



St Mary's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome

to St Mary's CE Primary School

Achievements come from dreams.



Our vision

Our vision is to provide a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment where children will recognise and achieve their fullest potential so that they are well equipped to meet the challenges of education, work and life.

Our school is a place of Christian values where children learn positive character attributes. Our pupils become confident motivated life-long learners through a holistic, outdoor environment and technology are used to maximise opportunities and provide a context for learning where children are encouraged to take risks and develop enquiring, investigative minds.

Our children, parents, staff, Governors and the widening community make a contribution and are valued as individuals. St Mary's pupils treat others as they would like to be treated, show respect, are responsible, accountable, fair, honest and courageous, have empathy, persevere, show initiative and optimism and act with integrity.



The curriculum

Literacy

We aim to enable our children to be confident in their use of language and to have effective literacy and communication skills. These skills are a key to the tool box each child will need throughout the curriculum and throughout their adult life.

Numeracy

We aim to enable our children to be confident in the use of Numeracy and to empower them to apply these skills throughout the curriculum and throughout their adult life.

Science

We believe it is important that children develop a positive attitude to science. We encourage this by providing them with stimulating learning experiences which provide a platform from which to continue their scientific studies in the future.

Information and Communication Technology

We believe confidence in ICT is essential, as it prepares children to participate in a rapidly changing world.

Humanities (History, Geography and Religious Education)

We believe Humanities offer children the opportunity to develop a sense of identity.

The Arts (Art, Design and Technology, Music and Physical Education)

We believe The Arts offer children the opportunity to develop their creative skills.

How we behave in school

Within school formal rules are kept to a minimum and, in our school, are called 'The Golden Rules'. The Golden Rules are:

- Do be gentle
- Do be kind and helpful
- Do work hard
- Do look after property
- Do listen to people
- Do be honest
- Do not hurt anybody
- Do not hurt people's feelings
- Do not waste your or other people's time
- Do not waste or damage things
- Do not interrupt
- Do not cover up the truth

We aim to provide a caring community in which all children are encouraged to respect their teacher, their fellow pupils, the property of others and the local environment. Children are expected to behave well in the classroom and as a 'Tribe' formulate their own classroom rules. They are also expected to be aware of the needs and safety of others during playtime and lunch breaks. If a problem should occur, it will be dealt with sympathetically and you will be informed, if necessary.

We believe very firmly in incentives and rewards. Children in Key Stages 1 and 2 are given credits at the start of each week, which they try to keep enabling them to take part in 'Golden Time'. Golden Time takes place on Friday afternoons; children in Key Stage 1 have choosing time then, and children in Key Stage 2 are given a choice of activities. We have found that all children love Golden Time and that it is helping children to behave better in school, as well as rewarding all our children who always behave well.

Homework

Our children receive homework and this reinforces the work that has been done within school.

Child Protection

Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we have to consult other agencies before we contact you. The procedures we follow have been laid down by the Bolton's Child Protection Procedures www.bolton.gov.uk. If you want to know more about this procedure, please speak to the Head teacher/Child Protection Coordinator.



Special Educational Needs

Any child may experience some learning difficulties during their time at school. These needs are met within each class through differentiated work provided for the child and extra support given where necessary. We work closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure that each child receives the highest quality support. If any parent is concerned about their child's progress, they can speak to the class teacher, head teacher or the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Gifted And Talented

We provide for the Gifted and Talented Child through extending their particular skills and abilities.

Transition

We believe that transition is a crucial time for any child. Therefore we provide opportunities at the end of each year for all children to spend time in their prospective classroom with their new teacher. This helps to provide a seamless start to the next academic year and reassure our children.

We have developed strong links with the local High Schools and make the transition to these schools an exciting, challenging time for the children in Year 6. We are always pleased to see former pupils return; our interest in their progress doesn't end when they leave our school.

Our School Day

Morning

Begins at 8:55 am
(Parents are welcome to bring their children at 8:45 am in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One.)
(8:45 am Nursery age children)

Ends at 11:45 am Nursery
Ends at 12:00 pm Reception
Ends at 12:10 pm Key Stage 1
Ends at 12:20 pm Key Stage 2

Afternoon

Begins at 12:30 pm Nursery age Ends at 3:30 pm for everybody

Begins at 1:15 pm Reception age,
KS1 and KS2

Attendance

Attendance registers are kept so it is really important that you let us know when and why your child is unable to come to school. Please inform us by telephoning or sending a note. For visits to the dentist, clinic, etc an exit form needs to be completed; you can get these from the school secretary. Completing an exit form is a requirement of the LA. If possible, try to arrange medical/dental appointments outside school hours. We must close the registers at 9:00 am so we ask you to join us on time.

We promote awe and wonder in the world around our children through the curriculum.



What to wear in school

Our school uniform colours are navy blue, grey and pale blue. Blue sweatshirts and cardigans emblazoned with the school logo are sold in school. These are very hard wearing and good value for money. The rest of the uniform comprises pale blue polo shirts (boys/girls), grey trousers (boys/girls) or a skirt/pinafore/summer dress (girls). All children must wear black shoes.

Children need suitable clothes for P.E./Games lessons: t-shirts, knee-length shorts and pumps (not trainers) are required for an indoor session. Any games strip is allowed and all children may wear tracksuits outside in cold weather. Trainers are a requirement for outdoor sessions. All jewellery, including earrings, must be removed prior to a P.E. session. Plasters will be provided to those children with recently pierced ears.

These belongings may be kept safe inside a pump bag. It is really important that all articles of school uniform and P.E. clothing are **clearly marked or labelled with your child's name**; it makes tracing lost garments much easier!

In Years 4 and 5 children are taken for swimming lessons. This is no charge for these lessons. Girls need a swimming costume, hat and towel. Boys need swimming trunks and a towel. Goggles are not worn in swimming lessons.

We strongly recommend that jewellery is not worn in school at all. However, children may wear a small, single stud in each ear lobe and one wrist watch.

We will not accept responsibility for any loss of articles brought to school.

Eating in school

The school has its own kitchen and all meals are prepared and cooked on the premises. Dinner money is collected in advance on Mondays and it's a great help if children bring their money in a small named tin or envelope. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, you will need to go to the One Stop Shop in the Town Hall.

We operate a cafeteria-style service and pilot the Healthy School's Menus. Children are offered at least two, and often three, choices of main course and pudding every day, so there is something to suit all tastes! We are also trying to encourage our children to eat healthily so there is always salad on offer, as well as fruit as an option for pudding.

Packed Lunches

If your child prefers to eat sandwiches at lunch times, s/he may bring a packed lunch. We have found that drinks are easier to handle in plastic containers. For safety reasons please do not send glass bottles or flasks. Please label lunch boxes. Also, please make sure that your child's packed lunch box doesn't contain chocolate or any fizzy drink.

Snacks

St Mary's is part of the Healthy Schools Initiative and all children are encouraged to eat healthily. For this reason, we do not allow chocolate or crisps to be brought into school for snacks. Parents can pay for a snack or send their child with a piece of fruit. All our healthy snacks are prepared in our school kitchen.

We are also part of the National Fruit Scheme which means that all children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are given a piece of fruit each day.





What happens if your child is ill

We are unable to administer medicines of any kind, whether or not they have been prescribed. Giving medicine to a child is against the Health and Safety Policy of the LA. However, you are welcome to come into school at a time convenient to you if your child needs medicine during the day. When your child enters school, you will be given a health information sheet on which you can list any health problems he or she has. This makes school aware of any potential problems and enables us to deal with them, should they occur.

If your child starts to feel unwell at school we shall try to make him/her comfortable until we are able to contact you. It is important that you tell us if you change address, telephone number or the person who is an emergency contact so that we can reach you as soon as possible. If a teacher is concerned about a child, s/he will always be seen by our Trained First Aiders.

Please remember that, if your child is unable to attend school because of illness, let us know either by 'phoning or sending a message.



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Believe you can, know you can.



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Edale Road, Bolton BL3 4QP

t: 01204 333494

f: 01204 333495

e: office@st-marys-deane.bolton.sch.uk

w: stmarysdeane.net