SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Prospectus 2026-2027



St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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All pupils, of any faith or no faith, are very welcome at our school

Please visit our school website at

www.saintmarysnewmills.co.uk for more information

Welcome

Message from Mrs Chapman, Headteacher:

Dear Parents, Carers and Visitors,

I offer you a warm welcome to our school. We are a Catholic Primary school who has a strong focus on developing a culture of vocation. This is to encourage all of our children to do something wonderful with their life. 'Children are a dream found in God's heart and each one has a sacred purpose'.

We are confident that you will find our school a friendly and caring community where everyone is committed to providing the best possible learning opportunities for each child, a place where outstanding behaviour and respect for each other are highly valued. Every child is encouraged to reach their full potential by ensuring that each child is equipped with all the skills they need to continue on their future learning journey.



Saint Mary's is a small school that we like to think of as a family. We aim to give every child the best possible start to their school lives by catering to the needs of the individual child. We strive to create an environment where children feel safe, happy and valued and where every child can learn effectively.

We have very high standards of behaviour and this helps us to create an atmosphere where children are challenged, motivated and ready to take the first steps in becoming lifelong learners. We aim for children to be challenged appropriately to enable them to achieve their potential in academic, emotional, spiritual and physical development.

The children of Saint Mary's know that they are a source of great pride to all of the staff and families here at school and they respond to the high standards that we set for them in everything they do. We work in partnership with parents and carers and very much value the support and contribution they make to school life. The school also enjoys a close partnership with St Mary's Parish. Because home, school and parish work together, we are able to provide a happy, caring and effective learning environment, where expectations and standards are high. We have carefully designed our curriculum to develop thinking skills, creativity and spirituality, encouraging confidence and opportunities for children to be excited about learning and challenged to achieve their very best.



Ofsted said during their last visit in 2023:

"Pupils enjoy attending this small, calm and productive school. They say that they feel safe and happy because everyone looks after each other. They try to follow the school's 'gospel values'. These values help pupils care for and respect each other. Pupils are polite and friendly towards staff and visitors."

Parents say "We love St Mary's! It is a very welcoming, nurturing, family environment."

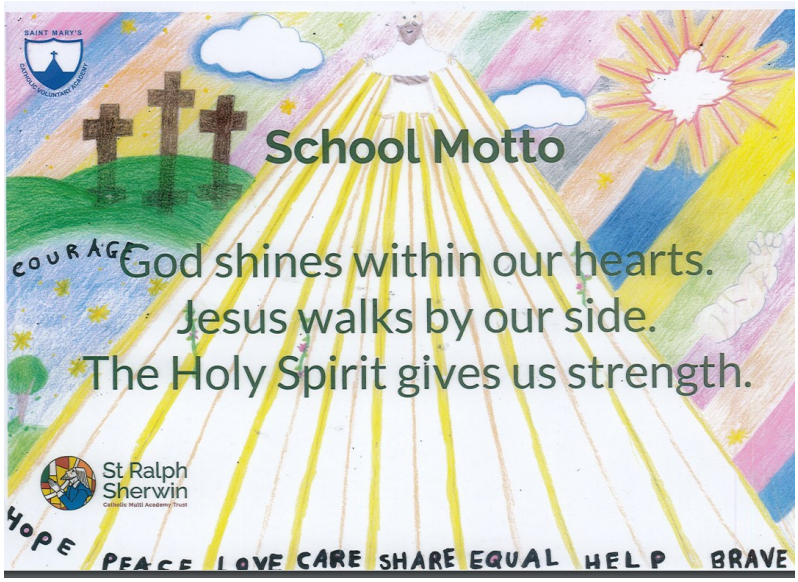
School values

Our school values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.

We devote our teaching and learning as a Catholic Community to the development of the individual child. We endeavour to provide an excellent learning environment by:

- The fostering and development of the Catholic faith within our community whereby we grow to respect our neighbours by the example of Jesus. We believe that: 'I'm important and precious because God loves me'.
- The setting of high expectations for all our pupils, thereby encouraging them to achieve their best, so that they can reach their full potential both academically and personally.
- The behaviour of our pupils which is outstanding and is achieved through a culture of mutual respect for all members of our school community and the wider world. Through teaching and learning, the children are given many opportunities to explore and understand the multi-cultural and multi-faith world in which we live.
- Enabling the children to recognise the value of their own talents and gifts.
- Promoting a love and passion for learning.
- Inspiring the children to embrace a healthy lifestyle in a school where they feel happy, safe and secure.

Year 6 pupils become ambassadors for our new pupils in reception. These pupils build strong relationships with each other which remain until the older pupils move to secondary school. Faith Friends and chaplains support the younger pupils through play, reading and the arts. During different times throughout the liturgical year they will help their understanding of bible stories and prayers.



Our Catholic Schools Inspection report in 2026 said: "Pupils are happy and confident, and show exemplary behaviour and attitudes. They undertake a wide range of meaningful leadership opportunities and demonstrate remarkable independence.

Pastoral care is exemplary, which is shown by the commitment of staff to inclusiveness and to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable pupils. Teaching is enthusiastic, purposeful and highly engaging. Lessons are active and inclusive. Pupils' efforts are celebrated, fostering pride and motivation."



School development plan

Quality of education

- Leaders are continuing to refine the inclusion offer of the school
- Leaders are enhancing oracy opportunities within the Curriculum offer
- Leaders are refining the monitoring of Acorn pupils

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart'

Colissians (3:23)

Leadership and Management

- Ensure governance continue to develop an understanding of the curriculum offer

'Jesus looked at them and said "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Mark (10:27)

Personal development

- Plan an overview of STEM and PSHE provision

'I can do all this through him who gives me strength.'

(Philippians 4:13)

A love of learning



We aim to foster a love of learning in our children and for every child to have the opportunity to work to the best of their ability. We strive for excellence in all that we do and children make excellent progress at Saint Mary's. This is partly down to the outstanding efforts of the teachers and staff to challenge and support every individual child. But just as important is the partnership that we form with parents and families to build a love of learning and a desire to achieve. As a small school, we are able to have close relationships with every family, which has a hugely positive impact on our children—parents, grandparents, and extended family all become part of the Saint Mary's family around the child.

The building of a child's self-esteem is integral to the school's vision to ensure that personal confidence and self-belief are both maintained and developed, and to ensure that every child has the confidence and skills to make good decisions and become confident, independent, lifelong learners.

<u>Key Data (Key stage 2)</u>

•Attainment is high in all subjects. We are above national attainment levels in all areas.

- Reading 90%
- Maths 75%
- Writing 75%

This is a consistent position for the school over recent years.



Ofsted said during their last visit in 2023:

'Leaders have developed a very ambitious curriculum. They have ensured that the information pupils need to learn is well structured. This helps pupils to fill any gaps in their knowledge. The 'rocket recaps' in lessons help pupils recall what they have previously learned. Teachers then give pupils opportunities to build on what they already know and can do. '

Our curriculum is designed to meet all the needs of our children. We are authentically different as a Catholic school in that we hand on the beliefs and values in educating and forming young people for mission. That mission is to enable all our pupils to challenge and transform society. They will be confident to be critical and analytical thinkers. We enable their talents to flourish and ensure that they are ready for the world of work. Our school agenda is that we are forming the leaders of tomorrow.

Sport at Saint Mary's



Physical fitness and the associated benefits of social and emotional wellbeing is as important to us at St Mary's as academic achievement. Our vision for PE at St Mary's is to provide children with the tools they need to achieve and understand their full physical, cognitive and social/emotional potential, leading them on a journey towards a lifelong positive attitude for sport, physical activity, health, fitness and wellbeing.
Our school values are embedded in every part of our planned PE curriculum and play a key role in the development of our pupils to achieve their full potential in PE, School Sport and Physical Activity.
Using a broad range of sporting contexts, we provide an engaging and varied PE schedule that progressively covers the requirements of the National Curriculum.
There are plenty of opportunities in our school for children to be physically active every day. These include extracurricular clubs, active learning in lessons, our own forest school, regular class/whole school wellbeing walks and daily active sessions during school.

St Mary's pupils participate in many inter and intra school competitions and festivals where all of our pupils have opportunities to participate in a wide range of age appropriate sporting fixtures in the High Peak and further afield at regional level.



Music at Saint Mary's

The definition of music is "an art of sound in time that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony and colour".
Here at St Mary's we endeavour to bring together all of these elements through individual and group singing, exploring various musical forms, body percussion, composition, instrumental performance (tuned and untuned instruments), listening to and gaining appreciation of both live and recorded music. Through quality music education, pupils will develop a love of music as well as increase their self confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

Art at Saint Mary's

Our Art and Design curriculum develops creativity, sets challenges, engages and inspires children and equips them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

Children will also develop their knowledge of famous artists, designers and craft makers from the local area and around the world.

We regularly link with our secondary school to develop best practice for all our pupils. Collaborative art projects occur regularly with our Trust, called 'Stronger Together.'



Meet our teaching staff



Mrs Chapman — Headteacher, Catholic Schools Inspector and Designated Safeguarding Lead. I am from Co. Armagh in Northern Ireland and I am very proud of my Irish culture.

I have worked in Catholic Primary schools for over 19 years starting as a Teaching assistant, Higher Level Teaching assistant, class teacher and Headteacher. I am passionate about outdoor learning and the benefits it has for well being.



Mrs Mallabar —
Deputy Headteacher and class two teacher (half of year one and year two), Deputy Safeguarding lead Mental Health Ambassador. I have worked in Catholic Primary schools for the last 15 years and was lucky enough to join the St. Mary's family in 2015. I adore working at St. Mary's and feel privileged to work in such an amazing team. Providing an environment that is fun, engaging and supportive of children's mental health and well-being is key to everything I do.



Mrs Hodgson—Class one teacher (reception and half of year one). I have been a teacher for eighteen years in a Catholic Primary school in Stockport where I have taught across many key stages. I have recently moved to the local area and I am extremely excited and proud to teach the children at St. Marys. I want all children to strive to be the best version they can be while living out the gospel vales. I have a husband and one son who keeps me very busy with the activities he enjoys. These include scouts, basketball and golf. I enjoy walking in the local area and I also have a passion for gardening.



Miss Baythorpe— Class 3 teacher I have been teaching around many different schools for the last four years but am so excited to have the opportunity to work at Saint Mary's. This is my second year here and I am lucky enough to spend time in both Class 2 and Class 3. I get to work with amazing staff, that I can learn from, and brilliant children, that I hope to enrich the lives of. When I am not teaching, I am coaching or playing lacrosse, watching Disney films or singing and dancing! I also love to watch football with my Dad (Manchester City) and spend time in the garden with the rest of my family.



Mrs Chapman—SENCO and class 3 three teacher I feel very privileged to work within a school so welcoming and inclusive and have the reward of working alongside the wealth of knowledge from the team here at St Marys. I have ten years of experience as a SENCO as well as teaching at another school. I am passionate about providing a safe, engaging and enjoyable learning environment for all children within my classroom and allowing their personalities to flourish.



Mr Pearson— Class 4 teacher Before I trained to be a teacher, I was a teaching assistant at a primary school in Glossop for 6 years. Saint Mary's is an amazing school with supportive staff and parents. I am lucky to teach so many wonderful children and I feel confident that they leave our school as ambassadors and role models: growing into mature young adults.

Apart from teaching, I love playing rugby for my local club, Glossop RUFC and I enjoy supporting my favourite football team—Manchester United. Somebody has to!

Parent and pupil voice

Some of the strongest and most important ideas about our school have come from the pupils themselves. For this reason, it is very important that the pupil's voices are heard and allowed to influence many aspects of school life. At Saint Mary's we have a pupil council, made up of pupils from every year group including reception and Year 6 pupils, which meets every month. Pupils in all year groups either lead or help to lead weekly worship within school (please see weekly worships in our video resource on the school website). Strong friendships are developed through various child led groups including chaplaincy, reading groups and weekly worships. This promotes a sense of responsibility and community within school. Older pupils consistently promote positive behaviours and are excellent role models in supporting younger children in their educational journey within school.

Messages from our parents: ***The pupils of Saint Mary's make us proud every day.***

"Excellent school with a strong Senior Leadership Team who show they care about the school community and always make you feel part of the family."
"I love the communication and the updates of what's going on. We were welcomed from the moment we stepped in the school and continue to feel valued every day. We are so grateful we chose Saint Mary's."
"The staff are fantastic- committed, engaging and inspiring. They make themselves available to parents if needed and are very approachable. Teachers, TAs, office staff, catering staff and caretakers are all wonderful at their jobs. "

We understand and value the crucial role played by parents as an integral part of their child's education as well as being a vital part of our school community. Parent's involvement in the life and work of the school for their child's education cannot be underestimated- this is one of the crucial elements of the success of Saint Mary's. A true understanding of every child cannot happen without a solid, warm and understanding relationship between school and home.
We communicate with parents in several ways. We use ClassDojo for short messages to keep everyone in the loop, e.g. don't forget the cake sale tomorrow, please bring old clothes for forest schools on Tuesday etc. We also use ClassDojo for a weekly Friday roundup of events from the past week and things to look forward to in the coming weeks. We use Arbor to send e-mails home to families. Our school website is a fantastic resource to find just about anything to do with school life, from policies and governance information to the school dinner menu's.
Full school reports are sent towards the end of the summer term and we host two Parents/teacher evenings per year.
We also host regular parent workshops in the evenings on important topics such as mental wellbeing, the teaching of maths, phonics and 'getting ready for SAT's.

The PTA
St Mary's PTA is an open community of volunteers, who work in conjunction with Mrs Chapman and all of her staff, to benefit the school and to ensure the best educational experience for all pupils. The PTA's main objective is to raise monies through activities and events to assist the funding of school initiatives. Saint Mary's PTA have provided financial support for a variety of different projects - from trips to the local pantomime to the purchase of outdoor play equipment, from new library books to chicken coops !
Parents and carers are automatic members of the PTA, meaning effectively it is everybody's association. The over-riding aim is for the children to proudly say that they spend -

Six
Cool
Hours
Of
Our
Lives at St. Mary's.

We promise to walk side by side with families on their child's educational journey. We are on your side, through every triumph and every challenge. We will support you.
Mrs. Chapman



Topics to inspire

From reception onwards, we offer a broad, balanced and creative curriculum that connects subjects in a way that reflects real life, enabling students to gain an understanding of how, and why, their learning is relevant to them. A great emphasis is placed on the development of literacy, numeracy, scientific and ICT skills.

Our curriculum is ambitious, it gives our children experiences to enrich their learning and focuses on progressive knowledge and skills. We aim to provide children with the ability to develop the personal characteristics and skills to succeed in life.

Children will be engaged in topics such as Ancient Greece, Toys, Egyptians, Plants and Victorians. Children are given the chance to fully immerse themselves into the topic with curriculum enrichments given both in school, for example our birds of prey day, and outside of school through field trips and local walks. In class 4 the children had the opportunity to visit the Galleries of Justice after learning about Crime and Punishment through History and in KS1 trips included visits to Manchester airport, the aquarium and train rides into Manchester from New Mills.

We have collapsed curriculum days throughout the year where the whole school engage in the topic. For example, when all classes are taking part in a history topic we have a 'Time travel' day where everyone dresses up in the era they are learning about and take part in activities based on their topic. We also have open days, parents and carers are invited into school to see the teaching of subject areas.

Rocket recaps are encouraged in all classes where short quizzes are built in throughout the day to encourage flash backs to previously taught subjects. This develops children's metacognition and understanding of what they have learned and the impact this has on future learning.

The fundamental principles behind the design of our curriculum are for our children to:

* Be confident, independent, resilient people with a love for learning
* Be kind, empathetic, respectful and forgiving—these are key elements of our Catholic faith
* Value diversity and celebrate individuality in all, appreciate other peoples views, values, strengths and challenges
* Achieve academically to the best of their ability
* Have cultural knowledge of our community and the wider world
* Have high aspirations for their future no matter what their background is or challenges they have faced. Understand that hard work, perseverance and determination are the key to reaching their goals
* Transition to secondary school successfully and embrace the changes and challenges that lie ahead with confidence and self-belief

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela







Early years

The first five years of life are the most significant years your child will have, as in this period children learn faster than at any other time. The kind of experiences a child has will help to shape the future person they will become.

Play is the highest form of research





In EYFS, we plan, deliver and assess around the seven areas of learning and development.

Prime areas: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, Communication and Language

Specific areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design

Often these areas overlap and are not taught in isolation. All of the areas are delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, which take place indoors and outdoors.



Outdoor learning

Outdoor learning is an essential part of our school and each class have their own designated area. We also have an onsite forest school which each class accesses throughout the week.







Learning outdoors provides a holistic approach to teaching and ensures children learn from real life experiences/problems as well as how to be safe in their local environment. Children are also exposed to life long skills such as how to start a fire safely.





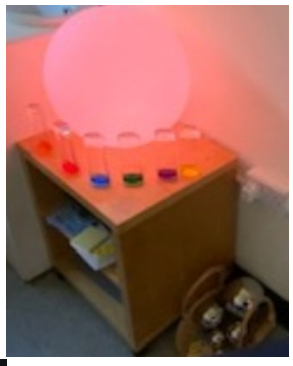
Mental Well-being

Message from Mrs Mallabar, our trained Mental Health First Aider and Mental Health & Well-being Ambassador

At St. Mary's Primary, the mental health and well-being of our pupils and staff is a key priority. It is not something that is celebrated on a particular day, but instead is embedded in everything we do. Our curriculum has timetabled weekly well-being activities that are guided by the pupils. These range from Mindfulness activities, Yoga, Well-being walks and even toasting marshmallows in our Forest School. We have rich outdoor learning environments where the children have the ability to explore their learning in the fresh air, varying weather and of course, being close to nature.

Our staff are supported by 'Wilma the Well-BEAN' - a little mascot who keeps an eye out on everyone, celebrated the wonderful achievements of our staff and even provides the occasional treat when the going gets tough! We recognise that happy teachers mean happy classrooms.

We have a 'Nurture Room' to help support the emotional development of our children. The room is a safe, calm space with soft bean-bags, ambient coloured lighting and different toys and objects for the children to explore during their Support Sessions.



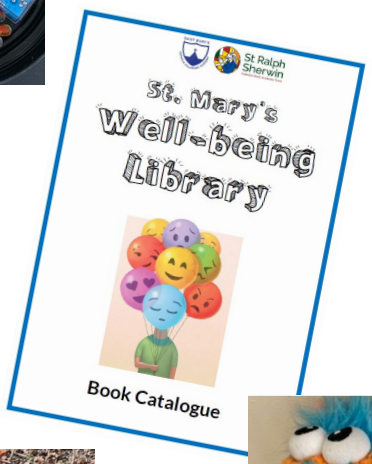




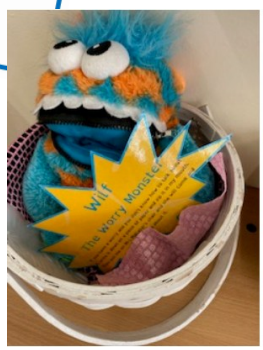


We are very lucky to have a dedicated Emotional Literacy Support Assistants in school. Ms Gibbons and Mr Stone works closely with children to develop their personal, social and emotional skills, using a variety of spaces like our nurture room, Forest School and outdoor areas.

We have an established a Well-being Library. This library has a selection of children's books that address possible topics that children will encounter in their own lives. These books can be borrowed and taken home to read and share with their parents, prompting conversations that support their well-being and emotional development.









Our school chickens give the children the opportunity to learn about taking care of animals and having an appreciation of all creatures on God's earth. Each class has their own chicken and have timetabled time to visit, feed and care for the chickens. The staff also share responsibility for caring for the chickens during weekends and holidays—they really are part of the family.

Forest schools sessions help to develop emotional resilience and self esteem. Here pupils are taught using, 'Tool Talks' on how to use a bow saw safely.

Special educational needs

At Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we value the abilities and achievements of all our pupils, and we are committed to providing, for each pupil, the best possible environment for learning. All teachers in our school are teachers of all children, including those with SEND. we embrace the fact that every child is different and, therefore, the educational needs of every child are different. We strive to support all children to enable them to achieve their full potential at school. In order to do this, many steps are taken to support them through their learning journey.

It is our vision to create a happy and stimulating learning environment in which all members of the school community can grow in self-esteem and develop to their full potential as individuals in a diverse society.

Our School SENCo is Mrs Laura Chapman.

More information about SEN at Saint Mary's can be found here:

https://www.stmarysnewmills.srscmat.co.uk/information/send/



Ofsted said during their last visit in 2023:

'Pupils are also very positive about their school; they value it and like it. They know that there are trusted adults who will support them to learn and keep safe. Pupils appreciate the effort staff take to get to know them. Relationships are positive. Pupils have very positive attitudes towards learning and focus on their work. Staff have high expectations for pupils' behaviour. Low-level disruption is rare. There is a purposeful atmosphere in lessons. '

Our community

We take enormous pride in our school community and the mutual support benefits everyone. It is important that we instil a sense of responsibility in the children to this wonderful community that we are a part of.



Saint Mary's Church is virtually next door to school and we hold regular class Masses and whole school Masses there. Our children and families contribute to the life of the parish and the celebration of Mass through altar serving, scripture reading and singing. We have a Liturgy session for children every Sunday led by our chair of governors, Mrs Jo Barber. The parish in turn enriches our school with regular visits from the parish priest who also serves on the governing body of the school. We also have wonderful support from the parishioners, who regularly join us for services led by the children in school.





At Christmas, our school choir entertains a local residential home by singing carols. This is an incredibly important part of our celebration of Christmas and something the children look forward to every year.



Every year, the children choose charities to support that are important to them and they devise ways to raise money, including cake sales, sponsored sports events and reading challenges. We are incredibly proud of the giving nature of our pupils who understand how they can positively impact those less fortunate than ourselves.

Every year, a pupil is awarded the 'kind hands' award for their services to the community.

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, New Mills.

Wrap Around Club



Our wraparound club includes lots of enrichment activities including gardening, sports, free play and homework support.



- Arts and crafts
- Lego and games
- Sports and Fitness

Breakfast club runs Monday to Friday from 7.30am and includes cereal, toast and a drink. £4.00 per day

After school club runs Monday to Thursday (not Fridays) to 5.30pm and includes snacks, such as wraps, cheese and crackers, yogurts and a drink. £8.00 per day

BOOK VIA PARENTPAY FOR THE SESSIONS YOU NEED

Call Us
01663 742412
Or e-mail
info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk

Use your tax-free childcare vouchers

Speak to the school office for more information!

Important links

Our website: www.saintmarysnewmills.co.uk

Performance data: saintmarysnewmills.co.uk/performance-data/

Ofsted report: www.saintmarysnewmills.co.uk/inspections-1/

Pupil premium report: www.saintmarysnewmills.co.uk/pupil-premium/

Sports premium report: www.saintmarysnewmills.co.uk/pe-and-sport-premium/

Saint Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

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High Peak

Derbyshire

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01663 742412

info@nmm.srscmat.co.uk

Headteacher—Mrs P Chapman

SENCO—Mrs L Chapman

Safeguarding lead—Mrs P Chapman

All pupils, of any faith or no faith, are very welcome at our school

To have a look around school, please call Mrs Oxley at the school office on 01663 742412 and we will arrange a mutually convenient time. We would love to see you!