster and integrate pupils' spiritual, moral, emotional, intellectual, physical, social and cultural development thus aiding the process of Christian and academic maturity and the preparation of pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

We encourage children to live and work together in harmony, being fair to and showing tolerance of and respect for the needs of individuals, and for cultures and religions which are different to their own.

## The Average Child

by Mike Buscemi

I don't cause teachers trouble;  
My grades have been okay.  
I listen in my classes.  
I'm in school every day.  
My teachers think I'm average;  
My parents think so too.  
I wish I didn't know that, though;  
There's lots I'd like to do.

I'd like to build a rocket;  
I read a book on how.  
Or start a stamp collection...  
But no use trying now.  
'Cause, since I found I'm average,  
I'm smart enough you see  
To know there's nothing special  
I should expect of me.  
I'm part of that majority,  
That thump part of the bell,  
Who spends his life unnoticed  
In an average kind of hell.

**There are no average children in our school!**

