



St. Margaret Mary Catholic Primary School



Prospectus

St Margaret Mary's aims to:-



Become a community of faith and worship.

To achieve this aim the school will create an environment where faith is the common factor in order to provide opportunities for appropriate religious experiences and expression.



Become a dynamic part of the wider community.

To achieve this aim the school will initiate, foster, maintain and value a good working relationship between home, parish, school and the wider community through mutual communication and co-operation.



Enrich and enhance individual relationships. To achieve this aim the school will:-

Promote an atmosphere of mutual respect by setting good example, fair discipline and constructive criticism.

Recognise that all members have human fallibilities and offer genuine concern and support when necessary.



Provide a curriculum of excellence within a Catholic Christian setting.

To achieve this aim the school will:-

Ensure a well structured Religious and Secular curriculum is available which fully develops each child's skill and talents thereby encouraging each child to fulfil his or her potential, both academically and spiritually.



Christ based in all its principles. To achieve this aim the school will:-

Encourage staff to support each other in pursuing common goals; whilst fostering the development of Catholic Christian moral standards and behaviour amongst pupils and try to achieve a curriculum which takes account of spiritual, social and educational needs.

Realise that parents are the primary educators of the children and be aware of the individual circumstances of families and staff alike and that they are affected by external influences and pressures.

As a result of achieving these aims we expect every child at St Margaret Mary's to fulfil his or her potential as a Christian member of society.



WELCOME TO ST MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are very proud of our school. Within its secure and friendly environment, we work hard to attain high standards of achievement and behaviour. Each child is recognised as an individual and as such is valued and encouraged to develop to their full potential.

As a Catholic Primary School we accept children from 4 -11 years old. We welcome both Catholic and non Catholic children. We create a culture of learning where children are happy, enthusiastic, motivated and supported by a committed and professional staff.

A strength of our School is the family atmosphere. Working closely as a team the staff are responsible for the well-being and happiness of every child throughout the day.

Choosing the right school for your child is a very important decision. Reading this prospectus is just one part of making that decision. The prospectus sets out to provide you with an introduction to our school. If you would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us. A visit to our school is the best way to get to know us and we encourage you to come and gain your own impressions of our school community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Wilkins".

Headteacher: Chris Wilkins



Governors.

The Governing Body has a general responsibility with the Headteacher for running the school acting within the framework set by Government.

The Governors have meetings regularly through the year and sub-committees meet to deal with specific areas. The Governing Body is also responsible for the policies relating to the school e.g. Health and Safety, Admissions, Special Educational Needs and Finance.

Partnership with Parents

We believe that good partnership between school and home is an essential element of your child's education. Staff are available to see parents before school in the mornings, when parents are welcome to bring children into class, and are available after school most days of the week.

There are Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Summer Terms as well as reports in the Spring Term. Each term we agree Individual pupil targets for every child.

There are monthly newsletters informing parents about events in school, and regular letters for individual classes.

Home School Agreement

The home school agreement is a document laying out the expectations that parents have of the school, the expectations the school has of parents, and the things that school and parents have for the children. Education is about working together as partners and the signing of this letter makes sure everyone knows what to expect to make sure every child gets the best possible education.

Catholic Nature of the school

St.Margaret Mary's is a Catholic School and as such the religious dimension is at the heart of our being. Religious growth is not confined to timetabled R.E. Lessons, but is in the nature of the whole school experience as we strive to build a community based on love of God and of each other. Our teachers' task is to foster attitudes of honesty, integrity and hard work arising from the love of God and a desire to do God's will. Care is taken to develop each child's relationship with God through prayer, at assemblies, Masses and during the day.

St Margaret Mary

Our school is dedicated to St Margaret Mary who was the French Nun who established the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She lived during the 17th century and her feast day is 17th October. In her memory we strive to be a community of faith devoted to Christ.





Reception Induction Programme

The school has developed a flexible Reception Induction Programme. In the Summer Term prior to a child starting school, each child comes in to school for three half day sessions to get to know their teacher and the other children. In the Autumn Term the children attend part time for the first two weeks, and then start full time by the middle of September. We do this to make their entry into school as positive an experience as possible.

Security and signing in

The safety and security of all members of our school is of paramount importance to us. Please set a good example for your child by parking safely and legally. Children come into class at the beginning of the day and come out to meet their parents at the end of the day. If you wish to come into school at any other time, please come to the main entrance.

Educational visits

A variety of educational visits take place throughout the year and serve to enrich each child's educational experiences. These range from walks in the local area, coach trips to museums, farms etc and also residential visits.

Curriculum

The National Curriculum is made up of many subjects. At the centre are the 'core' subjects of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Religious Education and Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T.); additional subjects include, Design Technology, History, Geography, Art, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.). Curriculum information letters are sent home every term to ensure parents know what their child is learning about in school. This gives parents the information they need to further support their child at home.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Reception Class follow the Curriculum Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage . Within the Foundation Stage there are 7 areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Religious Education is taught using the Diocesan Scheme for early years.



Literacy

Our aim is to enable every child to communicate facts, feelings and ideas with confidence and fluency in spoken and written form. The skills of speaking, listening, reading and handwriting are all linked. These are developed not only in Literacy lessons but throughout the curriculum.

Speaking and Listening

Our children are encouraged to speak clearly and with confidence. They are given opportunities to express themselves through discussions, drama and the numerous opportunities to listen, contribute and take turns in class and group situations. These skills are further developed through class assemblies, Masses, debates and our annual school productions in which every child participates.

Reading

As a school we place great importance on our reading. All children are encouraged to read regularly at school and at home. Phonics plays an important part in our reading strategy and is taught systematically from Nursery onwards.

As children progress with their reading they tackle a wide range of books, from fiction to non fiction and poetry to plays.

We are lucky to have volunteer helpers at school who help encourage and develop children in their good reading habits and also to have a well stocked library with a good range of fiction, non fiction and reference books. We are able to support children in becoming fluent accurate readers who are able to predict, recount and discuss what they read.

Writing

As children progress through the school, they have opportunities to write for a variety of purposes as well as improving their grammar, spelling and comprehension. They learn to write creatively as well as factually on a variety of topics. We use a range of visual stimuli to interest and inspire the children.

Numeracy

Every class in the school has a daily Numeracy lesson in line with National Strategy. We use a wide variety of materials and practical resources to re-enforce, extend and assess the children. The development of good numerical, spatial and data handling skills are essential in promoting logical thinking. Much emphasis is placed on the understanding of maths in real life situations and in problem solving to ensure that children become successful mathematicians. Calculators, computers and practical apparatus are used to help children develop their understanding of mathematical concepts.



Science

All children are scientists from the moment they are born. At school we build on their sense of wonder and awe and their ability to question, and extend their scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. Starting in Reception children learn to set up simple tests, make predictions, observe results and report what has happened with increasing accuracy and competence. We make use of the many links between science and other areas of the school curriculum.

Religious Education

As a Catholic School our faith is at the heart of all we do, central to the whole curriculum and our daily life in school. R.E lessons are part of the curriculum for every pupil, and are carefully planned to foster a deep love and knowledge of God in all our children.

The school works closely with the Parishes of St Margaret Mary, and Christ the King and all families within the school by taking part in regular Parish celebrations and Masses.

We meet together as a school for assembly 3 times a week and also hold Key Stage assemblies and hymn practices weekly. School Masses are held at the beginning and end of each term and on Holy days. All members of the school and church communities are welcomed to these Masses.

Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation take place with close cooperation between the school and parishes.

I.C.T.

I.C.T. is the central part of each subject taught. Children are familiar with a wide variety of software and are confident and adaptable in using them. The school ensures that the children acquire the necessary I.C.T. skills to equip them for the modern world. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard, use of between 2 – 4 computers and internet access. Children also have access to digital cameras, videos, floor robots and metal detectors (reception). We have a Computer Suite with 30 computers and also a laptop trolley which is taken into lessons.

Geography

A wide variety of Geographical topics are covered in all classes. These range from local studies, to the wider world, from geographical features to issues. These topics are all in line with the National Curriculum requirements, a large number of which include field work.

Through these topics we aim to introduce the children to the basic geographical skills including use of maps, aerial photographs, I.C.T. and field work techniques.





Physical Education

The school prides itself on offering a broad and varied curriculum in P.E. focusing on improving physical ability and providing opportunities for competitive sport. All year groups throughout the school have two timetabled sessions of P.E. each week comprising of dance, gymnastics and games. In Key Stage One children are introduced to vital skills needed to play formal games. In Key Stage Two these skills are put into practice as the children learn to play football, netball, cricket, rugby, basketball, rounders and various athletic events. Children from Year 3 through to Year 6 also have swimming lessons at the local pool. The school regularly takes part in competitive events organised in school and against local schools.

Art

Art plays an important creative role in the curriculum, both within other subjects and as a separate discipline in itself. All aspects of the subject are covered, including: drawing, painting, collage, printing, clay work and model construction. The history of art and the lives of famous artists and art movements have an important place in our art teaching.

Personal Social and Health Education

At St Margaret Mary's we seek to encourage our children to play a positive role in contributing to the life of our school and the wider community.

In PSHE we try to teach our pupils about developing good relationships, showing respect, and caring for others. These aspects are central to our school and seen in PSHE lessons, and throughout school life. A Family Life programme is taught across the school with Sex and Health Education taking place in Year 6.

Our ultimate aim is to provide children with the skills to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society.



Design and Technology

Design and Technology offers opportunities for children to:

- Develop their designing and making skills
- Develop knowledge and understanding
- Enhance their capability to create high quality products using their skills and knowledge
- Begin to understand technological processes, products and their manufacture and their contribution to our society

Through Design and Technology we will nurture children's creativity and innovation through a range of enjoyable activities and help prepare them for our technological world.

History

In History we plan opportunities to develop children's skills and understanding of the world we live in. We ensure children gain knowledge of particular periods of the past e.g. Romans, Tudor, Victorians, as well as understanding about invasion and settlement, comparing past and present and interpreting artefacts.

Above all our aim is to making learning about History an enjoyable and exciting experience. Classes organise themed experiences and trips to historical sites and also make good use of Tullie House Museum.

Music

The school has a very strong and established tradition in Music. There are opportunities to play wind and stringed instruments including guitars.

In music lessons pupils learn to compose and perform music as well as appreciating different styles of music. They develop their skills well as they progress up the school.

Homework

Children receive homework in every class in the school. This starts very informally with activities such as asking questions at home about a particular topic, progressing to formal written work further up the school. Reading and learning of spellings and tables are important and are part of homework throughout the school.

Special Needs

At St Margaret Mary's we welcome children of all abilities to our school. As a staff we aim to meet the needs of every child to enable them to make good progress. Each child is assessed on a regular basis and, where necessary, extra support is given to small groups of children to help them with particular areas of the curriculum they find difficult. This work is overseen by our Special Educational Needs teacher. The school has access to other professionals such as Speech Therapists and Educational Psychologists and advice from these services can be incorporated into Individual Education Plans as appropriate.





Prayer

As a Catholic community school, prayer is an important and integral part of our school life. Prayers are said at the beginning of the school day, at lunchtime and at hometime. They are also written by the children and used to support each other and thank God for all he gives us.

Behaviour

One area we pride ourselves on at St Margaret Mary's is the good behaviour of the children which comes from the teaching of love and respect for each other. Where behaviour is below our expectations we take steps to ensure children are able to improve and that they are kept safe. All parents are welcome to a copy of our behaviour policy.

Extra Curricular activities

We run a Breakfast Club from 8am and an After School Club which is available until 6pm. There are small charges for these facilities which we know help parents with child care arrangements.



School Meals

We have a professional catering kitchen on site and our catering team provide good quality, nutritious meals for a reasonable cost. Parents can also choose to provide packed lunches for their children each day. Children can bring fruit and vegetables as break time snacks and water bottles are encouraged throughout the day.

Transfer to Secondary School

The majority of our pupils leave at the end of Year 6 and go to Newman Catholic Secondary School. There is an induction programme in place where staff from Newman visit our pupils here, and Year 5 and 6 pupils have a number of opportunities to visit Newman School.

Equality

Our School is committed to equality for all children, staff and parents in line with the 2010 Equality Act.





St. Margaret Mary
Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

To love our children and develop them to their full potential.

To provide a safe and secure environment.

To make our School a Christian Community living out Gospel values.

To create a community where individuals are respected, valued and accepted.

To provide a broad and balanced education.

**To treat all children, especially those with special needs, with patience,
fairness and equality.**

St Margaret Mary Catholic Primary School

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