

St Mary's Admissions FAQ's



Do I have to be Catholic, does my child have to be Catholic?

As a Catholic school we follow Gospel values and our ethos is one of inclusivity.

We welcome children of many different faiths or no faith to the school.

The school's Admissions policy sets out the criteria for ranking pupils if oversubscribed, being Catholic ranks a child in a higher category.

How many children in a class?

30 is our planned admission number and most classes are full.

What are your staffing ratios?

This depends on the age of the children. In EYFS Nursery the legal ratio is 1:13, in EYFS Reception the legal ratio is 1:30. In both classes we operate 1:10 ratio and when needed we have additional 1:1 support for individual children.

Do you offer After school club/ breakfast clubs?

We run a very successful wrap around care offer that operates 7.45-6.00pm under ordinary operating guidance. We run this on site with our own staff that children are familiar with. We provide a snack, indoor and outdoor activities. In addition, we offer holiday provision that is expanding and we look forward to operating clubs in each holiday in the future.

We also invite external providers to offer sport, music, science and IT after school.

Where do children go for secondary schools?

We are a feeder school for John Henry Newman School in Stevenage, approximately 50% of our children will go on to continue their education there. The remaining pupils move on to Bassingbourn or Melbourn Secondary, with a small number also leaving to attend schools in the Independent sector.

Do you provide sporting activities for all children?

We are part of the North Herts Schools Partnership that organise inter-school sports for all ages, these include both competitive and non-competitive sports. A wide range of sports are on offer from qualified coaches. Our own staff offer in school a variety of clubs for our KS2 pupils.

What provision is there for children with additional or special educational needs?

We have a huge range of expertise within our staff and work with a variety of needs including speech and language, social communication, visual impairment, learning and physical needs. We work with a variety of services from Herts Local Authority Services.

What provision is there for prayer and worship?

There is daily prayer for all children at various points of the school day, we meet in Assemblies twice a week, children also attend whole school Masses each term. RE is a core subject and as such is given 10% of curriculum time in KS2. We support local, national and international charities throughout the year. We visit Church regularly and our Parish Priest is a regular visitor to school, he is also a member of the Governing body.

Do you offer 30 hours provision?

At St Mary's we offer high quality 30 hour provision for all pupils in Nursery. Children are expected to be in Nursery from 9-12 every day but we offer flexibility around our lunch and afternoon sessions. If the children stay for our lunch club they can be provided with a school meal or can bring a packed lunch from home.

How do I know how my child is progressing?

We use a secure online system called Tapestry to record your child's learning journey. Using Tapestry we can send photos and videos of the exciting learning that takes place during the day, giving you a unique insight into your child's day. We also use this to share next steps and ways to support your children at home.

What is the Early Years provision like at St Mary's?

EYFS at St Mary's is child led, we strive to provide an exciting and enriching Curriculum for all of our pupils. We treat every child as an individual and celebrate their achievements. At St Mary's we have a growth mindset, meaning that we encourage of children to try new challenges and to feel proud of what they have accomplished