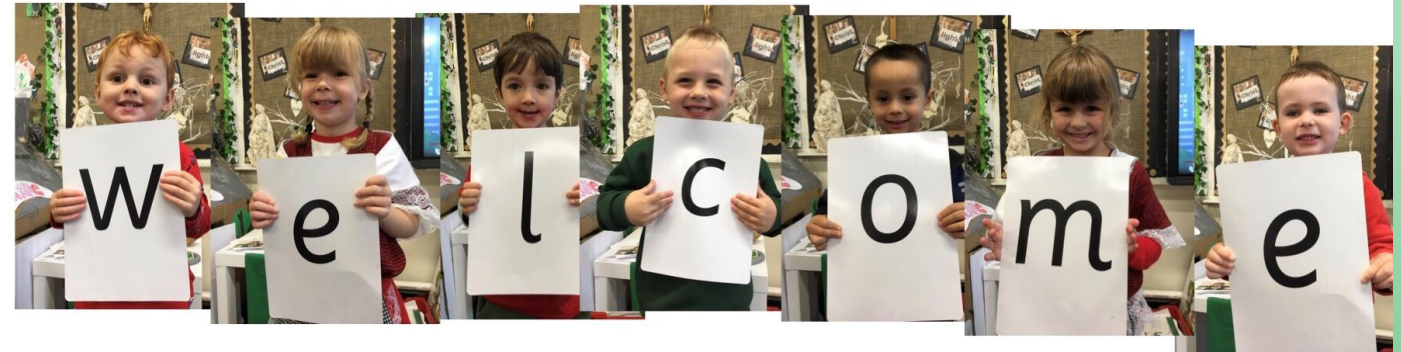
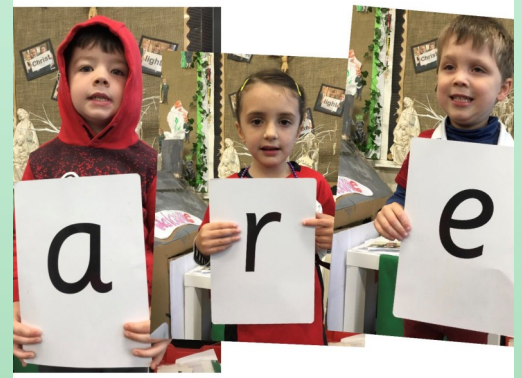
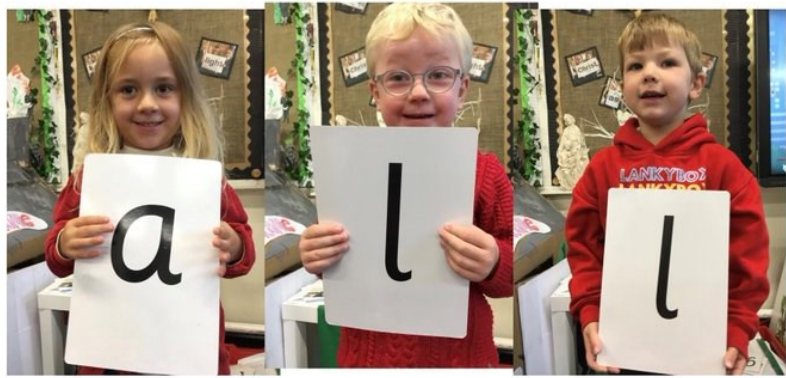




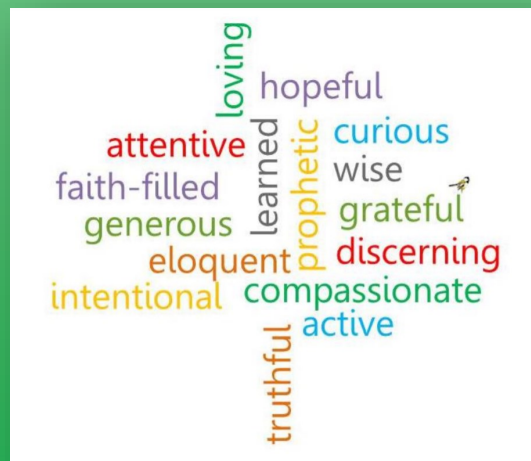
# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

## Ysgol Gynradd Santes Fair



# SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

## Academic Year 2024-2025



*Learning for Life, With Christ as our Light*



## Welcome to St Mary's RC Primary School

## Croeso i Ysgol Gynradd Santes Fair

A very warm welcome to St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Chepstow. We are extremely proud of our school and its community. Our success starts with the children and families we serve, and our committed staff and governors. At St Mary's we firmly believe we are a team, a school family, and all pupils, parents, governors, the parish and the wider community are a very important part of that team. We are an inclusive school open to children of all faiths and none. We fully understand that choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important responsibilities you undertake. I have great pleasure in providing you with a copy of our whole school prospectus and sharing with you many of the exceptional qualities which make up St Mary's RC Primary School. The purpose of this prospectus is to help you make that choice and to give you information about our school.

We regard each child as special and a unique gift from God. We aim to nurture each individually to ensure they find and fulfil their potential. Within our relationships with our children we promote self-esteem, respect tolerance, honesty, fairness and forgiveness. We want all children to be happy and well-motivated, with a passion for learning and a desire to achieve to their potential. We recognise parents as the first educators of their children and try to find ways to involve parents fully in all aspects of the life and work of the school. We work hard to strengthen the relationship between home, school and parish. We also welcome those families of other faiths who specifically want the education and values we offer at St Mary's School.

As a school we aim to provide a happy, secure and essentially Catholic environment for children, where they can participate readily in the process of learning and encounter as broad a curriculum as possible.

St Mary's has a caring and friendly atmosphere, which is conducive to effective learning. All the staff are concerned with the academic, social, physical and moral development of each individual. We endeavour to create a stimulating, exciting and purposeful environment. The staff team at St Mary's are entirely committed to making a positive impact on your children's futures. For us, teaching is more than a job, it is a vocation and a privilege and as we teach your children, we learn with them and we celebrate their successes with them.

In order to see a true reflection on the educational experience your child will experience as a valued member of the St Mary's family we invite you to look at our various social media platforms like twitter @StMarysRCSch for daily updates on the huge range of opportunities our children have and the successes they achieve.

Please go to our website, [www.stmarysrc.monmouthshire.sch.uk/prospective-parents](http://www.stmarysrc.monmouthshire.sch.uk/prospective-parents) to view some videos and access further information about our school. If you would like an informal chat with me to discuss any questions or queries you have, please call on 01291 623006.

I look forward to meeting you soon and welcoming you into our school family.

Mrs Cerqua  
Head Teacher

 @StMarysHT





## Mission Statement - Datganiad

# *Learning for Life with Christ as Our Light*

## Vision - Gweledigaeth

At St Mary's we are committed to providing a Catholic education which also fosters a sense of Welsh identity through an appreciation of Welsh language, history and culture.

We believe firmly in the Gospel Values and in our role as educators to nurture pupils, identify their talents and provide them with all the skills they need for life in the 21st century as citizens of Wales and the wider world. We seek to create a supportive environment in which every pupil feels valued both as an individual and as an integral part of our St Mary's family – Ein Teulu Santes Fair.

Our devoted and dedicated staff will work together alongside families, our parish and the wider community to inspire, motivate and encourage all of our pupils so that they become confident individuals who are ultimately imbued with a love for life-long learning.

## Objectives - Amcanion

Encompassing the Four Core Purposes of the Welsh Curriculum and the Catholic Pupil Profile, we seek to:

- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, utilising a variety of creative, practical and problem-solving activities which enable access for all learners.
- Use our local environment in Chepstow and look further - in Wales and the wider world to enhance our learning.
- Provide excellent role-models for our pupils, leading by example in all that we do.
- Encourage and support one another in all goals - recognising talents, celebrating achievement and embracing failure as a path to future success.
- Strengthen our home-school links, recognising that parents are the first educators of their children and supporting families in this important role.
- Provide high quality, enriching learning experiences which will support children in their knowledge, understanding and development of academic and life-long skills.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate progress and standards throughout the school, with the support of all stakeholders, to ensure continual growth and development.
- Obtain advice from, and work in tandem with external agencies to support all pupils with additional learning needs.

## Aims – Nod

Through the achievement of our objectives, our aims are that all children will:

- Develop a loving, personal relationship with God which will deepen their faith.
- Be accepting of others, respectful in their behaviour and always considerate towards the feelings of those around them.
- Recognise our similarities and differences and developing a sense of fairness and justice.
- Become well-rounded individuals who have a positive attitude to life and recognise their self-worth.
- Become enthusiastic life-long learners – ready to face the challenge of the ever changing modern world and global society.
- Recognise their strengths and areas of development.
- Develop confidence in challenging themselves in order to fulfill their potential.



## General Information

## Gwybodaeth Gyffredinol

Address: St Mary's RC Primary School, Old Bulwark Road, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, N1P6 5JE

Headteacher: Mrs R Cerqua

Telephone: (01291) 623006

Email: [stmarysprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:stmarysprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Website: [www.stmarysrc.monmouthshire.sch.uk](http://www.stmarysrc.monmouthshire.sch.uk)

School Twitter: @StMarysRCSch

Education Authority: Monmouthshire County Council

Chief Officer for Children & Young People: Mr Will McLean (01633 644644)

Chair of Governors: Mr F Tindall

Parents' Association: Parents and Teachers Association (PTA)

“St Mary's is an effective school with a strong, caring and compassionate ethos. Its pupils enjoy coming to school and are proud to be members of its community. The headteacher has worked well with staff, parents, governors, pupils and the wider community to establish a clear vision for the school and develop a sense of teamwork.”

Estyn Report June 2022

Scan the QR code to read our most recent report.





## Our Setting

### Ein LLeoliad

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School is in the Bulwark area of Chepstow. We have a very large catchment area, which includes the parish of St Mary's in Chepstow and St Paul's in Caldicot. Some of our pupils live outside the Chepstow area (including Gloucestershire) and travel to school by bus. Children attend school from 4-11 years of age. Currently, we have two classes in Foundation Phase and three classes in Key Stage Two.



To continue their Catholic education, we actively support our children transferring to St Joseph's RC Comprehensive (Newport). We also have strong cluster links with Chepstow Comprehensive (Chepstow). We work passionately with both clusters and ensure a smooth transition to their Comprehensive School of choice for each child in our care.

In St Mary's, ALL ARE WELCOME. We welcome families of all faiths, and none and the whole school community takes on an active role in the religious life of the school.

## Catholic Education

### Addysg Gatholig

St Mary's staff team and governors strive to ensure that the religious dimension of the school permeates all aspects of school life. The curriculum is intended to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, academic, emotional and physical development of the children at our school. It must prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life in the twenty-first century. We are driven by our Mission Statement: **"Learning for Life, with Christ as Our Light!"**

The school recognises the fact that parents are the first and main educators in faith. Our school curriculum enables our pupils to grow intellectually and spiritually rooted in a religious understanding of life based on gospel values. Religious education is a daily part of the curriculum for every pupil.

Pupils in our School are growing to be....

**Grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others. **Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices. **Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words. **Faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future. **Eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world. **Learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good. **Curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better. **Intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.





## Home and School - Working in Partnership

### Cantref a'r Ysgol- Gweithio mewn Partneriaet

Education is about partnerships. As a Catholic School we see ourselves as an extension of the home and we believe in working closely with parents who are the main educators of their children. Strong, committed partnerships between our school and our parents are the key to children's development into successful young adults. By working together, we will give your child the best start in life. Thus we strongly feel that effective communication between home and school is essential if children are to achieve their true potential. We will always value your feedback and support.

St Mary's school operates an open door policy where parents are encouraged to contact the school if they need any information. We will provide many opportunities throughout the year, to include you in your children's school life.

We welcome all parents to come to school to discuss the education of their children and parents once a term. Should parents wish to see a class teacher in addition to this, we ask them just to contact the school.

If parents wish to speak with a senior member of staff or the Head Teacher you are warmly invited to arrange this through the school office.

We love inviting parents into school for special events to celebrate their child's learning. During the school year there are a number of liturgical, cultural, harvest festival and social events held at St Mary's to which parents will be invited, these include; plays, concerts, assemblies, our carol service, class and school Masses, the annual Eisteddfod and Open day.

## Cluster Collaboration

### Gwaith Clwstwr

As a school we are very lucky to be a part of two leading cluster groups of schools. We work closely with our Newport Catholic cluster to ensure we are abreast of new developments in Religious Education and Catholic Life.

The school is also part of an established cluster of schools in Chepstow. Chepstow School, The Dell Primary, Pembroke Primary, Thornwell Primary and Shirenewton Primary work alongside us very closely. We have a shared cluster improvement plan which all schools actively work together on. Our cluster work is focussed primarily on ensuring that together we are providing the best standard of education for all the pupils of Chepstow. This is achieved through sharing of best practice, professional development opportunities and through a series of reviews to provide quality assurance.



## School Information

### Meet our Staff Team

### Cwrdd â'n Tîm Staff

We are very proud of the staff Team at St Mary's. All members of staff work together with care and pride for our school. They act as role models to our children and continually go above and beyond to ensure our children have the best possible learning experiences.

All staff members are DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) checked and have completed up to date MCC Safeguard training.



Mrs Cerqua  
Head Teacher



Mrs Waite  
Teacher/ Deputy Head  
Teacher



Mrs Tuck  
Teacher



Mrs Noyes  
Teacher



Mrs Stevenson  
Teacher/ SLT



Miss Reece  
Teacher / ALNCO



Miss Morris  
Teacher



Mrs O'Hara  
Teaching Assistant  
ELSA



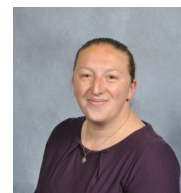
Mrs Robbins  
Teaching Assistant  
Breakfast Club



Mrs Brewer  
HLTA and School  
Admin



Miss Paders-Ball  
Teaching Assistant  
ELSA



Mrs Morgan  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Hopkins  
Teaching Assistant  
Breakfast Club



Mrs Fennell  
Breakfast Club



Mrs Hall  
School Admin



Mr Wales  
Caretaker



Miss Owens  
Cleaner



Mrs David  
Cleaner



## Our Curriculum

## Ein Cwricwlwm

Our dedicated team of teaching professionals consistently ensure that all children are given a wide range of authentic learning experiences during their time at St Mary's R.C. Primary School. We offer a holistic curriculum which is broad, balanced and differentiated to meet individual needs and abilities.

We seek to develop a lifelong love of learning in all our pupils through developing a culture of challenging themselves and acknowledging mistakes as an important part of the learning process.

The new curriculum in Wales includes all the learning experiences and assessment activities planned in pursuit of the four purposes of the curriculum, which are to develop children and young people as:

- Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

### **Ambitious, capable learners who:**

- set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge;
- are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts;
- are questioning and enjoy solving problems;
- can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English;
- can explain the ideas and concepts they are learning about;
- can use number effectively in different contexts;
- understand how to interpret data and apply mathematical concepts;
- use digital technologies creatively to communicate, find and analyse information;
- undertake research and evaluate critically what they find

**...and are ready to learn throughout their lives.**

### **Healthy, confident individuals who:**

- have secure values and are establishing their spiritual and ethical beliefs;
- are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy;
- apply knowledge about the impact of diet and exercise on physical and mental health in their daily lives;
- know how to find the information and support to keep safe and well
- take part in physical activity;
- take measured decisions about lifestyle and manage risk;
- have the confidence to participate in performance;
- form positive relationships based upon trust and mutual respect
- face and overcome challenge;
- have the skills and knowledge to manage everyday life as independently as they can;

**...and are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.**

### **Enterprising, creative contributors who:**

- connect and apply their knowledge and skills to create ideas and products;
- think creatively to reframe and solve problems;
- identify and grasp opportunities;
- take measured risks;
- lead and play different roles in teams effectively and responsibly;
- express ideas and emotions through different media;
- give of their energy and skills so that other people will benefit

**...and are ready to play a full part in life and work.**

### **Ethical, informed citizens who:**

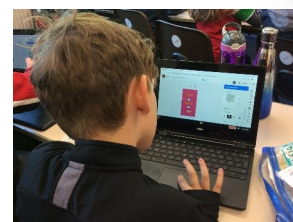
- find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views;
- engage with contemporary issues based upon their knowledge and values;
- understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights;
- understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting;
- are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past;
- respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society;
- show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet

**...and are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.**



## Teaching and Learning

## Dysgu a Dusgu



All children are encouraged to reach their full potential. We build from the principle that when happy, effectively motivated and appropriately challenged, all learners will develop and succeed. As a school we foster children's ability to think independently and creatively, developing skills they can transfer between all areas of the curriculum. The children engage in group activities which encourage discussion, negotiation and positive working relationships. Children are encouraged to develop a range of transferable skills, through problem solving activities. Our classroom environments, alongside the range and quality of opportunities provided, ensure children become effective and confident learners.



Following the new curriculum in Wales, we will be teaching six Areas of Learning and Experience. Each Area of Learning and Experience will be equally valued. Our aim is to teach the skills of these areas through over-arching topics to create an enriched curriculum for our children. There areas of learning include:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Language, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology



## Religious Education

### Addysg Grefyddol

Throughout the school we use 'Come and See' a religious scheme approved by the Bishops of England and Wales. Central to this programme is Christian belief in Jesus Christ, Word and Revelation of God.



### The Aims of Religious Education as stated in the RE Curriculum Directory are:

- *To present engagingly a comprehensive content which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;*
- *To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;*
- *To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;*
- *To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;*
- *To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;*
- *To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;*
- *To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum;*
- *To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.*

10% of curriculum time is allocated to Religious Education. This does not include Collective Worship. To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Religious Education Curriculum Directory, 2012 – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - we use the 'Come and See' programme.

Religious Education is taught through the process of *Explore, Reveal, Respond*. This follows the pattern of: the human **search** for meaning, God's initiative in **Revelation** and the **response** in faith. This pattern is outlined both in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the Curriculum Directory.



## Language, Literacy and Communication

### leithoedd, Llythrennedd a Chyfathrebu



The Languages, Literacy and Communication area of learning and experience enables all learners to gain knowledge and skills in Welsh, English and international languages as well as in literature. Listening and reading as well as speaking and writing exist in relation to each other and not separately. We follow these what

matters statements in everything we do in Literacy, Language and Communication teachings:

- Literature fires imagination and inspires creativity.
- Learners who listen and read effectively are prepared to learn throughout their lives.
- Learners who speak and write effectively are prepared to play a full part in life and work.
- Learning about identity and culture through languages prepares us to be citizens of Wales and the world.

We are passionate about the teaching of skills for oracy, reading and writing, and use enriching texts to help us deliver the English curriculum. We also teach reading through Guided Group Reading sessions, where teachers can focus on reading skills in groups. We believe oracy is the root of good writing, so develop oracy skills from Reception.

We use Read Write Inc Phonics to develop reading and spelling in Foundation Phase.

We are committed to encouraging pupils to learn Welsh as a second language. We are very aware of our role, as a school in Wales, in promoting and developing the use of Welsh as a living language. We provide all our children with opportunities throughout Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 to develop their oral skills competently and to develop them as effective readers and writers. Children become confident and competent in use of the Welsh language as they work on their own, in pairs and in groups. Our children learn how to listen and speak with others in a range of situations. Reading will be for both enjoyment and information. They learn to apply their skills through using Welsh on a daily basis in and around school. Children learn to adapt their speech and writing to suit purpose and audience. **We successfully received our Cymraeg Campus Silver Award in July 2024.**

We also promote the use of informal Welsh through a variety of strategies:

- All classes spend 10 minutes each day practising vocabulary appropriate to their age and ability, e.g. greetings, informal conversations, instructions, songs and rhymes, games, etc.
- Almost all instructions are given bilingually or in Welsh, for children to hear and respond to, e.g. register, hands up, line up, asking for the toilet,
- Teachers and children greet each other throughout the day using the medium of Welsh and pupils are encouraged and supported to use the short sentence patterns they know outside of the classroom on the playground.
- Our pupil voice group known as Criw Cymraeg is supported by staff to promote Welsh outside of the classroom.
- We use incidental Welsh during prayer and collective worship.

## Mathematics and Numeracy

### Mathemateg



We develop our children in all areas of mathematics as they are all connected and dependent on one another. We build concepts and skills up over time, drawing on prior knowledge and learning, often from more than one area of mathematics. We will focus on:

- The number system
- Algebra, geometry and statistics
- Geometry and measure
- Probability

Real-life contexts can be used to introduce and explore mathematical concepts, as well as to consolidate them. Through a reasoning and problem-solving approach to all mathematics and numeracy experiences we will support the development of maths.

## Health and Wellbeing

### Iechyd a Lles



This area of learning and experience will support learners to develop and maintain not only their physical health and well-being, but also their mental health and emotional well-being, as well as developing positive relationships.

We will focus on:

- Developing physical health and wellbeing
- How experiences can affect our mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Decision making
- Social influences
- Healthy relationships and belonging

For physical activities, all children are expected to take part unless excluded for medical reasons. A written note is required to confirm this. We also offer a variety of After School sports clubs both free, run by teachers and paying clubs run by external providers.



The school aims to compete in a range of sports against other schools and to take part in area competitions, when they are arranged.



Extra-curricular sports opportunities at the school are “seasonal” in nature and they include football, rugby, netball and athletics.



## Science and Technology



Science and Technology draws on the disciplines of biology, chemistry, computer science, design and technology, and physics to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the world. The six what matters statements capture the key aspects of learning for Science and Technology. They are designed to operate together, and support settings and schools to develop a more detailed and holistic curriculum for learning and teaching:

- Being curious and searching for answers
- Design thinking and engineering
- The world around us
- Understanding our earth
- Forces and energy
- Computation – solving real world problems

## Humanities



Humanities encompasses geography, history, religious education, business studies and social studies. Humanities will provide opportunities for all learners to learn about their heritage and sense of place through a study of their local area and of Wales. It will promote an understanding of how the people of Wales, its communities, culture, landscape, resources and industries interrelate with the rest of the world. Promoting an understanding of the ethnic and cultural diversity within Wales will also help learners appreciate the extent to which it is part of a wider international community. Consequently, Humanities will help learners see how their personal story is part of a wider picture of the past and present.

- Developing an enquiring mind
- Events and human experiences
- Our natural world
- Human societies
- Informed self-aware citizens

## Expressive Arts



The dynamic nature of the Expressive Arts can engage and motivate learners and so encourage them to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills to the full. The Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience centres on the five disciplines of art, dance, drama, film and digital media, and music. What matters in the Expressive Arts is the creative process, i.e. exploration, response, reflection, and creation:

- Exploration through and of the Expressive Arts
- Responding and reflecting,
- Creative work combines knowledge and skills

We work extensively with a range of talented musicians to provide a vast array of enrichment activities for our learners, including Samba and Celtic Music.

## Gwyddoniaeth a Thechnoleg

## Dyniaethau

## Celfyddydau mynegiannol



## Children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

### Plant Ag Anghenion Addysgol Dysgu Arbennig

At St Mary's R.C. Primary School we are an inclusive school where we value the individuality of all children. Each individual has a unique place in the eyes of God. We are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. All children receive the curriculum and are given the opportunity to develop at their own pace through each stage of their education. There are no limitations placed on any of the children. Children with additional needs are given access to the National Curriculum with some receiving targeted support. Whether at a lower or higher start point than their peers, these pupils are expected to make the same rate of progress.

The school is proactive in identifying each child's individual needs. Some children require extra support to maximise their learning. All children have individual needs but special provision is needed for most children at some times to ensure they make as much progress as all others within the curriculum, similarly more able or talented children also need support from time to time. We endeavour to meet the special needs of all these children by using additional, appropriate teaching support and support from a number of volunteer parents.

Class teachers assess the pupil's actual needs and plan accordingly to take the first step. Parents are brought into the process at an early stage with the Additional Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCo). The pupil may then be offered an individual learning plan that would be reviewed termly and involve discussion with the child, the parents, class teacher and ALNCo. If after two reviews the pupil has not made progress other agencies outside the school will be involved and a multi-professional assessment may be sought.

Children with Statements of Additional Educational Needs receive additional appropriate support, as detailed on their statement, and an annual review of needs takes place, which involves all those concerned with the pupil's learning. Further details can be obtained from the School.

## Pupil Voice

### Llais y Disgyblion

Throughout your child's time at St Mary's there will be many opportunities for your child to gain valuable experience carrying out pupil leadership roles across the school. In Year 6 children have the opportunity to apply for roles such as head boy, head girl, deputy heads, prefects and playground buddies. We aim to involve all stakeholders, including the children, in the decision making process. We believe all pupils should be fully involved in this process and have many successful and active pupil leadership groups. Children vote for their class representatives annually and they ensure they give credence to the wishes and aspirations of the class. This provides valuable experience in becoming responsible citizens of the future. We also have many pupil leadership groups as listed below.

School Council	Eco Council	Mini Vinnies	Heddlu Bach	Digital Leaders	Wellbeing Warriors	Criw Cymraeg	Pupil Leaders
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## Cross-Curricular Skills

### Fframweithiau'r Sgiliau Trawsgwricwlaidd

#### Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF)

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential in order for young people to reach their potential. The National Literacy and Numeracy Framework has been developed to help achieve the Welsh Government's aim that the children of Wales are able to develop excellent literacy and numeracy skills during their time at school. Expectations for literacy and numeracy are given for each school year group. At St Mary's, the LNF is at the heart of the curriculum planning, ensuring the embedding of literacy and numeracy across the curriculum.

#### Digital Competency Framework (DCF)

Citizenship - Through these elements learners will engage with what it means to be a conscientious digital citizen who contributes positively to the digital world around them and who critically evaluates their place within this digital world.

Interacting and Collaborating - Through these elements learners will look at methods of electronic communication and know which are the most effective. Learners will also store data and use collaboration techniques effectively

Producing - These elements cover the cyclical process of planning (including searching for and sourcing information), creating, evaluating and refining digital content. Digital content includes the production of text, graphics, audio, video and any combination of these for a variety of purposes. As such, this will cover multiple activities across a range of different contexts.

Data and Computational Thinking - Computational thinking is a combination of scientific enquiry, problem-solving and thinking skills. Through these elements learners will understand the importance of data and information literacy, and they will explore aspects of collection, representation and analysis.



#### Cwricwlwm Cymreig

Children are provided with ample opportunity in lessons, school activities, visiting guests and trips and visits to experience those features which give Wales its own distinctive historic, social and cultural identity. Cwricwlwm Cymreig permeates the whole curriculum through singing Welsh songs, Welsh country dancing and the study of land use in Wales and Welsh history. Eisteddfods are held to celebrate St David's Day where children can participate in a wide range of Welsh related activities. In addition we celebrate famous Welsh role models and special Welsh events such as Shwmae Day.





## Healthy Schools

### Addysg Iechyd

At St Mary's we promote healthy living through our curriculum as we want our children to be healthy, confident individuals. We are very proud to have received our Phase 4 Healthy Schools award in 2018.

- Children are only allowed healthy snacks for morning break times, e.g. fresh fruit
- Children are encouraged to sip their water throughout the day to avoid dehydration and maximise learning. The children have access to tap water in order for them to refill their bottles with fresh water throughout the day.
- We ask parents to provide a balanced, healthy lunchbox for their child.
- Global handwashing day is celebrated each year and we have regular handwashing and hygiene routines in place throughout the school day.
- The whole school celebrates Healthy Eating week every autumn and summer term whereby our children are taught about the benefits of a healthy diet and regular exercise.
- All junior classes have termly swimming lessons each year.
- Daily mile is a regular part of our school day, this allows children to run or walk a mile a day.
- All classes undertake the SEAL Programme developing children's qualities and skills that help us manage life and learning effectively.

## Educational Visits

### Ymweliadau Addysgol

We plan exciting learning experiences that engender curiosity and questions in our learners and encourage them to make independent choices. Learning and teaching is enhanced through real life experiences for the learners. This includes educational visits to places of interest, and visitors to school sharing their experiences. When children go on educational visits or leave the school premises risk assessments are made to try to minimise any potential risk involved in the activities.

In addition to educational visits, we look for opportunities for our children to experience an adventurous curriculum. This is sometimes in the form of a residential trip. This takes place at an Outdoor Pursuit Centre, which provides a range of outward bound activities. The Centre has staff who help organise activities safely. For all school trips and outings the school will rigidly follow the guidelines for school excursions compiled by Monmouthshire Local Authority.







## Collective Worship and Celebrations

### Cyd-addoli a Dathliadau



Our school is very conscious that Catholic Education is not just the subject, RE. For us it is a way of life. Every aspect of our school reflects this, so that by its very nature, the school contributes to the life of the parish and the community. As a Christian community, prayer plays an important part in school life.

Within Wales, there is a legal requirement in all schools for daily acts of worship to take place, however worship at St Mary's is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of School Life.

Daily acts of worship include, Gospel assemblies, assemblies based on our Pupil Profile, class led assemblies and child led class worship.

Day of the week	Assembly
Monday	Gospel
Tuesday	Virtues
Wednesday	Class Worship
Thursday	Class Worship
Friday	Praise—Certificate Winners

During class assemblies children are taught how to plan, prepare and deliver their own acts of worship alongside their peers. We always welcome and encourage parental support and engagement.



We encourage our children to take the Gospel values into the community and as a school we are continuously engaging in a variety of community activities. Classes take it in turns to plan assemblies, masses and other liturgies and we always welcome the parents' support. Daily acts of worship include, Gospel assemblies, assemblies based on our Pupil Profile, class based worship and joining masses at St Mary's RC Church.

The whole school community takes an active role in the religious life of the school. Parents, families and parishioners are all invited to join in with community worship.

## Sacramental Preparation

We believe sacramental preparation is important, and as a school we assist the parish in preparing children in Year 3 and above for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Parents and carers are asked to attend a number of preparation meetings in our school to support their child. Teachers, children, parents and the parish community share each step of the programme preparing for the sacraments. Following these celebrations the school hold a Celebration Mass at St Mary's R.C. Church.





## Looked After Children

### Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal

The schools policy for Looked After Children - LAC (children in the public care of the Local Authority) details the arrangements made for LAC including personal support plans. Each pupil in care will have a Care Plan that will include a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that is developed jointly by the Social worker and Designated Teacher. This will identify specific areas of concern and include achievable targets.

The LAC co-ordinator is the Acting Headteacher, and the Chair of Governors. Our aim for all children is to ensure that they reach their potential and we use assessment data to target their progress carefully and ensure support is provided in a timely manner.

## Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

### Addysg Rhyw

At St Mary's, we are inspired by Jesus to be the very best we can be. We look after one another and show respect and love through our relationships with one another. Jesus is invited into our lives. In the Beatitudes, Jesus invites us to lead a full life with him by explaining what makes people blessed or happy. This is about understanding how loving our neighbour enables us to be fulfilled too. Therefore, having a good relationship with ourselves and the other people in our lives makes us grow and flourish and we respect that everyone is a unique and beautiful part of God's creation. We are all children of God, called to grow in love for him through the person of Jesus Christ and to spread the Good News through the action of the Holy Spirit.

We teach young people about how to grow in relationships, including understanding loving relationships and acknowledging that children's first experience of love is in the home. We encourage children from the earliest age to recognise that they are all children of God and that each person shares a God-given dignity. As children mature, we encourage them to follow the example of Jesus and live lives inspired by the Gospel virtues, enabling them to follow His commandment to "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31). This is the basis for all relationships in our school. Teaching about relationships in our schools is supported by Christian virtue teaching as outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in line with 'Fit for Mission? Schools'.

Please contact us for more information if you have any questions or concerns. Where a teacher feels that a child has such questions, worries or problems, the matter will be referred to parents. Where parents themselves find difficulties in answering the child's problems, the school will offer such advice and support that is requested. The school will support parents in all matters of health education following the Catholic Archdiocesan policy.

## Bullying

### Bwlio



Bullying is a problem that occurs in all schools and will not be tolerated at St Mary's. The school seeks to confront it openly and ensure that all pupils are made aware that bullying is not acceptable under any circumstances. The school has a comprehensive 'Anti-Bullying Policy' that lays out measures that seek to remove the silence and secrecy that can nurture bullying. It also details a set of agreed procedures for dealing with bullying when it occurs. All staff and governors are aware of the policy. Pupils are encouraged to discuss any aspects of bullying that are affecting them at any time with their teachers and their parents. As a Catholic school we endeavour to ensure all pupils learn how to treat each other with respect and compassion, we hold anti-bullying and respect weeks across the school year. We model positive relationships and good communication skills on a daily basis and encourage all pupils to show love towards one another.

## Equal Opportunities

### Cyfleoedd Cyfartal

At St Mary's Primary School, we are committed towards working towards equality for all regardless of age, race, disability, gender, religion or belief and sexual orientation. We are concerned with the equality of opportunity for all our children in our care. We aim to create an inclusive culture in which every individual, regardless of ability and background is enabled to participate and is valued as a member of our school community. We recognise and celebrate the fact that society is made up of people from diverse backgrounds and life experiences. It is important that all pupils are prepared to live in such a society. Our school promotes many positive approaches to difference and foster respect for people of all cultural backgrounds. We ask that all visitors to our school respect this statement.



## School Links with the Community

### Cysylltiadau Ysgol â'r Gymuned

We endeavour to foster as many links with the local and wider community as possible, for example:

- The whole school regularly attends Mass at St Mary's RC Church Chepstow
- The children participate in the Monmouthshire Schools' Swimming Gala and Athletics Championships.
- Local people visit school in order to enhance the curriculum.
- Visits from the Police Liaison Officers
- Visits from the Fire Brigade Officers
- Visits from theatre companies
- The children visit local areas of interest, linking with their Geography curriculum and global citizenship.
- Links with other schools, both local and national
- Volunteer readers from the local community support pupils reading.
- Chepstow and Caldicot Lions
- Local businesses provide time and resources to enhance the outdoors learning areas.



Visits and visitors are important to St Mary's and enrich both the curricular and non-curricular life of the school. Throughout each academic year our school welcomes a wide variety of visitors.





## School Uniform

### Gwisg Ysgol

The Governors have approved the following uniform. It is compulsory for all pupils from Reception to Year 6. Uniform is worn to create a school identity and a sense of belonging and pride for pupils. We politely request that all items of uniform and other belongings are labelled with your child's name and class.

Branded school uniform items are available to order online with a click and collect option from Kudos Companies, Kudos House, Bulwark Industrial Estate, Bulwark Road, Chepstow NP16 5QZ. Also, the school operates a "nearly new" uniform service, please ask the school office for full details. All green items should be bottle green.

Parents will be advised of their child's PE day each term and should come into school on that day wearing their PE kit. All clothing should be marked with the child's name. Junior Years take turns to go swimming through the year. Suitable swimwear and a towel should be brought to school on swimming days. On health and safety grounds, children are not allowed to wear any jewellery types to school except for studs if they have pierced ears and a watch (excluding 'smart' watches). Extreme hairstyles, including the use of gel are not permitted.

<b>Summer – Haf (Summer Term)</b>	<b>Winter - Gaeaf (Autumn and Spring Term)</b>	<b>PE Kit Dillad Ymarfer Corff</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gold polo-shirt with collar and Grey shorts OR Green Gingham Dress</li><li>• Black School shoes (not trainers)</li><li>• Grey or white ankle socks</li><li>• Green long sleeved v-neck sweatshirt or cardigan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• White shirt with School tie</li><li>• Grey trousers or Grey/green skirt or pinafore</li><li>• Black School shoes (not trainers)</li><li>• Green long sleeved v-neck sweatshirt or cardigan</li><li>• Grey, white or green socks or tights.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green or Grey PE Shorts</li><li>• Green or Grey jogging bottoms</li><li>• Gold polo-shirt with collar</li><li>• Black daps/plimsolls or plain white or black trainers (depending on activity—trainers for outdoors)</li></ul>



## Times of the School Day

### Amseroedd y Diwrnod Ysgol

Times of the school day	Morning	Afternoon
Foundation Phase	9.10am – 12.00pm	1.00pm – 3.30pm
Key Stage 2	9.10am – 12.15pm	1.10pm – 3.30pm

Lunchtimes and Playtimes	Morning play	Lunchtime
Foundation Phase	10.30am – 10.45am	12.00pm – 1.00pm
Key Stage 2	10.30am – 10.45am	12.15pm – 1.10pm

The number of hours taught per week excluding time for collective worship, registration, lunch and other breaks are prescribed by the Welsh Government: Foundation Phase - 21 hrs 15min Key Stage 2 - 23hrs 45mins.

## St Mary's Breakfast Club

### Clwb Brecwast

Our Breakfast Club operates from 08:00am—09:00am each school day and is run by fully qualified members of St Mary's school staff. There is a charge of £2 per child for the childcare element of this Club. Breakfast is served from 08:00am—08:40am. Formal supervision (the chargeable element) will run from 08:00am—08:30am and last admittance is at 08:45am. This Club can be booked and paid for via ParentPay only (the school office will provide you with log-in details). The Church car park gates will be open 08:00-08:45am and parents should bring their child to the main school hall where they will be greeted by a member of Breakfast Club staff.

## SMASH – After School Club

### SMASH - Clwb ar ol Ysgol

Our SMASH (St Mary's After School Help) team offers an excellent after school club (3.30pm-5.30pm) during term time. Children are collected from their classrooms by a member of SMASH staff and taken to the main school hall which is where they will be collected from. During their time at SMASH they will be given a drink and a snack and take part in a variety of different activities, for example, art and crafts, computing, cooking, role playing and dressing up. Some of the SMASH team are also employed by the school as teaching assistants, thus your child will be greeted and cared for by familiar faces. Further information and registration forms are available from our school office.





## Health and Safety

### Iechyd a Diogelwch

The school has a comprehensive Health and Safety Policy which endeavours to provide a safe and secure environment for all pupils, staff, parents and visitors. Our school also has a nominated Health & Safety Officer on the staff and on the Governing Body who has the responsibility for liaising with the Headteacher, to discuss Health and Safety issues.

Everyone is conscious of the need to provide a place where the children are safe and secure. A Whole School Risk Assessment is carried out annually and allows the school, its governors, staff and the Local Authority to address any areas of concern within reasonable financial constraints. Areas covered are: all external and internal areas, (including flooring of high use areas) glazing, electrical equipment, and P.E. and play equipment. Further risk assessments are carried out as appropriate for specific issues where an element of risk may be involved such as school trips, science, technology, P.E. and other crafts. The school grounds are checked daily by the school caretaker and any defects or hazards are reported to the Headteacher. Any maintenance or repairs identified through this process will be completed at the earliest possible time. A termly fire drill is conducted at varying times with no warnings given to ensure proper procedure is followed by all staff and pupils. The time taken to evacuate the building and any delays or difficulties exiting are duly noted and rectified. The fire alarm is tested on a weekly basis, fire wardens checks are made monthly.

If your child is being collected from school by anyone other than the person who regularly collects him/her, parents must inform the school before hand in writing. If you are collecting your child during the school day, e.g. for a medical appointment, you must report to the school office first. The school is very conscious of the safety of the children. The teacher will not let your child leave until they are sure that this has been done.

## School Transport

### Trafnidiaeth Ysgol

Monmouthshire County Council will provide free home to school transport for children who are living more than 1.5 miles from school. For more information please visit the Monmouthshire County Council Passenger Transport website.

## Child Protection and Safeguarding

### Diogelu

All staff, Governors and volunteer helpers have current Enhanced DBS checks. All teaching and support staff are registered with the Education Workforce Council (formerly EWC of Wales). Staff are trained in identifying signs which may indicate a child protection issue.

**Designated Child Protection Officer:** Mrs Cerqua (Headteacher)  
**Deputy Child Protection Officer:** Mrs Stevenson (Senior Leadership Team)  
**Link Governor for Child Protection:** Mr Tindall (Chair of Governors)

There are thorough systems in place, based on the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 manual, to deal with all incidents. In such circumstances the safety of the child is paramount and is therefore put before the needs of the parents. Although efforts are made to contact parents to discuss issues, advice will initially be sought from the Social Services Duty Officer. The school will then follow their recommendations. Fortunately such incidents are very rare and this information is not intended to alarm parents, but to demonstrate the high quality of care that is provided for the children.



## **Charging and Remissions Policy**

### **Polisi ar Godi Tâl a Pheidio â Chodi Tâl**

Although it is the policy of the Governing Body to make no charge for education provided during school hours, including provision of books and apparatus, these are the following exceptions:-

- a) A charge for board and lodging costs on residential visits.
- b) A charge for educational visits
- c) A charge for visiting theatre productions and visits by other educational performers
- d) A charge for instrumental music tuition provided by the Gwent Music Support Service
- e) Lost or misplaced reading/library books.

However it is also the policy of the Governing Body to remit a proportion of charges for board and lodging on residential visits for pupils whose parents are in receipt of income support or family credit.

We only seek contributions from parents so that activities during school hours can continue. No children will be excluded from such a compulsory activity because their parents cannot make a contribution, but these activities can only be provided if there is sufficient funding.

## **School Security**

### **Diogelwch Ysgol**

We are always ever mindful of the children's safety and security. As part of the general school routine all visitors are asked to report to the school office during the school day before going to classrooms or meeting with anyone in the school. Unless in extreme emergencies; no child is allowed to go home with anyone other than an agreed adult. If arrangements change then parents must inform us in writing of these changes. Furthermore, all visitors must report to the school office to present or collect an identification badge and to sign in and out of the Visitors Book. This enables us to meet Health and Safety regulations and give due care to the safety and wellbeing of pupils in the school. Visitors, other than a known parent, not wearing a visitors badge will be challenged.

A number of measures have been adopted by the school to maximise security. An electronic entry system can be found on the doors of the entrances preventing unauthorised access during the school day. Admission to school after the start of sessions is by means of the main Reception entrance door only, all external gates are kept locked during the school day and an electronic entry and intercom system with digital camera were installed in 2018. A mobile telephone is always taken on school trips, however short, during the school day. CCTV cameras, and all external doors to the school have security systems on them to ensure as much safety as possible for the children. The CCTV has on-going recording of all external areas and the main entrance.





## Admission to St Mary's RC Primary School

### Mynediad i i Ysgol Santas Fair

The Governing Body consults on its admission arrangements on an annual basis as it is the Admissions Authority at St Mary's. The admission numbers for our school is derived from the physical capacity of the school to accommodate pupils' learning needs, using a formula set by the Welsh Government. Admissions Application forms for Reception Class September 2024 are available from the school office or on our website.

The deadline for September 2024 intake is Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 3:30pm.  
Please return your admission application forms direct to the school office.

## Dates for the school year

### Dyddiadau'r Flwyddyn

**Academic Year 2024-2025:** These are provisional dates being put forward by Monmouthshire County Council and may be subject to change. Our School Term Dates for 2024-2025 including Inset Days will be issued to parents.

Amend once dates released.

#### Term Dates 2024/2025

Term	Start	Half Term Start	Half Term End	Term End
Autumn	02/09/2024	28/10/2024	01/11/2024	20/12/2024
Spring	06/01/2025	24/02/2025	28/02/2025	11/04/2025
Summer	28/04/2025	26/05/2025	30/05/2025	21/07/2025

## Thank You

## Diolch yn Fawr

We sincerely hope that our prospectus has helped you to gain an insight into the life of our school and the education we provide. We look forward to working with you in a fruitful partnership that will provide your child with an exciting but firm foundation for their future as a 'life-long' learner. We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child into our St Mary's family. - Ein Teulu Santes Fair.

Please check our school website for further information about our school. On the Perspective Parents section, you will find an introduction video to our school , as well as some other messages from parents, pupils and governors.

Our school website also has lots of other information on it - school policies, diary dates, term dates, class newsletters etc.

If you require any further information about our school please visit us online or contact our school office and we will be more than happy to help.

