

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Royston, Hertfordshire



**Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School,  
Melbourn Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 7DB  
Tel: (+44) 01763 246021**

*Give your heart to everything that is good.  
Be a real family, warm-hearted in your care for one another.*

## Welcome

At St Mary's each child is valued as an individual. Education takes place within the framework of Christ's teaching with emphasis placed on Gospel values. We are a Christian family, a community who values all stakeholders within it: parents, children, past parents and pupils, friends, parishioners and members of the local community alike. We believe good education is a 3 way partnership between the child, school and home. Together we create a friendly, stimulating environment in which your children can flourish. We are proud of our happy, highly motivated and well-behaved children, who are eager to learn. You will also meet a caring, dedicated staff who are firmly committed to providing the best academic, social, moral, spiritual and emotional education for your children.



## History



In December 1912, three Sisters of Providence of the Immaculate Conception were sent, at the request of the parish priest, to set up a Catholic school in Royston where Catholic education had been absent for three hundred years. The Sisters began with ten children in a small house in the town and then moved, in 1914, to a new building (or more of a stable), which served as the school until the 1950s. Later, with permission being given to build a Catholic state-aided school and land being generously donated by the Sisters, a major building programme began and the new school, with 50 pupils, opened in 1970. More classrooms were added in the 1970s and, in the mid-1990s, the building of a new nursery meant that the school could offer places to a further 26 children of nursery age. St Mary's owes a great debt of gratitude to the Sisters who founded Catholic education in Royston. Our task is to follow their lead by strengthening the Catholic community in the town and offering a high standard of education in a school which has Christ at its heart.

## The Learning Environment

Our wonderful school is situated in attractive grounds. We are bordered by mature trees and hedgerow, we are fortunate to have a large grass playing field, two hard court areas, a woodland walk, wild meadow area and vegetable growing garden. The Early Years also have their own separate outdoor learning areas. Our children are extremely well supported during their time at St Mary's. Our team of teachers and support staff are enthusiastic, committed and caring and enjoy working together with the children. High standards of learning and behaviour are expected at all times. We run a popular Breakfast Club, which starts at 7.45am and After School Club, which starts at 3.15pm and runs until 6pm. We have a fully equipped kitchen so lunches are cooked freshly onsite by Hertfordshire Catering. We value the contribution each and every child makes to our school community and we strive to ensure that equal opportunity is a reality for all our pupils. School trips play an important role in our school life and children have the opportunity to experience a wide variety during their time here. We have both day and residential trips, which cover many aspects of the Curriculum and also provide opportunities for lots of happy memories. We strongly believe that these trips are so important in helping to develop the whole child. They provide an enriched Curriculum and promote independence and many important life skills.



## Location

Royston is situated in North Hertfordshire on the borders of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire and offers much of the individual character of a traditional market town. In recent years, there has been an expansion of the town with the introduction of light industry and with the population increasing to around 17,000 today. North Hertfordshire offers a high quality of life and superb working environment. The combination of attractive towns, rural surroundings, skilled and reliable workforce and excellent transport links makes North Herts a popular place to live and work. The district sits between Luton and Milton Keynes to the west, Cambridge to the north, Stevenage to the east and London, 30 miles to the south. Royston is linked by rail to London (40 minutes) and the north of England and Scotland. By road the A1(M) passes through the district, with both the M11 and M1 motorways and A14 trunk road close by offering easy links to the M25, and the North, East and West of the country. Three London airports are within an hour by road from Royston: Luton, Stansted and Heathrow. While enjoying an excellent range of its own services, Royston is also only 20 minutes by road (15 minutes by train) from Cambridge with its own extensive selection of services, top class FE/HE educational possibilities and thriving technology and biomedical growth industries.



## Aims & Values

In our school learning and teaching should ensure that all pupils:

- Work in a stimulating, safe and motivating environment
- Have the opportunity to be happy
- Make appropriate progress
- Engage and are encouraged to learn by promoting a sense of pride in their own achievements and the achievements of others
- Are motivated to learn and achieve high standards
- Become questioners and are able to develop learning through thinking effectively
- Give and receive feedback effectively
- Enjoy learning in school
- Are encouraged to discuss their learning with their parents/carers
- Behave well
- Treat others with respect
- Achieve the best they can



## Partnership



We have a thriving and supporting 'Friends,' which raises significant funds annually, as well as making a major contribution to the life of the school. The school values its close and long standing link with the parish. Masses are held in school and children visit the church frequently. Alongside the parish, we support the Kanyike project in Uganda, and the school supports the 'Sisters of Charity' and many other charities throughout the year. We work closely with local schools, deanery and academy schools, as well as having strong links with local universities for research and teacher training. We work in partnership with parents and carers, volunteers and all within the school work hard to make the school's open door policy a reality. We regularly welcome families into the school with performances and assemblies, as well as hosting information evenings. The children are regularly consulted about issues of school life through school forums and buddy systems. We have a dedicated governing body with a range of experience who support, challenge and promote the school. They provide invaluable advice and work closely with the staff in underpinning the vision and values of the school. We have strong community links within the town and surrounding area, these include associations with local businesses, e.g. Johnson Matthey, Tesco and Estate Agents. We have also forged close relationships with educational and historical establishments, e.g. the Royston Cave and museums.

## Curriculum

Our school is divided into three main areas around a central hall: EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

We follow the National Curriculum and Development Matters Early Years Foundation Stage but we also add to this to enrich and further learning opportunities for all our children. As a Catholic school we recognise each member of our school community as a child of Christ. Each child's uniqueness is valued and nurtured. We follow the 'Way, Truth and the Life' RE scheme. We also work closely with our Catholic Secondary School, John Henry Newman.

Our Curriculum allows all our pupils to learn and develop. We use outside staff to supplement our Curriculum; we have Music teachers, PE coaches and specialist education services, e.g. Science and History.



## Facts

### Type of School

- Co-educational, one-form entry, Catholic Faith Primary school.

### Number of Children

- 210
- Plus 26 in Nursery Category Group 2

### Age range

- 3 to 11 (Nursery, KS1 and KS2)

### Number of classes

- 8 (Nursery, Reception, and Years 1 to 6)

### Number of Teaching staff

- 11

### Number of Teaching Assistants

- 11

### Last Ofsted Report

- Good (September 2012)

## At St Mary's we believe...

*That good learning comes from good teaching. Our teachers will always aim to provide learning opportunities which encourage a passion for learning and knowledge.*

*Our teachers are enthusiastic, hardworking and committed to providing the best possible learning experience for our children*

*Children achieve more when they have clear understanding of objectives and success criteria. We try to make our tasks challenging, achievable and enjoyable*

**(Teaching and Learning policy 2014) St Mary's**



**More information about our school can be found on our website:**

**[www.stmarysroyston.co.uk](http://www.stmarysroyston.co.uk)**

**or email: [admin@st-marys-royston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-royston.herts.sch.uk)**