



# St Marys R.C. Primary School

Lime Rd, Haslingden, Lancs. BB4 5NP. Headteacher: Miss D McNicoll

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## Headteacher's Welcome

On behalf of the whole community of St Mary's, may I welcome you to our school! First of all, thank you for showing an interest in St Mary's deemed to be an 'outstanding' school by both OFSTED (2024) and the Salford Diocese Schools' Inspection team. St Mary's has also been identified as amongst the best performing schools in the country from 2016-2022.

We are very proud to have featured in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide in 2020-the only primary school in Lancashire to feature in the top 100 schools. This also ranked us the 14th best state primary school in the country.

We have been given 'outstanding school' status by OFSTED three consecutive times, meaning we have been providing exceptional education consistently for 18 years!

From September 2023, we have been designated to become a full Research School and will be funded until 2026 to work with schools in the North West region to adopt approaches, which have a proven history of improving outcomes for all learners by promoting and exemplifying evidence-based practise. All the school's accolades reflect and recognise the hard work and dedication of St Mary's staff in promoting a Catholic community where everyone is valued and encouraged to grow into well-educated, caring and confident members of society. We pride ourselves on being a real 'family' where everybody knows, loves and looks after each other in our secure, safe and happy school.

As well as giving our pupils a firm grounding in the Catholic faith, we ensure that we deliver a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum which challenges every child, from the most able to those with special needs. As a small school, we are able to get to know each child well and to deliver the curriculum in a manner that best suits their needs

At St Mary's, we are proud of our academic achievements, our friendly purposeful atmosphere and the extra-curricular provision made available to our pupils. We expect the highest standards from our pupils in all aspects of school life – in their attitudes to learning and in their behaviour. We try to encourage at all times an active partnership with parents, pupils, governors and parish to help ensure the best possible education for each one of our pupils.

We are aware that in choosing to send your child to St Mary's you are making an act of trust. We set out to ensure that every child entrusted to our care is made welcome and that their time here is happy and successful.

We are always delighted and proud to welcome visitors to St Mary's and would be more than happy for you to visit and see for yourself what a lovely vibrant school we have!

**Miss D McNicoll**  
Headteacher





## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**'Our School, our family, modelled on Christ'**



Our school is based on the teachings of our Lord and the Catholic Church, fostering a special relationship between home, school, parish and community.

St Mary's Primary School seeks to develop the full potential of every child, recognising the uniqueness of each individual.

With the life of Christ as our example we will strive to achieve the highest standards through relationships based upon love and reconciliation.

All that is taught practised and learnt in our school leads us as a community to a knowledge and love of God.

Our school welcomes everyone to its family and upholds as paramount the importance and value of all.



## Curriculum Intent:

At St Mary's we believe that the curriculum should be active, fun and engaging. We believe that every child is entitled to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. We have very rigorous assessment procedures in place which enable us to monitor and plan for each child's progress. We have a distinctive and personalised curriculum that will prepare our children for the ever-changing world that they will grow into. It is a curriculum designed by the team at St Mary's with our pupils in mind, to meet their needs and build on their interests and is driven by our 'REACH' statement.

**Our school is driven by our desire to ensure that every child will REACH their full potential:**

**Resilient-** pupils will be challenged across the curriculum and be encouraged to develop skills of problem solving and perseverance. We want our pupils to be committed to their learning, know how to study effectively and do so, are resilient to setbacks and take pride in their achievements. We aim to prepare pupils for their adult lives, teaching them to understand how to engage with society and provide them with plentiful opportunities to do so.

**Enterprising-** pupils' natural curiosity and creativity will be stimulated to develop time and self-management through problem solving, enquiry and investigations. There is high academic ambition for all pupils and opportunities for creative thinking and thinking critically.

**Aspiring-** pupils will be exposed to the wider world and all the opportunities it can offer them. They will be encouraged to have high self-esteem and set their sights high for future life. In this way, they will be fully equipped to take advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Pupils are taught how to make good choices and understand what they need to do to reach and succeed in the curriculum and in accomplishments to which they aspire.

**Citizens of the world-** pupils will learn how to be responsible citizens and how they can make a positive contribution to the world in which we live. It is our intent to equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Pupils need to be educated citizens, so in turn we will introduce them to the best that has been thought and said helping them to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

**Healthy for life-** pupils will know the importance of an active and healthy life style and they will be taught about the different factors which can affect both their physical and mental well-being. Additionally, we want our pupils to have a good understanding of healthy relationships.

At our school, each pupil is at the heart of our school and at the heart of our curriculum and St Mary's is dedicated to ensuring that every pupil REACH their true potential.

## Being Active and Healthy

St Mary's Primary School has been awarded 'Healthy School' status for our commitment to helping the children to develop a healthier lifestyle. Encouraging children to engage in sport is very important to us. Physical education lessons are led by our professional sports coaches who have the skills and knowledge required to ensure all children make good progress in sport. The children have at least, 2 hours of PE lessons per week and take part in ball games, gymnastics, dance and athletics. Swimming is also taught in key stage 2. All children also participate in a "daily mile" session, whatever the weather!



Extra-curricular sports activities are available to all classes throughout the year and include clubs such as football, netball, dance, multiskills, athletics and cricket. We also encourage as many children as possible to take part in inter-school competitions and tournaments.

The school also offers outdoor and adventurous activities to our Year 6 children. We organise a residential holiday for our older children which gives them the opportunity to join in with more extreme sports such as abseiling, canoeing and rock climbing.



The importance of leading a healthy lifestyle is taught through our well-developed curriculum for Personal, Social and Health Education.



## Community

St Marys demonstrates a high level of respect and care for everyone, as people made in the image and likeness of God. The sense of community, where respect for each other is paramount and everyone helps everyone else, is 'extremely strong'.

We always encourage the children to think about others and charity work is an important part of school life! We regularly organise activities to raise money for charities both in the local area and overseas. In the last academic year we raised a significant amount of money for St Joseph's Penny, Rossendale Hospice, CAFOD, Breast Cancer and Raft.



During the school year, we hold a number of events to which we invite parents, carers, grandparents and parishioners. Our summer production and Nativity performances are always popular as are our termly class assemblies, masses, weekly celebration assemblies, coffee afternoons and Lenten services.



## Admission to St Mary's School

The age at which children may be admitted to the school is determined by the local authority and all children who have attained their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 31<sup>st</sup> August may be admitted to the school at the beginning of the autumn term that year.

In order to register your request for a place in any primary school you need to visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk) and search for primary school admissions.



Where the number of requests for admission exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will determine individual allocations based on the following criteria,

1. Looked After Children and previously Looked After Children
2. Baptised Catholic children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children resident in the parish of St Marie's.
4. Other baptised Catholic children
5. Other children who have a sibling in the school at the time of admission.
6. All remaining applicants.

If you are successful in your application, you will be invited ` you will be invited to bring your child along to spend three afternoon sessions with us called 'Make and Do'. In these sessions, the children will listen to a story, complete a craft style activity and have time to play and mix with their new classmates. Following this, they will visit school for one morning without an adult accompanying them. These are great opportunities to come into the reception classroom and for you and your child to meet their new classmates and all of the staff. New reception children are also allocated a KS2 buddy prior to starting school, who look after them during their first year of school.

Examination Results 2024

**STATUTORY KS2 DATA 2024-2025**

YEAR 6	Higher Standard	EXPECTED STANDARD +
MATHS	57%	90%
READING	57%	95%
WRITING	5%	71%

In Year 6 there were 20 pupils in the cohort



## School Staff List

<b>Head Teacher</b>	Miss D McNicoll
<b>Deputy Head</b>	Miss G Fearn
<b>Class 1 Teacher</b>	Miss K Hall/Mrs C Rumsam
<b>Class 2 Teacher</b>	Miss G Cheetham
<b>Class 3 Teacher</b>	Miss K Reeves
<b>Class 4 Teacher/SENDCO Teacher</b>	Mrs C Wilkinson
<b>Class 5 Teacher</b>	Miss G Fearn/Mrs Booth
<b>School Business Manager</b>	Mrs S M Barker
<b>School Business Administrator</b>	Mrs V Fearnhead
<b>School Business Administrator</b>	Mrs K Russell



<b>Teaching Assistants</b>	Mrs L Brown Mr A Chapman Miss C Coulston Mrs A Hanson Mrs J Hodgson Miss E Lucking Mrs L Maddock Mrs L Parkinson Mrs R Wiseman (HLTA) Mrs S Worthington
<b>Welfare Assistants</b>	Mrs P Lewis Mrs S Worthington Mrs C Clough Miss S Proctor
<b>School Cook</b> <b>Assistant Cook</b>  <b>Site Supervisor</b> <b>Cleaner</b> <b>Cleaner</b>	Mrs N Finlay Mrs R Begum Mrs U Khan Mr R Burch Miss C Lewis Mrs P Lewis



## Our School Uniform



Reception to Year 5	Year 6
<b>Tartan skirt, pinafore dress (KS1 only) or grey trousers/ shorts</b> <b>White polo shirt</b> <b>Bottle green cardigan or sweatshirt</b> <b>Green gingham dress for summer</b>	<b>Tartan skirt or grey trousers</b> <b>White shirt and a school tie</b> <b>Bottle green cardigan or sweatshirt</b> <b>Green gingham dress for summer</b>

## Footwear

All children are required to wear black, rubber soled school shoes.

All pupils also need black indoor slip-on pumps

## **PE Kit**

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child is dressed appropriately for PE. The PE kit is as follows:

- Plain white T-shirt
- Navy shorts
- Navy zipped hoody or sweatshirt or normal school jumper  
Navy tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Plain, suitable trainers or the children can wear their black pumps if the lesson is in the hall.



## **Forest School Clothing**

Children are asked to come into school on the day of their Forest School session wearing their Forest School clothing. Parents/carers will be informed of their children's Forest School days via newsletter, our website and/or via text reminders. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that their child is dressed appropriately for Forest School. Forest School clothing is as follows:

- Waterproof coat (or waterproof jacket in warmer weather)
- Comfortable tracksuit bottoms or leggings (not shorts)
- Long-sleeved top
- Wellington boots or old trainers
- Appropriate hat for the weather /scarf and gloves (in colder weather)

## **Where to purchase school uniform**

- Abbey Street Shopping Centre Schoolwear, Accrington BB51EB
- Any local supermarket for non-branded items
- PTA second hand uniform shop.

## **Name Labels**

Please ensure that **any** items of clothing, which your child is likely to remove or put on during the school day, are clearly named. School cannot accept responsibility for lost clothing or items. Clothing and footwear are the responsibility of the pupil and not the school. If a child goes home in another child's clothing by accident, for example, their sweatshirt, parents/carers should send the clothing not belonging to them back into school to their child's class teacher. Any lost clothing is to be taken to the lost property box. All lost property is retained for a term and is disposed of if it is not collected within this time.

## **School Bags**

At the end of last year, we reminded you about the bags we expect and prefer for our children in school. We have found that children, particularly in KS2 come to school with big rucksack style bags containing very little. We really do struggle for space in our cloakrooms.

### **EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2**

Children need a school bag for reading books, reading record, homework etc. This is the schoolbook bag, which can be purchased with your uniform order. It is spacious enough for sending things home, fits in children's trays neatly, and really helps us to keep the classrooms safe and tidy. They also need a Sport/PE kit bag labelled with their name.

### **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6**

Children in Key Stage 2 still require a bag for their reading books, planners, letters home and homework etc. As space within our cloakrooms is limited, we ask that the bags be small.

In all classes, all stationery is provided every day by school and therefore children are not required to bring in pencil cases or other stationery.

## **Jewellery**

Only the following items of jewellery can be worn in school:

- A wristwatch – this should not be a SMART watch. Mobile devices are not allowed in school and should be taken to the office if brought in where they will be stored for the day.
- The children may wear a small pair of earring studs, but these will need to be covered or removed for certain activities like PE. These should be plain silver or gold metal studs.
- Jewellery of any other description is not permitted. This includes holiday bracelets which should be removed before children return to school.

## **Watches (including SMART watches) and Activity Trackers.**

In our school uniform policy children are allowed to wear a watch. Our preference is for an analogue watch as this helps the children when and as they are learning to tell the time.

Our policy has always been and remains that SMART watches are not allowed in school. This includes any watch that has the ability to access the internet, take photographs, receive text messages etc (for example Fit Bit Blaze, Fit Bit Charge or Apple watches).

What we will allow is a very simple and inexpensive band style watch without an interactive face or screen that can also track activity and steps, an example of this style of watch is pictured below. However, if any watch begins to cause a distraction during lesson or learning times then this will be dealt with on an individual basis when and if it occurs.

## **Water Bottles**

Children should bring a water bottle into school each day. This should:

- Have a retractable non-spill top
- Be labelled with their name
- Be in a clear container
- Contain water only (no juice or cordial)



## PUPIL ATTENDANCE

### Reporting Absence

- Parents are asked to notify the school by telephone or using the Parentapp on the first day of a child's absence. If parents haven't contacted school by 9.30 am, we will telephone home as a matter of urgency.

### Medical Appointments

- Wherever possible dental and medical appointments should be made outside school hours. If this is not possible, parents are asked to notify school about routine dentist, doctor, hospital or optician appointments and provide either a letter or appointment card for school records.

### Children leaving/returning to school

- If it is necessary for a child to leave school during the day parents should inform the school in advance. When the child is due to leave school they must be collected by an adult from the school office and signed out.
- When a child returns to school during the school day the responsible adult must bring them to the school office and sign the child back into school. This information is essential in case of a fire.

### Special Occasions

- There may be times when a child needs to be absent for special occasions such as a wedding, religious festival, music examination or to perform at a sporting event. Permission for this must be given via the leave of absence form available from the school office.
- **Please be aware that an absence request in term time can only be authorised under 'exceptional' circumstances. A family holiday will not be authorised.**
- Attendance is rewarded with a termly bronze, silver and gold awards and prizes to those children who attain 100% attendance. Each week the class who has the highest weekly attendance is presented with 'Malcom the Monkey' at Friday's achievement assembly!

**School Attendance Statistics 2024/2025    96.7% Attendance    3.3% Absence**

**Please support the school attendance policy – children can only learn effectively when they attend school regularly.**





## **BRINGING MONEY INTO SCHOOL**

### **ParentPay Payments**

We have a convenient way to pay for school meals and visits etc. online using a secure service called ParentPay. This is a secure online account, activated using a unique username and password. If you have more than one child at our school you can create a single account login for all of your children. Making a payment is straightforward and ParentPay holds a payment history for you to view later; no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once you have activated your



account you can make online payments straight away. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

If you have not already received an activation letter, one will be issued to you the first time we ask you to make a payment.

If you require more information on ParentPay, please contact the school office or visit the following website [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com).

### **Paying for school meals**

- Dinner money is currently £14.50 weekly and is collected on Monday mornings via Parentpay online payments system. Please contact the school office for a parent activation code if you have not registered for Parentpay. If you are unable to access Parentpay or would prefer to pay with cash, then please contact the school office for a payment card which can be used at any Paypoint outlet. Please note all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meal.

### **Paying for morning snacks**

- Snacks are currently £2.50 per week paid at the end of each half term for the whole of the following half term. These payments are collected via Parentpay at the end of each term. Unfortunately, we cannot take late payments as this causes too much additional admin for the office and kitchen.

### **Any other payments**

- St Mary's is a cashless school all payments are made via parentpay or at a Paypoint outlet with a school generated barcode.

## PUPIL MEDICATION

- The school will not administer or supervise prescribed medication without the relevant authorisation form (available from the school office) being completed, signed and agreed by the Headteacher. No pupil should carry or self-administer any medication on school premises or when in the care of the school without the agreement of the Headteacher. If your child has special medical requirements (e.g. allergies, asthma, epilepsy, diabetes etc.) please make sure we have been informed. Please see our 'Administering Medicine' policy for further details.

## The School Day

8.55am	School Begins
10.30am – 10.45am	Snack Break KS1
10.55am – 11.15am	Morning Break KS2
12.00 noon – 1.15pm	Lunchtime KS1
12.30 pm 1.30pm	Lunchtime KS2
3.20pm	School finishes

- Children should be in school to line up at 8.50am. Registration takes place at 9.00am. Anyone arriving after this should report to the school office so their mark can be recorded with a 'late' mark.



## Pupil collection

- KS2 children should be collected from the school playground at 3.20pm. Class 1 children are to be collected from the classroom by an adult via the outdoor learning area. Class 2 children will be dismissed from the door that leads onto the top part of the playground only when a known adult collects them.
- If you have occasion to arrange for someone different to collect your child, please let their teacher know about the arrangement, and ask your representative to identify themselves to the teacher.



## Safety of Children/Parking

- If you bring your child (ren) by car, please ensure you do not park on the zigzag lines on Lime Road or block the driveways of local residents.
- Use of the school car park and the area in front of the gates for collecting and dropping off children between 8.45am and 9.00am and between 3.00pm and 3.30pm is extremely dangerous, and is therefore strictly forbidden. Parents have an unofficial arrangement whereby entry is by Lime Road and exit right down Meadows Avenue on a one way system.

## Organisation of Classes

At St Mary's, we are a small school and as a result our classes are mixed age. The mixed age groups vary from year to year. Everyone in school know, love and respect each other and we promote a caring family atmosphere of which we are extremely proud. The children in the mixed age classes are grouped according to their age and all round maturity, after discussion with the class teacher. The curriculum is adapted according to the needs of ALL children regardless of whether they are in a single or a mixed age class.

## Our classes are arranged as follows:

Class 1	Rec/Yr 1	Miss Hall/Mrs Rumsam
Class 2	Yr1/Yr2	Miss Cheetham
Class 3	Yr3/Yr4	Miss Reeves
Class 4	Yr4/Yr5	Mrs Wilkinson
Class 5	Yr6	Miss Fearn/Mrs Booth

## School Rules

The school has a code of conduct which is based on our Mission Statement and demonstrates a high level of respect and care for everyone, as people made in the image and likeness of God. The policies and procedures we have in place ensure the children love coming to school, behaviour is exemplary and reconciliation is strongly encouraged. We ask parents to work closely with us and if any problems arise, we ask them to come into school and discuss the matter and lend their support to resolve it. Copies of our Behaviour Policy are available from the school office and a copy is available on the school website.





## General Information

### **Pupil Progress Meetings**



There are two formal Parents Evenings each year for all year groups - one in the autumn term and one in the Spring Term. There is also an informal Coffee Afternoon in the Summer Term where you can sit with your child and look through their work. Parents will receive a written annual report of each child's progress at the end of each school year.

Teachers may request to see parents at other times to discuss a child's progress, and parents are encouraged to see the teacher if they feel that a meeting would be beneficial.

Achievements of individuals and teams are also celebrated at our 'REACH' assemblies every alternate Friday and parents are especially encouraged to attend these assemblies.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The key principle that our school adopts is that each child is a unique individual. Every pupil has the right to education and to have all their potential developed. They have the right to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum and the right to access the whole curriculum. Every child has the right to expect to make progress.

The progress of pupils is monitored closely from their admission date. The Reception class teacher administers the Government's Foundation Stage Profile during the academic year. Parents are consulted where there is cause for concern at the earliest opportunity. A Targeted Learning Plan is designed for the pupil and progress monitored.

Where our level of concern increases, the Educational Psychologist may become involved, this is sometimes followed by referral to other agencies e.g. Behaviour Support Team, or by formal assessment. The outcome of this might be a Statement of Special Educational Needs which warrants extra funding for pupil provision.

More able children are catered for in the differentiated planning of the class teacher.

The full SEN policy is available, on request, free of charge. It can also be found on the school website. Please also see our 'single equalities' policy (under policies).

### **Wraparound Breakfast and After School Care**

St Mary's runs a breakfast club from 7.30am each day and this costs £6.00 per day. We run an afterschool club on site from 3:20 until 5:50pm. The cost of this is £10 per session. All sessions need to be booked and paid 2 weeks in advance.

### **Packed Lunches**

As a number of children in school have a nut allergy, please support school by ensuring that your child's packed lunch does not contain any nuts. Please also cut fruit etc., into suitable sizes to prevent a choking hazard. Grapes in particular need to be cut in half. Packed

lunches are not refrigerated during the school day and this needs to be considered when choosing packed lunch boxes.

## **Snacks**

Children in EYFS and KS1 are provided with free fruit at lunchtimes. This is a nationally funded scheme and so they do not need to bring a snack to school. They can also purchase toast as a morning snack as can children in KS2.

Children in KS2 can also choose to bring a small snack at morning break. Please remember this is a small and healthy snack. We would prefer fruit, salad or vegetables. It should not be sweets, chocolate, biscuits, crisps, pastry products or sugary cereal bars.

## **Water Bottles**

- Children are asked to bring a water bottle to school each day which can be filled in school at the water dispensers.

## **Milk**

Children up to the age of 5 are entitled to free milk at school. To claim this, parents must register eligibility at <https://www.coolmilk.com/>. If parents wish for their children to continue to receive milk during the school day after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, an order can be placed and payment made on the same website.



## General Information

### **School App – PA connect**

Thank you to the many parents who have downloaded the School App. This saves our school budget as sending an in-App message does not incur a charge.

Information on the App topics such as: term dates, meals menu, contact information, important messages, newsletters etc and so it is essential that all parents access this.

School App - Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get the App?

An invitation will be sent via email. Once you have accepted the request this will direct parents to a web page where they create a unique username and password. Once this has been created then you are prompted to download the app, search for Haslingden St Mary's and log in.



### **Newsletter**

Every Friday you will receive the school newsletter via Parentapp. It gives information about the events that are happening in school and updates you on projects, news etc. It can be found on the website too. If you need a hardcopy of the newsletter, please inform the school office.

### **School Facebook Page**

In order to keep parents as up to date as possible, we like to publish photographs and videos of what the children are doing within school and we also use this page to share and celebrate pupils' achievement. It is important to note, that we only share images of children with parental consent and all information shared is in line with our 'Acceptable Use Policy' (available on our website)





## **Mobile Phones**

We ask that parents refrain from using their mobile phone on school grounds, including the playground at all times. Children in the juniors, who are walking home alone, may bring a mobile phone into school for safety purposes. This phone must be handed into the school office where it will be held securely and collected again at the end of the school day. Children are also not permitted to use their phone on school grounds.

## **St Mary's PTA**

Our school has a successful PTA. They organise a variety of activities throughout the year and work tirelessly on behalf of the school. They have raised funds to buy a variety of much needed equipment for our school. They meet approximately once per half term. Every parent is automatically a member of the PTA and we welcome any help and support! The Chair is Gemma Beetham.

## **Curriculum Complaints**

As parents are seen as 'partners' in their child's education at this school and are actively encouraged to be in close contact with their child's class teacher, any problems concerning the curriculum should initially be discussed informally and professionally in this way. More formal appointments with the class teacher may be made at a mutually convenient time. If parents still have concerns about their child's work, then an appointment to see the Head teacher may be arranged.

If this procedure does not answer any difficulties, then complaints should be expressed in writing to the Chair of Governors. The Governors will then address the problem by investigating all relevant aspects and consulting all relevant parties before coming to a decision.

For further information, see our 'complaints' policy procedure available on the website.