

St Mary's Church of  
England (Voluntary Aided)  
Primary School

# School Prospectus



# Welcome

The Governors, staff and pupils of St Mary's would like to extend a warm welcome to our school. We are extremely proud of our school, and the high standards we achieve.

St Mary's is a small school, with an attached Nursery, sitting in the St Mary's ward of Swanley. We have a stable, supportive and experienced staff and governing body, and our children's behaviour, conduct and achievements are always praised by visitors to the school. We take pupils from the age of 2 to 11.

With the professional expertise and enthusiasm of the teaching and support staff, the school is an environment which the children find secure, and enables them to achieve their potential. Included in our core curriculum is French tuition for all children (including Nursery), and From Year 1 all children play a musical instrument – having weekly recorder, violin, or piano lessons. Our science curriculum is taught by a specialist and dedicated science teacher; and from Year 1, our children enjoy tennis coaching, with a specialist coach.

This year, children have travelled from Dartford, St Paul's Cray, Rochester and Crockenhill to keep their places at our school; and in turn our children leave in Year 6 to attend a whole range of secondary schools, including grammar schools in Dartford and Wilmington. We have waiting lists for most of our classes, and each year we are over subscribed for our admission to the Reception year.

"St Mary's Primary School is a happy place because relationships between pupils and teachers are warm and nurturing. Pupils are polite and kind. They believe everyone should be treated fairly and with respect. They say, 'We look after each other'. Pupils and staff are equally proud of their school, describing it as being like a family."

OFSTED

We are able to cater for a wide range of abilities. Our provision for gifted children, as well as those with special needs, is wide ranging - including in house speech and language therapy, counselling, family support and use of Key Stage 3 (secondary) teachers to push more able children.

The school building has recently been extended, and we have plans for further developments in the future. Our building security is high, and we offer a wide range of computer resources (including iPads, iDesks and PCs), all of which make a valuable contribution to ensuring the children value their time with us, and their progress is accelerated.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school; should you wish to make an appointment this can be arranged through the school office on 01322 665212, or email [office@st-marys-swanley.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys-swanley.kent.sch.uk).

*Whenever I go to school I get to have some fun  
and I get to learn lots of things. I like St Mary's  
because I like the way my teachers tell me lots of  
things.*

*Eniola - Year R*

# Admissions

We have one intake of children into the Reception class each year in September. We believe that the transition from home to Primary school should be as smooth and as easy as possible. All children are invited to spend time in the Reception class before their first day at school. Many children attend our Nursery, and so are familiar with the staff, building, routine and other children.

Parents/carers are strongly advised to come and visit the school during the school day to see what is happening and take time to talk to the Headteacher about their child and the school.

The school has a published admissions number of 30 children each year in the Reception class. If more than 30 children apply for these places then the Governing Body select children according to the published admissions criteria. Before the application of oversubscription criteria, children with a statement of special education need which names the school will be admitted. As a result of this the published admissions number will be reduced accordingly. Places will be offered following the criteria given in our full admissions policy, a copy of which is available on our website or from our school office.

The school maintains waiting lists for all year groups which are updated on a regular basis.

"Staff work together as a caring team and have high expectations of behaviour. This begins in the early years. Routines are quickly established." OFSTED

Allocations within each category will be based on distance from home to school. A pupil's home address is considered to be a residential property that is the child's only or main residence, and not an address at which your child might sometimes stay or sleep due to your own domestic or personal arrangements. The address must be the pupil's home address on the day you completed your application form and which is either owned by the child's parent, parents or guardian or leased to or rented by the child's parent, parents or guardians under a lease or written rental agreement. If you live separately from your partner but share responsibility for your child, and the child lives at two separate addresses during the week, we will regard the home address as the one at which the child sleeps for the majority of weekdays.

The admissions criteria reflect the fact that the school is a Church school, where Christian values and standards provide the focus and inspiration for learning and for life.

For admissions to all classes (including Reception when not the normal point of joining), parents must complete an In Year Admissions Form which can be found on the Kent County Council website.

"Pupils enjoy and are excited by their learning. Right from the start in Nursery, children are delighted by their early achievements, such as managing the zips on their coats so they can go outside to play and learn. Staff have increasingly high expectations of what they can achieve as pupils move through the school. Adults are committed to giving all pupils the best opportunities they can. Pupils enjoy celebrating each other's achievements. This helps inspire them to do their very best."

OFSTED

# Partnership with Parents

We believe that education is very much a partnership between parents/carers and the school. The partnership relies on good communication; a book bag goes home each day containing a reading record book and other letters sent home by the school office. The school also holds meetings with parents/carers on various matters to help develop and extend the partnership. Parent drop in sessions are held on the last Tuesday of every month, which allows parents/carers to meet with the class teacher and discuss progress.

Members of the teaching staff are usually available to talk to parents/carers at the end of the day. If a longer time for discussion is needed, an appointment can easily be made. It is also possible to make an appointment at any time with the Headteacher by ringing the school office.

Parents/carers are given mid-term reports after each half term, which reports on age appropriate progress and behaviour. All parents/carers receive a detailed written report annually about their child's progress.



"Pupils' wider development is at the heart of this school. Close links with the church are evident and meaningful. Pupils benefit from a wide range of opportunities available to them.

Clubs, visits, leadership opportunities, residential and outside visitors are just a few examples of the well-considered offer. These activities further enhance pupils' learning outside of the classroom." OFSTED

# Special Educational Needs

The school strives to be an inclusive school, and welcomes all pupils, including those who have special educational needs, in accordance with the school's admissions policy. The governing body, in cooperation with the Headteacher, determines the school's general policy and approach to such provision. It establishes the appropriate staff and funding arrangements and maintains a monitoring overview of the school's work.

The school aims to identify at the earliest opportunity all children who need particular support to allow them full access to the National Curriculum, and to promote their development and wellbeing. We work in close partnership with the child, the child's parents/carers and other agencies where necessary, to ensure that all their needs are met.

Our special needs department includes a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co Ordinator), school counsellor, speech and language therapy assistant and reading recovery teacher. This is in addition to access to cluster specialists who support the school's work.

If you would like to speak to our SENCO, Mrs Hawkins, please contact the school office on 01322 665212.





# Why we are different

Every child at St Mary's can play an instrument, from recorders to piano to violin.

We have a dedicated science teacher for our key stage 2 classes.  
We have a dedicated sports coach who also offers after school clubs for children in years 1-6.

Our reception and key stage one classes have access to termly baby ballet sessions.



*I love the afterschool clubs at St Mary's. My favourite  
is football club with Miss Bracken.  
Tiffany - Year 4*



# Contact Details

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