



St Mary's

Catholic School
PROSPECTUS



The background of the page features stylized human figures created from gold thread on a light blue background. On the left, a figure is composed of large, overlapping loops of thread. On the right, a larger figure is made of a dense, intricate web of thread. Above these figures are two smaller, more delicate figures made of thin, swirling threads.

St Mary's Catholic School

Mr. J Foster
Headteacher

Fr. Conaty
Chair of Governors

Benton Park Road
Longbenton
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE7 7PE
0191 2153260

mail@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk
www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

Contents

Headteacher's Welcome	4
Academic Achievement	6
What others have said about St Mary's	8
St Mary's School Building	10
Transition from Primary School to St Mary's	12
St Mary's – Catholic Distinctiveness	13
St Mary's – A Caring School	14
The Taught Curriculum	16
The Wider Curriculum	18
Code of Conduct	22
Uniform	23
St Mary's Aims & Admissions Policy	24
The Mission Prayer	26

Headteacher's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to St Mary's. Choosing a secondary school is a very important decision for all families. We want to share with you as much as we can about our school, to help you to make an informed choice. We think St Mary's is an excellent choice of secondary school but to help you to determine this for yourselves, I encourage you to visit the school, meet the staff and the students, view our outstanding facilities and learn more about the excellent, all round education that we offer.

I also strongly recommend that you talk to families whose children currently attend St Mary's. I am sure that they will speak very positively about their experiences. You may also like to read inspection reports from Ofsted and the Diocese which judge the school as Outstanding.

Our website, www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk, includes further useful information such as our summer 2015 and previous termly Newsletters which highlight many of our students' achievements and these Newsletters complement this Prospectus and should help you get a good feel for the school.

Academy Status, National Support School, Teaching School Alliance

Although our school name remains St Mary's Catholic School, we have been a fully independent Academy since 2013. As an Outstanding school, we were also appointed by the government as a National Support School in 2011, with the mandate to share our best practice in academic achievement with other schools nationwide. We are a founding partner in the Northern Lights Teaching School Alliance which brings together outstanding schools to train teachers and to develop teaching and learning across the north-east.

St Mary's is the fastest growing school in Newcastle and one of the most over-subscribed in the north-east. Our popularity is reflected in student numbers which have risen from 840 to 1200 in just five years. Each year group at St Mary's now has around 200 students, with 240 in the current year 7. We have just been awarded government funding to expand our building to provide even better facilities for current and future students.

Outlined in the rest of this introduction are some of the key reasons why St Mary's has become such a popular choice of school for so many families and students.



St Mary's uniqueness

St Mary's is the only mixed, 11-18 Catholic secondary school in Newcastle but it is not just for Catholics. We welcome equally students from a variety of Faith and ethnic backgrounds. We provide an outstanding, all round education, in a Catholic/Christian context, aiming to live out the values of the Gospel in every aspect of school life, following the example of Christ. Many of these values are universal and this explains why children from all backgrounds thrive at the school. St Mary's School Aims are included in full towards the back of this Prospectus. Most, but not all, students join St Mary's from our excellent Catholic partner primaries with whom we share the same ethos. Our community is enriched by children from other excellent schools in Newcastle and beyond, including from overseas.

Core values

High quality relationships are at the heart of our ethos and explain, more than anything else, why we are such a successful school. Children are extremely well cared for at St Mary's. Staff value and nurture each student as a unique individual, blessed with God-given gifts and talents. We offer students wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth and development, to support them on their journey in this life and to prepare them for the life to come. We encourage our students to develop their gifts and talents to the full, for their own sake and in the service of others.

Striving for excellence

We strive for excellence in all that we do, whether supporting our students towards excellent academic achievement, or providing high quality opportunities for their all-round development. We ensure that outstanding pastoral care, excellent teaching and high quality learning are at the heart of school life. Most importantly, we help our students to develop superbly as well rounded, highly

educated individuals, fully prepared to take their place successfully in the wider world, as happy, confident, self-aware young people with a sense of service to their communities.

Academic excellence

We have had three inspections in the last six years, two from Ofsted and one from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. All judged the school as Outstanding, a grade achieved by fewer than 2 in 10 secondary schools nationally.

Our GCSE results are excellent. Over the last four years, an average of almost 80% of our students have obtained the A*-C benchmark in each of the core subjects of English and Maths. In Science this is almost 90%. In 2015, a very pleasing feature of the excellent results overall was the exceptional performance of our most able students, with the proportion of GCSE A*-A grades rising sharply from 20% to 30%, way above the national average of 16%-17%. This reflects not only excellent teaching and stretching of the most able but also the changing nature of St Mary's intake over the last few years with an above average proportion of able students in each year group.

As DfE Performance Tables indicate, last year, St Mary's was one of the top 6 schools in the north-east (out of around 150) for overall "value-added" achievement across the key subjects of English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Modern Languages. This measure is arguably the most useful in measuring a school's overall academic strength, as it covers the largest proportion of a school's key exam subject entries and measures how far above (or below) national averages students achieve compared to their starting points. Our value added has been superb for many years now.



At A level, our pass rate averages over 98% for the last three years but was actually 100% in 2015. Over 50% of all grades were A*-B in 2015 and 84% A*-C. Each year, students move on to higher education at universities,

including the very best ones, to study a wide range of degree courses, including medicine, dentistry, sciences, law, architecture, languages, humanities and education. As well as Oxbridge, we are opening up access to US universities and this year we had our first student attend a Harvard University summer school in Boston, USA.

Positive climate for learning at St Mary's

St Mary's is an orderly, well-disciplined community where learning flourishes. Excellent behaviour plays a major part in our continued success. Students mix really well together and there is a positive and happy atmosphere here. Ofsted and the Diocese described our students' behaviour as outstanding. We have high expectations of students in this regard. Rules are simple, sensible and consistently applied so that students feel safe and secure and know what is expected of them. We praise students for their efforts and celebrate their achievements in many different ways. We believe that such a positive climate promotes learning and inspires students to fulfil their potential.

Partnership with parents

We place a high value on working closely in partnership with parents to ensure the best for your children. Should you decide to entrust your child into our care, I can assure you that we will give your child an excellent, all round education. Once again, I encourage you to visit us, to meet staff, to see the school in action and to choose St Mary's for your child's secondary education. I really don't think there has been a better time to join St Mary's.



John Foster

Headteacher,
National Leader of Education
September 2015

Academic Achievement

St Mary's - an outstanding school for academic achievement

St Mary's is recognised locally and nationally as an outstanding school for academic achievement. Based on our sustained high academic performance over time, the school was approached by central government to become a National Support School in 2011. We are one of just a handful of National Support Schools in the north-east, chosen from the small group of outstanding secondaries across the region. This work entails sharing our best practice to support schools regionally and nationally to raise academic achievement.

We are a core partner in two Teaching School Alliances in the north-east, with the mandate to develop high quality teaching across the region, including the training of new teachers for the profession. In each of our last three Ofsted and Diocesan inspections, St Mary's academic achievement has been judged outstanding. We are also part of the Leading Edge partnership of high performing schools, as a result of our sustained high academic achievement.

Outstanding academic 'attainment' at St Mary's

With nearly 80% of students achieving A*-C in English and A*-C in Maths over the last three years, as well as 80% achieving at least 2 or 3 A*-C grades in Science, our raw results are well above national averages. This year the A*-C pass rate for those studying separate or 'triple' science was 100% for Biology, 100% for Physics and 100% for Chemistry with an average of 63% of students achieving A*-A grades across all three subjects. 90% of students obtained A*-C in RE and all other optional GCSE subjects were extremely successful, with 82% of all entries A*-C grades. Many of these subjects achieved A*-C pass rates of over 80% or 90%, including Modern Foreign Languages where 46% of pupils achieved A*-A. Vocational subjects were also very successful, with a 100% pass rate, including many Merits and Distinctions. Attainment is very high at A Level too. This year 83% of students gained A*-C grades.

Outstanding academic 'progress' at St Mary's

The 'attainment' scores are very impressive but they are not the most important indicator of our performance. Most important of all is the progress our students make between Year 7 and Year 11. This is a school's 'value added', or

'pupil progress' score and it is something that we advise parents to check when evaluating a school. St Mary's 'pupil progress' has been exceptionally high for 5 years in succession, consistently averaging in the top 5% of schools across the UK.

You can be confident from these figures that your child will be stretched and challenged to fulfil his or her academic potential at St Mary's, whatever their starting point. This outstanding pupil progress can only be achieved where teaching and learning, the curriculum and, most importantly, the ethos and behaviour climate of the school are all outstanding, which is the case here at St Mary's.



A level

Our A level results are very strong too with an A level points per entry of over 215 in 2015. This year, we celebrated a 100% pass rate in the Sixth Form. The proportion of Year 13 A level grades awarded A*-B was over 50%, with around 83% of grades awarded A*-C. Most impressively, 32% of these grades were A*-A. Our total points per student has also risen to almost 760; however, this figure is of limited value, as it is possible for schools to achieve an even higher total points figure simply by entering lots of students for extra exams such as General Studies which are not needed for most university courses.

Parents who rightly place importance on a school's A level performance should keep in mind that our results in the last three years have been achieved by students who joined the school in the period 2006-2008, at a time when the overall academic profile of each year group was far lower than it is now. This, therefore, makes the recent A level performance of students who joined the school at that time even more impressive.

We confidently predict even stronger A level performance from future year groups, as the ability profile of students coming through the school now is significantly higher than several years ago (see Key Stage 3, below).

All A level students progress to degree courses at university

In each of the last 5 years, all of our A level students choosing Higher Education have progressed successfully to degree courses at their chosen universities. We have successfully prepared our students for entry into leading institutions such as Oxbridge, St Andrews, Durham, Bristol, Edinburgh and other Russell Group universities to study medicine, law, humanities, languages, maths and many other challenging degree courses.

An exceptionally strong Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

As a result of the changing make-up of students joining St Mary's in each of the last four years, we now have very strong academic year groups, among the strongest in the north-



east, we estimate. For example, in each of years 7 to 11, more than 40%-50% of students (ie over 80-100 per year group) joined the school with 3 level 5s or better in their SATs. Children joining the school in September 2016 will, therefore, be joining a school with vibrant and able year groups ahead of them. We confidently expect all of these year groups to achieve even higher levels of performance at GCSE. As they move through to Sixth Form, A level attainment will build even more on the strong results seen in recent years. It is important, therefore, for parents to understand the profile of any potential school's current year groups, when determining what the school will be like in the years ahead.



What others have said about St Mary's

The following two pages summarise what Ofsted, the Diocese, parents, government ministers and others have said about St Mary's over the last few years.

Ofsted Outstanding

Since our last Ofsted Inspection, we have constantly improved in all areas of school life.

Below are some comments taken from the last Ofsted report:

- The Catholic ethos shines through everything the school does, placing equality of opportunity at its heart.
- Students' achievements are outstanding as is their personal development and well-being.
- Behaviour, which is excellent, has improved very significantly in the last three years.
- Good quality teaching, combined with students' excellent attitudes to learning, leads to outstanding progress.
- In the best lessons, work is fast-paced and challenging and activities are varied and interesting, so students really enjoy learning and work very hard.
- Teachers check students' learning carefully, explanations are crystal clear and work is made relevant to examination requirements.
- The school has been very successful in developing and extending the curriculum, which is now outstanding.
- An excellent range of residential experiences, visits and extra-curricular activities is offered at the school and well-attended by all learners.
- It is an extremely diverse and harmonious community where all faiths contribute to its spiritual, moral and cultural life.
- Care, guidance and support are outstanding. Tutors know the students very well and build very good relationships with them.
- Support for those whose first language is not English is very good.
- Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities receive excellent support in lessons.

- Its remarkable track record of improvement demonstrates its outstanding capacity to improve even further.

RE Inspection

- St Mary's is an outstanding Catholic school providing an education which enables students to flourish.
- The school's holistic approach to education, its pursuit of excellence, its exceptional care and provision for the weakest and most vulnerable, and the centrality of prayer are all testaments to its distinctive Catholic mission.
- Outcomes for students regardless of their age, backgrounds, capabilities or starting-points are excellent.
- The quality of students' learning and progress in Religious Education is outstanding.
- Students thrive in a community where they feel accepted and empowered to discover and use their gifts and talents. They all benefit from and participate in the excellent prayer life of the school.
- Students make an outstanding contribution to and also benefit enormously from the Catholic life of the school.

English Inspection

- The overall effectiveness of English is outstanding.
- GCSE results demonstrated exceptionally strong progress and there are clear indications that Year 11 students are making even better progress this year.
- Students' strong involvement in learning and excellent progress results from teaching which is routinely good and often outstanding.
- Lessons are fun and students say they make you think. Teachers gain students' interest through relevant activities which make good use of resources.
- Whatever their level of attainment, students value the consistently good support they receive to meet their personal targets. Marking corrects errors, gives specific guidance and comments on achievements in reading and speaking as well as writing.
- A good variety of enrichment activities complements classroom work.

Parental Survey

Following a recent Year 7 parental survey, the following positive feedback was received by the majority of respondents to each of these statements.



I believe that the school supports my child well on his/her Faith journey.

The arrangements for my child to settle in when he/she started St Mary's were good.

My child likes St Mary's and is happy at the school.

My child is making good progress at St Mary's.

St Mary's students are well-behaved.

Staff expect my child to work hard and do his/her best.

I am comfortable approaching the school with questions, problems or complaints.

There is a good range of activities in school that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.

St Mary's is led and managed well.

Other Year 7 Parental Comments

“ Our son has thoroughly enjoyed his first year at St Mary's. He feels happy and secure and challenged in his work. We felt that all the teachers really know our child - his strengths and areas to improve. Thank you for taking such good care of him and his education. We are extremely happy with St Mary's. All the staff, from the office to heads of year, have been great and so helpful. Thanks.

An excellent first year at St Mary's. Staff have been great and focused on encouraging my daughter to thrive. I'm looking forward to my other children coming to this school.

Thank you for all your hard work and for teaching my child who thoroughly enjoys coming to school and has blossomed this year.

Our son has really enjoyed his first year at St Mary's. He has been really happy in his form this year and has made lots of friends. Thank you.

Our daughter has fully immersed herself into school life. She seems to have joined every club on offer to her and is full of enthusiasm for school. A great first year.

Our child has made great progress this year, academically and socially. He is a quiet boy but has made some good friends and his confidence is growing by the day. It is lovely to see. ”



St Mary's School Building

We have now been in our new school building for four years and it continues to provide us with an inspirational resource for students and staff alike. The building is spacious, light, airy and conducive to an outstanding climate for teaching and learning.



Artist's impression of school showing the planned extension

The main teaching areas are accessed from the central atrium with classrooms that are bright, spacious and fully equipped with interactive whiteboards and modern furniture and fittings. Each year

On entering the school, you walk in to the impressive atrium, which forms the central space of the school, and it is from here that the main teaching areas radiate outwards. Students soon find their way around as everything leads back to the atrium. The atrium space has developed a life of its own, not only for teaching and learning activities but also as a meeting place for staff and students on a daily basis. This space has also been the venue for concerts, parents' evenings, staff meetings and, most memorably, for whole school gatherings at different times of the year, including a Remembrance Day service, Christmas celebrations and Lenten liturgies. Overlooking the atrium, at the heart of the school, is the school Chapel, a place for reflection and prayer. Along the front of the school is the spacious main hall together with the attractive dining room to the east and the library and the excellent sports facilities to the west of the main entrance. The sports facilities include a four-court sports hall, a superb activity studio and a modern fitness suite equipped with the latest in fitness machines. The fitness suite has proved to be very popular with students and staff.

group has its own set of toilets, landscaped yard area and an entrance where lockers are located. There is also a very large field at the back of the school, which is open to the students in fine weather.

There is a dedicated Sixth Form area found on the second level, which includes a café-style work area, a study room with ICT facilities and a suite of Sixth Form classrooms.

Due to its continued popularity and success, St Mary's is one of only two north east secondary schools that has successfully bid for government funding for a small extension of its building, to create some additional teaching space for current and future students, so that they can continue to enjoy an outstanding education in first class facilities. Work will begin during this academic year on an extension that matches the build quality and visual appearance of the existing building. An outstanding education is essential for our students' life chances and this extension will help us to strengthen still further the quality of education that we can give to our young people from our local community.





Transition from Primary School to St Mary's

St Mary's is part of a Family of Schools serving young people of the Catholic faith and of other faiths from all over the city and parts of North Tyneside.

St Mary's Family of Schools consists of:

- St Alban's R.C. Primary School, Walker
- St Catherine's R.C. Primary School, Jesmond
- St Charles' R.C. Primary School, Gosforth
- St Lawrence's R.C. Primary School, Byker
- St Mary's R.C. Primary School, Forest Hall
- St Oswald's R.C. Primary School, Gosforth
- St Stephen's R.C. Primary School, Longbenton
- St Teresa's R.C. Primary School, Heaton
- St Vincent's R.C. Primary School, Walker

Students are also welcomed from many other primary schools across the city and North Tyneside.

The Family of Schools work very closely with each other with many projects and activities offered to students from Year 4 to ease the transition to secondary school. We find that most children settle quickly and really enjoy life at St Mary's, their new school. Parents are often surprised at just how easily their children manage the various changes such as the travelling, the larger school, the older students and the many different lessons. However, we work hard to ensure that the transition is as easy as can be.

Strong primary/secondary links

Successful transition starts while the children are still in their primary schools. Regular meetings are held between ourselves and our feeder primary schools which together make up the St Mary's Family of Schools. The schools work together on various initiatives and transition programmes. For



example, Year 4 students come to St Mary's for Science sessions and Year 5 attend a topical conference such as Climate Change, Fairtrade and Respect, as well as a day of high school lessons. Year 6 visit us for master classes during the year in some subjects. Then, in the summer term, all children who will be starting St Mary's in September attend the school for two full days during which they have a taste of what high school life will be like. These days also provide the children with the opportunity to meet their new form class, make new friends and get to know the teachers and the layout of the school. In addition to this, our teachers often visit the primary schools to teach sample high school lessons in their subjects. We liaise very closely and listen to what our primary colleagues tell us about your children. This in turn helps us to respond effectively to their needs, ensuring that all children will be happy and settle in easily at St Mary's.

Partnership with parents

Our partnership with parents is crucial. Your child's success depends on the quality of our work together. There is no substitute for personal experience so we encourage parents to tour the school during the working day. Simply telephone to make an appointment. In the summer term, there is a further meeting for parents to provide you with lots of information about the transition and to give you the opportunity to meet key staff and to share any new information.

St Mary's Catholic Distinctiveness

Parents choosing to send their child to St Mary's are opting specifically for education within the setting of a Catholic school. We are part of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and, as such, we belong to the strong family of Catholic primary and secondary schools throughout the north-east. This is a very supportive network of schools with whom we share the same ethos.

We are proud of our Catholic tradition and take seriously our responsibility to nurture the Faith in our young people and to support them on their spiritual journey through life. We have the huge responsibility of helping to prepare our students for this life and their life to come.

Every day, students have the opportunity to join with their form tutor and fellow students in morning prayer, either in the form class, chapel or in assembly. This may be led by tutors but often it is the students themselves who lead prayer or who ask for prayers for particular people or causes. It is a wonderful part of school life and greatly appreciated by many students and staff. There are also regular opportunities for collective worship throughout the year, in the form of weekly voluntary masses on Friday mornings and special liturgies. The school atrium has been the venue in our new school for whole school gatherings at different times of the year, including a Remembrance Day service, Christmas service and Lenten liturgy.

There are also increasing opportunities for reflection away from school. Each year group goes on an annual retreat and students are also invited to attend the diocesan schools' summer festival, which is always a very popular event with our students.

In addition to this there is an annual whole school mass held in July. This is a fantastic event involving all our students, celebrating our year together. In December 2013, we welcomed the diocesan youth ministry team who led the whole community in a week-long mission. This event increased links between parishes and the school which have continued to grow in strength.

We are enriched by children and staff of other faiths and we are proud of our inclusive approach to spiritual development. We actively seek opportunities in RE, form time and as part of the wider school life to explore how the varying faith traditions complement each other and strengthen us in our everyday lives.

The school is proud of the work it does in what we call faith in action, through our support for many good causes throughout the year. We are always so impressed by the generosity of our students in their charitable giving and by the care and concern which they show towards those less fortunate than themselves, at home and abroad. In recent years, we have collected hampers for the region's homeless and raised

money to send Sixth Form students to Sri Lanka to support a school for children orphaned by the tsunami. Students really do try to live out the message of the gospel.

Whatever your child's faith background, you can be assured that at St Mary's your child will have the opportunity to explore and develop their spiritual life in a secure and supportive

environment, where tolerance, mutual respect and learning from each other are some of our guiding principles.



A Caring School

We pride ourselves on being a caring school. St Mary's is a happy place, where order and respect for others underpin all of our dealings with one another. Our aim is to create an environment where every child feels safe and where everyone can succeed. The welfare of our students is vitally important and if there are any concerns we are committed to dealing with them effectively and swiftly.

The role of the Tutor

Students are put into tutor groups when they arrive at St Mary's. This group is a mixed-ability group made up of students from different primary schools, but please be assured that we keep friends together to ensure a confident start. Within this

group they will attend some lessons together and stay together as a form group each morning, guided by a teacher who acts as their Tutor throughout their time at St Mary's. This teacher will know your child really well and be the person to whom they can

turn with any problem or query. The Tutor is also your first point of contact and will be there to help you with any aspect of your child's education at St Mary's.

Head of Year

The Head of Year's principal role is to ensure the welfare of the children within their year group. They will guide the academic, social and spiritual progress of all the students in their care. The Head of Year is on hand to help you with any concerns which you may have.



Keeping you informed

The support of parents is essential to our work and key to your child's success. You are the prime educators of your children and we operate in close partnership with you.

There are two Parents' Evenings during Year 7. Early in the autumn term you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's transition from primary to secondary school with their Tutor. Later in the year, you will be invited to a second evening with all of your child's teachers to review their progress in each subject area.

Three times a year, you will receive an interim report to let you know how your child is progressing by informing you of their present level and their target for each subject studied. You will also receive a detailed written report of your child's

progress in each subject towards the end of the year. However, if at any time you have a query or concern, we urge you to contact the school immediately and we will be happy to respond.

Special Needs

The school has a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, who leads a Learning

Intervention Team. The team works tirelessly to support any child with special educational needs and is hugely influential in ensuring the happiness and success of any child with a particular learning need.

The SEN team liaises regularly and effectively with the primary schools to collect all the relevant information on children to enable us to meet their needs immediately and so ensure a smooth transition to St Mary's. They are also in regular contact with parents and welcome them to visit the school to see the resources and programmes used to meet the needs of each child.

Support for students with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Another strength of St Mary's is the provision, guidance and support for those children whose first language is not English. We have a designated teacher, who leads the work with these children to help them

integrate fully into the school. She teaches English and provides extra support both pastorally and academically where needed. Our overseas students settle very quickly into life at St Mary's and the majority of them learn English very quickly and to a very impressive level. Please feel

free to contact the school if you have any queries in this area.

The Library

The library at St Mary's is based at the front of the school and provides students with an excellent and supportive learning resource. The facility can comfortably accommodate up to forty students at a time, holds



several thousand printed materials (books, journals, magazines and newspapers) and a bank of computers. It is staffed by a full-time, qualified librarian who is helped by a team of library monitors.

The library is open every school day between 8.00am and 4.00pm. Students are actively encouraged to use the library outside of lessons

for private research, homework and leisure reading. They can also take part in a library-run chess club as well as buy school equipment from its stationery store.

As part of the English curriculum, Year 7 students enjoy fortnightly reading lessons in the library. These are designed to develop students' literacy skills and to

encourage reading for pleasure. Throughout the year, the library gives all students at St Mary's a range of opportunities to join reading groups, take part as judges in local and national book awards, and to attend author events.



The Taught Curriculum

At St Mary's we believe that all children are unique, with their own God-given gifts and talents. We know that different children have different strengths and, for this reason, the children are placed into mixed-ability form groups and then set according to their ability in each subject. For example, your child may be in Set 1 for English and Set 2 for Maths. In over 50% of the lessons during the first year, the students are taught in their mixed-ability form classes, just as they were in Year 6. In subjects such as Maths, English, Science, and Modern Foreign Languages, the setting will be done according to ability in each subject. This is flexible and movement between sets will happen regularly as learning progresses. Increasing use is made of grouping by ability as students move through Key Stage 3.

We firmly believe that this system is the fairest for all students and ensures that children are happy and achieve their best. This system has led to record levels of achievement at each Key Stage over the last five years.

Key Stage 3

Throughout Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) all students study a broad range of subjects which include the following:

Art

Computer Science

Design and Technology

Drama

English

French

Geography

History

Mathematics

Music

Pastoral Programme

Physical Education

Religious Education

Science

Spanish

Russian (for the keenest linguists in Years 8/9)

Pastoral Programme: Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

This is an innovative and exciting programme which focusses on the holistic development of students and includes the following strands:

- **Spiritual development:** This strand provides students with an opportunity to help develop a real and lasting relationship with God. Core topics include: prayer, religious experiences, spirituality in art, music, architecture and nature as well as spirituality expressed through other religions.
- **Relationship development:** This strand will consider the dignity and intrinsic worth of each individual person. This area will explore what is understood as authentic human love between people made in the image and likeness of God.
- **Social development:** This strand will develop in our students' social skills, self-awareness and personal well-being. We will also attempt to create an awareness in students of the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations by looking at the social, economic and political dimensions of life.
- **Cultural development:** This strand celebrates and acknowledges the rich cultural diversity we have in our world, country and school. Students will be able to explore the varied traditions, faiths and cultural practices associated with a multi-cultural society.
- **Learning development:** This strand aims to develop in our students the skills of an effective learner. These skills will be relevant both in school and in the wider context of life-long learning.

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) all students study the following subjects:

Religious Education

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Physics

Chemistry

Biology

Physical Education

Pastoral Programme

In addition, students can choose four options, with guidance, from the following courses:

GCSE courses

Art
Business Studies
Catering
Computer Science
Drama
French
Geography
Graphic Products
History
Home languages studies e.g. Persian, Farsi, Polish
ICT
Music
Physical Education
Product Design
Russian
Spanish
Textiles

Vocational courses

BTEC Health and Social Care
BTEC ICT
BTEC Performing Arts
BTEC Sports Studies
National Certificate in Business
Students are given appropriate guidance before final choices are made in Year 9.

Sixth Form Curriculum

Students in the Sixth Form are offered a broad and balanced curriculum including the following courses:

Applied Science	Geography
Art	Government and Politics
Biology	Health and Social Studies
Business Studies	History
Chemistry	ICT
Computer Science	Maths
3D Design	Media Studies
Drama & Theatre Studies	Music
Economics	Photography
English Language	Physics
English Literature	Russian
Ethics and Philosophy	Spanish
Film Studies	Sports Studies
French	Textiles
Further Maths	

The courses we offer cater for the needs of the vast majority of our students and provide an excellent start to the most competitive university courses. However, being a smaller Sixth Form and coupled with the fact that we know our students very well, we are able to provide individualised options. In certain cases, this can involve running courses for a small number of students whose university ambitions need to be catered for through the study of a certain subject.

This curriculum is complemented by three additional elements:

Religious Education

This programme is very popular and looks at current ethical and philosophical issues. As part of a Catholic Sixth Form, students are encouraged to study and reflect upon these key areas. Both universities and employers are very impressed with the analytical skills that students acquire as part of their studies in this area. Many students decide to continue studying this subject into Year 13 to full A level standard, as an addition to their opted subjects.

Physical Education

Students are provided with the opportunity to take part in a variety of activities to unwind from their academic studies and keep fit at the same time. Activities include: football, gymnastics, netball, table tennis, aerobics, badminton, rowing, archery and trampolining. All students have free access to the Fitness Suite. Sixth Form students are also given the opportunity to work alongside the staff in the department as PE Leaders. They gain a Gym Instructor's qualification and manage the new Fitness Suite, completing professional inductions for all new members, and supervise younger students in the facility at lunchtime and after school.

Pastoral Programme

All students take part in the pastoral programme. This is delivered in tutor groups and allows for discussion, collaboration and reflection on key issues in the modern world. The pastoral programme allows students to explore and develop their understanding of a wide range of topics including learning and independent study skills, social and cultural developments from local, national and international perspectives and political awareness. These topics are set within the Catholic social teaching and allow students the opportunity to enhance their spiritual development. Preparation for university applications, employment and apprenticeships are delivered through the pastoral programme. Students are guided and supported to make a successful transition to their next stage whether this is further studies or the world of work.

The Wider Curriculum

We encourage all students at St Mary's to become involved in the wider curriculum as there is so much more to gain from school life in addition to exam success. We want all of our students to develop into confident, happy, responsible, well-rounded individuals, armed with a wealth of experience to help them achieve and enjoy success in life.

International Links

St Mary's is a diverse, inclusive community that welcomes students from all faiths, nationalities and backgrounds. Our Catholic ethos has encouraged us to expand our international dimension and our aim is to develop more exciting and successful links with many different overseas communities and organisations.

At St Mary's, most students learn both French and Spanish. Students attend events such as plays in foreign languages, language celebration days, master classes at universities or a lunchtime cinema club. In addition, our students visit St James' Park, where they practise their French in a mock press conference for a French player, and visit a tapas restaurant, where they are given the opportunity to order and discuss their choices in Spanish. The Modern Languages department also provides students with the opportunity to study Russian up to GCSE level and there are Italian and Mandarin lunchtime clubs, which are very popular with students of all ages.

We continue to have very strong relationships with our partner school in China, Hebei International School in Shijiazhuang. Every year, teachers from

St Mary's give up three weeks of their summer holiday to go and teach at Hebei, an experience they find hugely rewarding. Students and staff from St Mary's regularly correspond by email with their peers in our Chinese partner school and also participate in fundraising activities for Bumara St Mary's, our other partner school in Rwanda.

Over the past few years we have celebrated the multicultural aspect of our community by holding an annual Evening of Culture and International Day. These events have included visits from the Lions of Zululand and our own international students showcasing dance, music, martial arts, fashion and food.



We also run regular overseas educational visits and excursions, many of these now becoming annual or bi-annual fixtures on our calendar. Modern Languages, for example, offer very popular visits to France and Spain while the PE department organises annual ski courses to the Alps. More recently, Year 12 students have embarked on long-haul expeditions to Peru and India, where they have helped local communities by working on charity projects. The seventeen Sixth Form students who went to India in July

2014 were primarily engaged in construction work, namely building accommodation for deaf people at an adult centre. The students were accommodated at a school for deaf children, and while they were there they were able to build many fruitful relationships with pupils at the school, participating in many



sporting and cultural activities. Our students benefited hugely from these visits, gaining an array of life-changing experiences as well as an invaluable insight into the lives of those far less fortunate than themselves. These visits have been made possible through tremendous fundraising efforts by the students and parents themselves. This expedition culture is firmly embedded into the fabric of our school.

In summary, we can proudly say that St Mary's continues to be a truly international school, both in terms of the huge ethnic and cultural diversity of our student body and the links we have developed with individuals and organisations from many different parts of the globe. We look forward to

strengthening these links and establishing an ever-increasing number of new contacts, thereby enabling our students to become truly global citizens better equipped to meet the huge challenges that will face their generation.

Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts department is one of the most successful, vibrant and popular areas of school. As one of our specialist subjects, it leads the way with outstanding teaching, learning and achievement, as well as exceptional enrichment opportunities both within and outside of the classroom.



All lower school students participate in Drama lessons within the curriculum and many opt to take Performing Arts at GCSE and A level in both Dance and Drama.

As part of their examinations, students perform shows which always receive glowing reviews. Last year our Sixth Form students performed at The Sands Centre, Carlisle in the National Rock Challenge project and did extremely well. This was a collaborative project with the Just.Us group in school. There are very popular dance and drama clubs with the opportunity to perform in major venues.

Other trips have included visits to regional theatres to musical, dance and drama events.

One of the highlights of last year was the amazing production of **Grease**, involving over 100 students, which played to a packed house on three consecutive nights. This year, we have already started preparing for our production of **The Lion King**.

Last year, the Sixth Form students performed a favourite play of theirs, **Kindertransport** by Diane Samuels which tied in with the national celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of VE Day. This was such a success that the students performed it again for a wider audience due to popular demand.

All students are invited to share in the performing arts experience where they can choose from a number of different roles including performing, technical/backstage work or administrative roles.

A typical year would feature many different activities and shows within the department. These include Key Stage 3 lunchtime clubs, a dance show, a whole school musical and many trips to local theatres. There are a lot of exciting projects in the next academic year and we look forward to a whole spectrum of students taking part.

Trips and Excursions

Most departments organise trips for various year groups to enable them to put their learning into action and to enjoy learning beyond the classroom. Examples of some of our trips are:

- Year 10 and Sixth Form to Oxford and Cambridge and other universities designed to help students gain experience of higher education.
- The Languages department takes lower school students to a Spanish tapas restaurant and organises educational visits to Spain and France so students can practise their languages and experience another culture. These trips accommodate up to 100 students and are thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Expeditions to Peru and India involving a charitable purpose and unique experience for our Sixth Form students.
- Students have the chance to experience a residential retreat at the Youth Village and also to attend the annual Diocesan Summer Festival. These are all very well-attended.





The Music Department

Music increasingly forms part of the day-to-day life of the students at St Mary's.

The Music department's mission at St Mary's is to give our students a positive, practical experience of music. The curriculum is broad and offers students the opportunity to learn about music from different times, places and world traditions, as well as the more formal aspects of music such as learning about stave notation. We believe firmly in a holistic approach to music education and most music lessons offer our students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through practical participation.

The department itself comprises two large classrooms which are well-resourced with a range of electronic keyboards and percussion instruments. We also have a selection of acoustic and electric guitars, two electric drum kits and an acoustic drum kit. As well as the two main teaching areas, there are two large practice rooms. The department's facilities are available before school, and during breaktimes and lunchtimes for students to continue to develop and hone their musical skills. We operate a booking system to ensure all who wish to use the facilities have an equal opportunity to do so.

The extra-curricular programme offers students from across the school the opportunity to come together and enjoy creating music in a range of ensembles. These include the school band, the swing band and the choir. There are many other opportunities for individuals, groups and ensembles to

perform. There are two showcase events organised by the department; one at Christmas and one nearing the end of the summer term. There are further opportunities for singers and instrumentalists to perform at liturgies and awards evenings. Record numbers of students are now involved in these ensembles.

To aid us in all of these endeavours, we are supported by an excellent team of highly

qualified visiting instrumental tutors, all of whom are practising musicians, with not only a first-rate knowledge of their instruments, but a vast experience and understanding of the pressures and requirements of performing. Tuition is available in all orchestral instruments plus piano, keyboard, guitar, drum kit and singing.

Sport at St Mary's

St Mary's Physical Education department aims to provide an inclusive physical education programme through a wide variety of fun, structured and enjoyable activities.

The learning environment provides the best opportunity

- The Performing Arts department organises trips to the Theatre Royal and has visited London, where the students took part in workshops relating to West End shows.
- Fieldwork plays an integral part in the study of Geography with various local trips to complement the course. Sixth Form Geography students also have a residential visit to support their A level work and develop their skills further. In 2015-16 this will be to the Lake District.
- The Art department visited the Biscuit Factory and also the Laing Art Gallery with its students to study some contemporary art together with works produced over the centuries.
- St Mary's students can also enhance their love of outdoor sports by taking part in Thurston outdoor adventure trips or the annual ski course to the French Alps.
- Members of the School Council visit London where they meet local MPs and experience Prime Minister's Question Time. They also visit Mansion House and other sights.
- The Science department provided their students with a taste of higher education as part of a three-year mentoring programme. To launch the event, thirty Year 9 students took part in an activity day at Newcastle University Medical School.
- In addition to the activities mentioned above, there are many more extra-curricular opportunities on offer at St Mary's for students to enjoy such as Art, ICT, Photography, Dance, Rock Challenge, Film, Enterprise, Chess, Debating, Science, Games, "Just.Is" group, History, Leavers' Proms, Synagogue visits, Sports, the School Council and much more.



for students to achieve their full potential and this is achieved through a positive and calm atmosphere which promotes healthy competition in a respectful and safe manner.

The subject is delivered by knowledgeable and enthusiastic professionals, who promote sport and physical education in a caring and supportive manner. Staff have a wide range of expertise and are committed to ensuring the highest possible standards for all students in their care.

All students are encouraged to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of physical, social and leadership concepts by participating in an individualised curriculum pathway. In Year 7, students will experience a range of new sporting opportunities so that they can make an informed decision about their own curriculum choices and personal development in subsequent years. This allows all students the opportunity to develop their personal skills and to fulfil their potential by improving self-confidence and self-esteem. Students are encouraged to be progress-orientated and to work effectively as a team. We aim to provide a lively and vibrant club scene to capture the attention of students and to encourage continued participation outside school hours. This has led to a large increase in both recreational and competitive sporting opportunities for students in the school. Children joining the school will be encouraged to be actively involved in the sporting side of school life.

Recreational clubs are run by PE staff and volunteers, and all students are always welcome. This year large numbers of students have enjoyed a range of activities including Zumba, kick-boxing, table tennis, tennis, gymnastics, weightlifting, basketball and 5-a-side football.

As well as recreational clubs there is also a large emphasis on competitive sport at St Mary's. The department runs teams for football (girls and boys), netball, rounders, swimming, biathlon, triathlon, basketball, athletics, cricket, tennis, trampolining, rowing, archery, cycling, table tennis, badminton and gymnastics. Students in competitive sports will be given the opportunity to compete at city, county and national levels in a range of competitions over



the course of the school year. A house system is also operated by the PE department and students will enjoy regular inter-house tournaments during the course of the academic year.

Over the last few years, our students have enjoyed high levels of sporting success, winning various leagues and competitions in sports such as football, netball, cricket, swimming and a range of athletics tournaments.

A comprehensive list of clubs and activities can be found on our website. The new school offers top-class sports facilities which

include a large sports hall with a sprung wooden floor, activity studio, fitness suite, outdoor tennis, basketball and netball courts, and a large field area for all our outdoor sports.

Outdoor Education

We believe that an outdoor adventure environment and residential experience provide a most powerful framework for developing children. The aim of each course is not only to introduce students to new skills through a variety of activities but also to develop the whole child. Experiences focus on the development of new interests, encouraging a

sense of adventure, self-reliance and team-building. Courses also allow students to develop the concepts of responsibility, self-awareness, trust, co-operation and an understanding of health and safety. St Mary's successfully provides a range of residential experiences for students. In recent years, we have visited Kielder Water, the Lake District, Southern France and the Alps where students gained great experience in outdoor adventure sports. During these and other visits, students have experienced a variety of activities such as kayaking, climbing, abseiling, skiing, mountain-biking, hill-walking, orienteering and sailing, to name but a few. Students this year have had the chance to row on the Tyne, coached by professional rowers.



During the next academic year, over 50 students will visit Thurston Outdoor Education Centre in the Lake District for a residential week of adventure activities.

Code of Conduct

Students have the following rights:

- **The right to learn**
- **The right to enjoy their education**
- **The right to achieve their very best**

Every student is part of St Mary's community and so has the following responsibilities:

- **To value and look after themselves**
- **To support and help other learners and to treat everyone with respect and kindness**
- **To look after the school and treat the environment and equipment with care**

This is simply expressed as:

- **Respect for self**
- **Respect for others**
- **Respect for the environment**

The staff are committed to achieving excellence in their teaching and wish to work closely with parents/carers – the child's first educators. The Code of Conduct is a clear statement of expectations of behaviour for young people to achieve their best. The Governors therefore expect that parents/carers will actively support this Code.

Respect for Self

The school actively encourages students to value themselves as unique individuals with abilities to learn and achieve; to respect their own health, both physical and mental; to take a pride in their personal appearance.

It does this through expecting students:

- **To be prepared to learn by having the right disposition, correct equipment and kit in order to participate fully in all aspects of the curriculum**
- **To wear the full school uniform and follow the dress guidelines of the school**
- **Not to bring on to the premises any harmful or illegal substance**

Respect for Others

The school actively encourages students to value everyone else in the community as being of equal worth with much to contribute to the life of the school.

It does this through expecting others:

- **To refrain from all forms of intimidation – verbal, physical and psychological – and all forms of racial and sexual harassment**
- **To ensure that all students can learn without disruption of their lessons and to respect other people's belongings**
- **To respect all safety systems and procedures and not to bring on to the premises any item which can damage others**
- **To refrain from any action which puts the safety of others at risk**

Respect for the Environment

The school actively encourages students to value the environment and the equipment that is used in school.

It does this through expecting students:

- **To keep the premises clean and free from litter**
- **To treat all equipment with care and as directed**
- **To treat all areas with respect so that all can use and enjoy them**
- **Not to damage or misuse any equipment**
- **Not to abuse in any way any equipment that is for the safety and care of the St Mary's community**

The Governors value the good name of the school and will view any action which damages this within the community very seriously. The Governors realise that, with the vast majority of students, encouragement from parents/carers is sufficient. At other times, outside agencies may be involved in order to assist in helping the student to improve. There will be times when sanctions are necessary and the full range will be used. These include detentions, a variety of appropriate tasks and exclusion. Wilful damage must be paid for. Serious offences against this code, or persistent poor behaviour, particularly that which impedes the progress and happiness of others, will be dealt with firmly and may entail permanent exclusion from the school.

Uniform

Uniform is a very important part of our school. It promotes a sense of identity, avoids divisiveness, and helps create and foster in every student a sense of personal pride and pride in the school. Uniform provides practical clothing for the very many different tasks to be done during a busy day. It also prepares students for the reality of work where uniform of one sort or another is often expected. The uniform at St Mary's is outstanding and we would like this excellent standard to continue and appreciate parental support in ensuring that this is the case. Most of the uniform must be purchased through the school.



Main Uniform – to be purchased through the School Outfit company

- Navy blazer with embroidered badge
- School tie
- Navy V neck jumper with St Mary's logo
- Charcoal grey school trousers
- Custom made school skirt
(for your information, the majority of girls wear the school skirt but the school trousers are fine)



Main Uniform - may be purchased from any store

- Standard white shirt, large enough at the neck to allow the top button to be comfortably fastened at all times
- Black standard school shoes. Trainers, trainer style shoes, canvas shoes or shoes with any logos, colours or accessories are not allowed
- Plain white or black ankle socks or plain black or natural tights
- A student who, for religious reasons, wears a head covering must ensure that it is plain black or navy blue

P.E. Uniform – to be purchased through the School Outfit company

- Navy embroidered top
- Navy shorts and/or navy tracksuit bottoms for the girls
- White shorts for the boys
- Navy tracksuit bottoms (optional) for the boys
- Navy PE sweatshirt and/or waterproof jacket

PE Uniform - may be purchased from any store

- Sturdy training shoes (not boots, plimsolls or fashion/leisure shoes)
- White sports socks

Hairstyles, jewellery and make-up

- Hair must be a natural colour and hairstyles are not to follow extremes of fashion such as shaved heads, tramlines, patterns or dyed hair
- Only simple, plain headbands or hairclips are allowed for girls
- No make-up or nail varnish is to be worn or carried in school
- The only jewellery allowed to be worn is a watch and a pair of simple gold or silver studs

Equipment

For all our students to enjoy success at school and reach their full potential, they need to be fully equipped for lessons and avoid any distractions. In order to achieve this, the following guidelines must be adhered to.

- All students must have a dark-coloured, practical school bag large enough for school files (A4)
The bag should not be a fashion item
- Mobile phones must be switched off and out of sight during the school day at all times
- No headphones are allowed in school
- All students must have two pens, a pencil, rubber, ruler, protractor and a calculator
- All students must carry their planner and fill this in every lesson

St Mary's aims

To develop in our students an understanding of the Catholic faith and a love of the values of the Gospel, in order to support all students, from whatever Faith background, on their spiritual journey and so help them live life to the full.

To nurture in our students a sense of gratitude for their God-given gifts, talents and opportunities, and to encourage them to develop a lifelong commitment to serving others, by using their gifts and talents well, whether in school, in the home, the parish, the workplace, the local community or in the wider world.

To ensure that relationships in school are rooted firmly in Gospel values, with students living out those values and demonstrating respect for themselves and others, through their excellent behaviour and conduct, their good manners and their acts of kindness and compassion.

To inspire in our students a love of learning and a real appreciation of the joys and benefits which learning can bring to others and to themselves.

To help our students develop into self-confident young adults, at ease with themselves and others, with lively, enquiring minds, the ability to think deeply and question and argue rationally.

To provide our students with the knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes necessary for further learning and for adult life generally, whether at home, in the workplace or in the wider community.

To help our students communicate by using language and number effectively.

To help our students understand the physical world in which we live.

To help our students appreciate the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations and provide them with good social, economic and political awareness.

To provide our students with knowledge and experiences to keep them fit and healthy.

To help our students develop their aesthetic appreciation, by introducing them to a wide variety of experiences, both in school and beyond.

To develop and sustain high academic standards in all curriculum areas and ensure that students gain excellent academic qualifications commensurate with their ability.

To provide a positive, happy and fulfilling school experience for our students, where they feel safe and secure and are regularly praised and encouraged for their efforts and achievements in all aspects of school life.

Admissions Policy

The Governors intend to admit up to 196 pupils into Year 7 in September 2016. Children must be eleven years of age as at 31st August 2016.

Children who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan or a statement of **Special Educational Need** where the school is named as the most appropriate educational setting for the child will be admitted.

The school will normally admit pupils in the following categories in order of priority:

First priority in each category will be given to siblings, that is, children who will have an older sibling in the school in 2016 (see additional notes 3)

- 1 Looked after Catholic children in the care of a local authority or children that were looked after by the local authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order (see additional notes 2).
- 2 Catholics living in the promoter parishes or attending the partner primary schools (see additional notes 1)
- 3 Catholics living in other parishes or attending other schools
- 4 Looked after children in the care of a local authority or children that were looked after by a local authority and immediately after that became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order (see additional notes 2).
- 5 Children in the partner primary schools not covered by 2 or 3
- 6 Children who have a sibling in the school not covered by 1 to 5 (see additional notes 3)
- 7 Children of a member of school staff who have been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which application for admission to the school is made (see additional notes 4)
- 8 Children who are baptised or dedicated members of other Christian Churches.
- 9 Children of other Faith traditions
- 10 Other Children

The promoter parishes are:

Holy Name	Jesmond
Sacred Heart	Gosforth
St Aidan's	Benton
St Anthony of Padua	Walker
St Charles'	Gosforth
St Dominic's	Shieldfield
St Francis of Assisi	Walkergate
St Lawrence's	Byker
St Mary's	Forest Hall
St Peter and Paul	Longbenton
St Teresa's	Heaton
St Vincent's	Walker

The partner primary schools are those which serve the promoter parishes, namely:

St Alban's	Walker
St Catherine's	Shieldfield
St Charles'	Gosforth

St Lawrence's	Byker
St Mary's	Forest Hall
St Oswald's	Gosforth
St Stephen's	Longbenton
St Teresa's	Heaton
St Vincent's	Walker

Applications will be co-ordinated by the Local Authority according to their published timetable.

Parents or carers wishing to apply for a place for their child must complete the application form provided by the Local Authority and return it to the Local Authority by the stated date.

If applicants are seeking admission in category 1, 2 or 3 above, they may be asked to provide evidence that the child is a baptised Roman Catholic or has been formally received into the Roman Catholic Church.

If applicants are seeking admission in category 8 and 9 above, they may be asked for evidence that the child is baptised or a letter of support from their minister or Faith leader.

Additional Notes

1 Definition of Catholic

Children who have been baptised as Catholics or have been formally received into the Catholic Church. All applicants seeking admission under criteria 1, 2 or 3 will be asked to provide evidence that the child has been baptised as a Catholic or has been received into the Catholic Church. A baptismal certificate or a letter from their priest confirming their baptism or reception into the Catholic Church will suffice.

2 Definition of Looked After Children

A looked after child is a child who is in the care of a local authority in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time the application for admission to school is made and whom the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the date of admission.

An adoption order is an order made under section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

A child arrangements order is an order outlining the arrangements as to the person with whom the child will live under section 12 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

A special guardianship order is an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian or guardians (Section 14A Children Act 1989).

3 Definition of Sibling

Sibling refers to brother or sister, half brother or sister, adopted brother or sister, step brother or sister, or the child of the parent/carer's partner where the child for whom the school place is sought is living in the same family unit at the same address as that sibling.

4 Definition of Staff

A member of staff includes all school staff who are under the direct employment of the governing body of St. Mary's Catholic School.

Tie-breaker

Where there are places available for some, but not all applicants within a particular category, distance from home address to school will be the deciding factor, with preference being given to those whose home address is nearest to the school, when measured by GEO CODE available through Newcastle LA. GEO CODE uses the measure of the straight line distance from a fixed point at the school to a point in the centre of the home address of the child, using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer or a suitable alternative geographical information system.

Right of Appeal

Where a parent has been notified that a place is not available for a child, every effort will be made to help the parent to find a place in a suitable alternative school. Parents who are refused a place have a statutory right of appeal. Further details of the appeals process are available by writing to the Chair of Governors at the school address.

Home Address

It is the parental address which will be used in applying the admission criteria. This means that, when stating your choice of school, you should give the parental/guardian address at the time of application. The address of childminders or other family members who may share in the care of your child should not be quoted as the home address.

Waiting Lists

If your child has been refused admission, you can request that your child's name be placed on the school's waiting list. If places become available, we will consider all relevant applications based on the waiting list which will be maintained until 31st December, 2016.

All admissions are determined by the Governing Body. The Governing Body supports the LA's co-ordinated approach to admissions and will adopt the equal preference principle. Appeals against any decision of the Governing Body should be submitted to:

The Secretary of the Appeals Board

c/o St. Mary's Catholic School
Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

The written appeal must set out the grounds on which the appeal is made.

The Mission Prayer

Lord our God,
guide us as we step up to life.
Our journey may not always
be straightforward
but you are a beacon of light
in the darkness.

Help us to grow stronger
and closer to you,
to become more united
as a community
as we move within your love.

Amen



*The Mission Prayer was written by students from
St Mary's, St Cuthbert's and Sacred Heart, in preparation
for our recent Mission.*





St Mary's

Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Longbenton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE7 7PE Telephone: 0191 2153260

mail@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk
www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk