



St. Mary's Primary School

& Cill Chluana Parish Nursery



Learning through Faith, Laughter and Love



123 Granemore Road

Tassagh

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Principal: Mrs. Brenda Casey

www.stmaryspsgranemore.com



Principal: Mrs. Brenda Casey

Principal's Welcome

I am delighted to share with you, through our school prospectus, an overview of the main aspects of life in Cill Chluana Parish Nursery and St Mary's Primary school, here in Granemore.

St. Mary is a Catholic maintained, co-educational primary school, where the child is at the centre of everything we do. We are a happy, caring school that works in partnership with all our parents and the parish community, to ensure that our children make the most of their potential in academic, religious and personal development.

We enjoy a warm, welcoming, family atmosphere and take great pride in the strong links we have with other community groups. Our whole school community shares one common goal – to do the best for all the children in our care.

I hope that you find this prospectus informative and interesting. In it you will find information about the everyday running of the school, the curriculum we offer and the breadth of experiences available to our children.

We offer you further information by visiting our web site, www.stmaryspsgranemore.net, or by arranging to visit us. We would be delighted to welcome you to come and have a look around and see at first-hand what makes Saint Mary's Primary School the special place it is.

Mrs Brenda Casey

Our Vision

St. Mary's is a warm, welcoming and caring school where our Catholic Ethos and Christian Values inspire everything we do. We work in partnership with parents, the Church and the wider community to ensure that all our children are the best that they can be. We believe anything is possible.

Mission Statement

At St. Mary's, children are encouraged to become reflective learners and to value their learning experiences. Children's opinions and contributions are valued and they are involved in decision making through our Student Council.

We are an inclusive school community where every child's talents and achievements are celebrated. We embrace diversity and promote equality in everything we do. We equip our children to become fair and tolerant in all their thoughts and actions.

At St. Mary's we are committed to providing a broad and rich curriculum and to ensure our children are prepared for their futures. We aim to equip them with the necessary skills and capabilities to allow them to achieve their full potential through a caring and supportive environment. A positive pupil/teacher partnership exists and all relationships are valued and nurtured.

St. Mary's provides a safe and happy environment where every child feels secure. We work together as a team to develop the self-esteem of our children through a culture of mutual respect and understanding. We promote the importance of a healthy lifestyle and respect for the environment.

The Board of Governors in St. Mary's works collaboratively, sharing power, decision making and communication whilst embracing change.

At St. Mary's we are committed to developing positive relationships with parents. We value the role they play in the education of our children and provide them with opportunities to have their views heard and to be involved in their child's learning. We work with the wider community to establish links and partnerships which enhance the experiences of our children.

At St. Mary's we reflect our Catholic faith in all aspects of school life. We aim to present our faith in the way that we live it and encourage our children to develop and deepen their relationship with God.

Our school's success is evident in our children past and present.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Situated in the Parish of Cill Chluana, Saint Mary's, Granemore is located on the Granemore Road and is served by a joint Board of Governors, along with St. Michael's P.S. Clady. Saint Mary's Primary School is committed to its aims as a Catholic School, and to the promotion of an ethos which reflects Christian teaching and values of the church. Cill Chluana Parish Nursery, is attached to the school and is under the same Management structure as the school. The current enrolment in the school is 175 pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 with a further 27 children in the Nursery.

SCHOOL DAY TERM 1 – 2

Monday – Friday

P1 – P3 9:15am – 2pm

P4 – P7 9:15am – 3pm

TERM 3

Monday – Thursday

P1 – P2 9:15am – 2pm

P3 – P7 9:15am – 3pm

Friday

P1 – P3 9:15am – 2pm

P4 – P7 9:15am – 3pm

ATTENDANCE

To create the most successful school year for students and teachers, attendance is very important. Children who are absent miss many skills and experiences that cannot be replicated. Completing missed written work does not make up for the classroom instruction and activities completed during your child's absence. Individuals who are ill should not be sent to school. If your child is absent from school a note of explanation should be sent to the class teacher on his/her first day back. Please make every effort to schedule holidays and medical appointments around the school calendar.



School Uniform

It is hoped that every child will wear the St. Mary's Primary School uniform with pride.

The uniform is a navy sweater with a school crest.

For boys	white shirt	For girls	white shirt
	navy trousers		navy skirt/pinafore
	black socks		navy tights or white socks
	black shoes		black shoes
	navy & white striped tie		navy & white striped tie

PE Kit	Plain navy track bottoms
	Green t-shirt with school crest
	Navy hoodie with school crest
	Trainers



During Physical Education lessons and activities, jewellery must not be worn. It is important that all items of clothing and property are clearly marked with your child's name. This is greatly appreciated as it saves valuable teaching time.

Nursery

The Nursery uniform is a red sweater with a nursery crest, a navy polo shirt with crest and plain navy jogging bottoms.

It is asked that parents leave a spare uniform in their child's change bag to be kept in the Nursery building for when or if required.



Pastoral Care

In all cases it will be school policy to act in the best interests of the child. The school will endeavour to provide a happy and safe environment and to care for each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. If parents have concerns about their child's safety, they are invited to inform a member of staff as soon as possible.

All parents are asked to complete a Data Collection sheet ensuring we have the most current contact and medical details for your child. If your child is sick we will endeavour to make contact with the people identified on the Data Collection Sheet.

As part of our PDMU programme, children explore the danger of drugs and substance abuse.

CHILD PROTECTION

We in St. Mary's have a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

School Safeguarding Team

The following are members of the schools Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher – Mr E Magee

Deputy Designated Teacher – Mrs I McGivern

Deputy Designated Teacher for Nursery – Mrs S Reilly

Principal – Mrs B Casey

Designated Governor for Child Protection – Mr Adrian Cassidy

Chair of the Board of Governors – Mr J McGlennon

Meet Our Staff

<i>Principal</i> <i>Vice Principal/P1</i> <i>P2</i> <i>P3</i> <i>P4</i> <i>P5</i> <i>P6</i> <i>P7</i> <i>P2/P3/P4</i> <i>Nursery</i>	Mrs Brenda Casey Mrs Stephanie Reilly Mrs Imelda McGivern Mrs Ciara Lennon Mrs Catherine Kerr Mrs Jeanette Kelly Mr Eunan Magee Mr Michael Murray Mrs Tracey McGeary Miss Leanne O'Callaghan
<i>Classroom Assistants</i> <i>Nursery</i> <i>P1</i> <i>P2</i> <i>SEN Assistants</i> <i>Nursery</i> <i>P1</i> <i>P3</i>	Mrs Rosie McGinnity Mrs Joanne Murray Mrs Helen Murphy Mrs Ciara Brennan Mrs Mary McArdle Mrs Joanne Burke
<i>School Secretary</i>	Mrs Kathy Carr
<i>Lunchtime Supervisor</i>	Mrs Angela Fisher Mrs Rosemary Kelly
<i>Kitchen Staff</i> <i>School Cook</i>	Mrs Olivia Murray Mrs Jackie McShane Mrs Teresa Nugent
<i>Building Supervisor</i> <i>Cleaning Staff</i>	Mr Liam McNally Ms Jacinta Cassidy

How a parent can express concerns about a child

I have a concern about my child/a child's safety.

I can talk to the class teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal.

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to The Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

SCHOOL DAY

Break:

P1 - P4 10.30am – 10.45am

P5 – P7 10.45am – 11.00am

Lunch:

Nursery 12.00pm – 12:30pm

P1 – P4 12.15pm - 1.00pm

P5 - P7 1.00pm – 1.45pm

Breaktime

Nursery and Foundation Stage

All children enjoy the opportunity to pick from a wide variety of healthy snacks, at a time of their choosing, throughout the morning session. This provides a good opportunity to develop independence and social skills. The cost of snack in Nursery is £10 paid monthly to the Nursery teacher. P1 and P2 cost for snack is £20 per term payable to the class teacher.

P3 - P7

Children may bring their own healthy break. We promote healthy eating to our children and encourage a wide variety of healthy snacks.

Lunchtime

We are privileged to have a school kitchen on our premises which provides a varied range of fresh, hot and nutritious meals. Alternatively, children may bring their own packed lunch.

Nursery dinners cost £2.55

P1 – P7 dinners cost £2.60



Primary Curriculum

At St. Mary's Primary School we aim to deliver the Northern Ireland Curriculum through providing varied learning experiences for our pupils. Each child's abilities will be developed in a purposeful way ensuring maximisation of their potential.

In order to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum we:

- provide opportunities for every pupil to succeed,
- use a range of formal and practical teaching strategies,
- ensure that each child has equal access to the curriculum,
- aim to equip each child with the skills for life-long learning,
- liaise closely with parents regarding their child's learning,
- encourage individual, group and whole class learning.

Areas of Learning '

- ◇ Language and Literacy,
- ◇ Mathematics and Numeracy,
- ◇ The World Around Us (Science and Technology, History and Geography),
- ◇ The Arts (Art and Design, Music and Drama),
- ◇ Personal Development and Mutual Understanding,
- ◇ Physical Education.



The following are the skills that the children should also develop:

- Cross-Curricular Skills
- Communication
- Managing Information
- Using Mathematics
- Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Using ICT
- Being Creative
- Working with Others
- Self-Management



Religious Education

Religious Education is Bible-based teaching about God and Jesus Christ. We encourage children to relate Christian principles to everyday life through our excellent scheme Grow in Love.

Stages of the Primary Curriculum

Foundation Stage (P1 and P2),

Key Stage 1 (P3 and P4),

Key Stage 2 (P5 to P7).



SPECIAL EDUCATION (SEN)

From time to time there may be a child who requires extra support in school and we aim to provide for these children. Children may be supported in a range of ways: in-class support, differentiated work, withdrawal for support in Literacy/Numeracy programmes or withdrawal for support with a specialist.

In liaison with the class teacher and the SEN-Co (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) Education Plans are drawn up to specifically meet the requirements of children with Special Educational Needs. Parents are regularly informed about Education Plans and they are invited to school to receive an update on their child's progress and discuss areas for future development in their child's next Education Plan. The Special Educational Needs may also be catered for in class, with individual assistance. A classroom assistant may be employed if your child is on Stage 5 of the Code of Practice and/or other agencies can be involved in this support too.

STUDENT COUNCIL

At St. Mary's PS we view the pupils voice as being of upmost importance in all areas of their development and learning. We believe that a student council is an important and useful way for us to provide leadership and development opportunities for our pupils. This is evident in our School Council's work, attitude and confidence. Our school council provides a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them. At St. Mary's our School Council is a representative group of pupils from P4 - P7 who have been elected by their peers.

Our School Council aims to help all pupils to:

- Enjoy and feel empowered by their education
- Feel that our school responds to their needs and views
- Have a say about decisions, and to play an active role in making our school a better place



Nursery Curriculum

Our curriculum is carefully planned and constructed in accordance with the Department of Education's Curricular Guidance for Pre-School Education.

Play, as a vehicle for curriculum delivery, is recognised as the most appropriate way for young children to learn. We aim to provide your child with a broad and balanced curriculum experienced through play in areas including: sand, water, creative art, playdough, home corner, constructions, books, puzzles, music and outdoor play.

Areas of Development:

- * Personal, Social and Emotional Development,
- * Language Development,
- * Physical Development and Movement,
- * The Arts,
- * Early Mathematical Experiences,
- * The World Around Us.

We aim to provide a happy, exciting and stimulating environment to give each child the opportunity to develop, at their own rate, every aspect of their growth to their full potential.



ASSESSMENT

The Revised Curriculum also means a revised way of assessing your child. Children from P3 –P7 are assessed using Computer Based Assessments in May. All year groups will also be assessed formally and informally throughout they year.

Our school strives to present children with lively and exciting experiences, which will enable them to work within the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, with enthusiasm and according to their abilities. Children's ability and progression will be reported to parents in November/December at the Parent/Teacher meetings and in June with a written report. Parents may of course feel free to contact the school throughout the year if they wish to speak to their child's

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to reinforce learning and understanding of topics covered during the day and to encourage parental participation in their children's learning.

Homework will be given to each child. During absences from school, homework will not be sent home unless the parent requests it. Only the parent knows if the child is well enough to undertake homework. Homework will be oral, written or both and will relate to work taking place in the classroom.

Types of homework that may be given include paper exercise and/or digital exercise.

This may be: **Literacy**; **Numeracy**; **Topic work**; **Religious Education**

Parents are encouraged to monitor and support their child during homework and ensure that set tasks are completed to a satisfactory standard. Parents should sign their children's homework when completed. It is important to take a real interest in the school and in your child's schoolwork. Your child will reflect your own attitude towards education.

Parents are strongly encouraged to engage in shared reading and relevant talking and listening activities.

DISCIPLINE AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR



Children are expected to behave in a way which shows consideration for other people and their property. Children are expected to treat their peers and adults with politeness and kindness and to have regard for the safety of themselves and others. The school operates a Positive Behaviour Programme based on rules, rewards and consequences, which encourages all children to make positive choices about their behaviour.

At the beginning of each academic year, the children in each class agree the Positive Behaviour rules for their class and a pupil code of conduct for whole school.

Pupils' are rewarded for making positive behaviour choices through their class rewards system, Monthly Award as well as through class and whole school rewards.

Good discipline is essential for a positive learning environment. We aim to instil in children self-esteem, self-respect, respect for others and respect for their environment. We encourage children to take pride in their school, wear the correct uniform and keep the school and its grounds neat. We aim to positively comment on and reward all elements of good conduct and manners.

Copies of the Positive Behaviour Policy are available on request

ANTI-BULLYING

At St. Mary's Primary School bullying is not tolerated. Reported incidents are taken seriously, thoroughly investigated and dealt with in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy. Bullying is a distressing and damaging form of abuse. It can be defined as deliberate, hurtful behaviour repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the child to defend themselves.

We at St. Mary's aim to create a culture wherein every pupil is respected, valued and cared for and so sees it as his / her responsibility to stand up against bullying. We encourage children and parents and staff to report it. We encourage pupils to support their peers and use strategies that equip them to play an active part in preventing bullying from happening.

We encourage development of self-confidence and self-esteem by promoting an ethos of good communication among staff, pupils and parents where those who are vulnerable will feel able to come forward and confide in staff. Copies of our Anti Bullying Policy are available from the school office. And on our school website



Educational research clearly shows that where a parent spends 10 – 15 minutes each night reading with their child, that child makes significantly greater progress in school than the child who does not receive this support.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Language and Literacy are fundamental in the development of each child's ability to interact, express and communicate with confidence. In our school, each child's understanding, knowledge of and skills in Literacy are nurtured and developed through a wide range of Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing activities.

Reading

Reading is widely promoted throughout our school. Children are encouraged to develop a love of reading through a variety of strategies such as: bringing stories alive through the use of puppets and drama, Story Sacks, Book Time, Peered Reading, the Book fair, sharing book reviews, making books for younger children in the school, visits to the local library as well as visits to classes by an author. We run a very successful Paired Reading program with our P3 and P7 classes. Two of our assistants and a teacher are Reading Partnership trained and one teacher is Reading Recovery trained.

Writing

In the Foundation Stage, pupils are given opportunities to communicate through experimental writing and as they progress they are given support to form letters, spell words, structure sentences and express their ideas more clearly using appropriate vocabulary. They will progress from talking about what they are going to write to planning and reviewing their writing for a specific audience and purpose. Additionally, all pupils have opportunities to use digital media to express their ideas. Our whole school approach to writing is 'have a go' and all of our pupils' efforts are valued

Talking and Listening

Pupils talk and listen in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes such as asking and answering questions, taking part in conversations, talking about stories and poems as well as explaining and making predictions. As pupils progress they are encouraged to express themselves using a more personal vocabulary and detail to present their ideas and achieve effects

LITERACY AND ICT

We use LexiaCore5 in class and part of homework activities in the Foundation stage and Key Stage 1 and we have recently introduced, 'Education City' for P1-P7 pupils.

Children are very enthusiastic about the literacy games on Education City, which provides a captivating and safe learning experience incorporating ICT and numeracy, through online engaging gaming and rewards.

In addition to this, the use of iPad's, Interactive Whiteboards, PC's and laptops we enjoy enhancing teaching and learning of Literacy for all pupils. Likewise, we use many website, programs, and apps to develop and enhance learning experiences in numeracy.

We always celebrate World Book Day. We engage the children in interactive, hands on and fun practical activities with books. Every other year we run a highly successful Book Fair.



MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

The Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and 2 aim to develop the application of mathematics and numeracy across the curriculum and in real life situations. Children are given opportunities to explore a wide variety of purposeful fun activities, including problem-solving tasks and investigations. Pupils regularly use practical materials and electronic resources.

During the Foundation Stage, children are provided with valuable experiences which enable them to develop the concepts of and skills in:

Understanding Number,
Counting and Number Recognition,
Measures,
Shape and Space,
Sorting
Patterns and Relationships.



Throughout Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils further develop their concepts of and skills in:

Processes in Mathematics,
Number,
Measures,
Shape and Space
Data Handling.



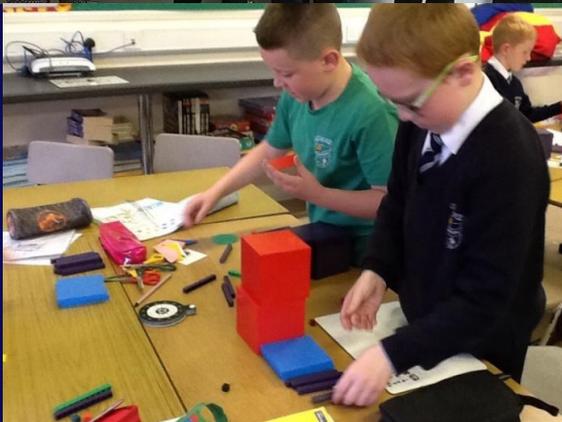
Numeracy and ICT

We have recently introduced, 'Education City' for P1-P7 pupils.

Children are very enthusiastic about the numeracy games on the Education City programme, which provides a captivating and safe learning experience incorporating ICT and numeracy, through online engaging games and rewards.

In addition to this, through the use of iPads, Interactive Whiteboards, PCs and laptops we enjoy enhancing teaching and learning of Mathematics for all pupils. Likewise, we use many website, programs, and apps to develop and enhance learning experiences in numeracy.

We also took part in Math's Week Ireland this year to celebrate all things numeracy related. We engaged in interactive, hands on and fun practical activities in numeracy



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING (PDMU)

The PDMU curriculum has two strands:

- ◇ Personal Understanding and Health
- ◇ Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider community

In the Foundation Stage, we provide pupils with experiences which help them to form good relationships with other pupils and adults and make informed choices about showing respect when working and playing together. Pupils are also encouraged to adopt healthy and hygienic routines and they learn how to keep safe.

Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 learn about the different options for a healthy and safe lifestyle. They become more aware of the relationships that they have with their family, friends and others in school and in the local community and progress to understanding more about other cultures in the wider community.



PARENTS—FRIENDS OF GRANEMORE

Our school does not function in isolation and we are grateful for the tremendous support that we receive from our parents and the wider community. We view parents as partners in the education of their children and we seek their active interest and involvement.

Regular letters/text messages from the school, an up-to-date website keep parents informed of any relevant news, information or forthcoming events. Our Friends of Granemore parent group has also proved very successful over the last number of years. We work closely with the Friends of Granemore group in organising fund raising events.

Our P.S.G. have carried out outstanding work in fundraising and has helped provide equipment and resources that the school would otherwise not have been able to afford through the school budget.



ICT

We recognise the importance of ICT in all areas of the curriculum and the outside world. ICT is used as a resource in many areas of the curriculum and for all age ranges and abilities. We use iPads, PC's, laptops, Interactive whiteboards, programmable devices such as Beebot and Lego WeDo. We are very fortunate to have access to 31 iPads here in St. Mary's.

Across the curriculum, teachers plan and give pupils opportunities to develop skills in the five ICT strands: Explore, Express, Exchange, Evaluate and Exhibit.

All classrooms are equipped with C2k PCs, which provide connection to the Internet. We are aware of the importance of E-Safety here in St. Mary's therefore pupils are taught how to use the internet safely, and are aware of the dangers of being online. These topics and issues are explored through PDMU and other initiatives such as 'BEE safe' week. Pupils use the internet safely in line with our Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy



WORLD AROUND US (WAU)

In this area of learning our pupils have opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of and skills in:

- * Interdependence
- * Place
- * Movement and Energy
- * Change over Time

We encourage our pupils to become active participants in the learning process, linking learning across the curriculum and to current events in the world. We have adopted a topic based approach to the World Around Us. We aim to enhance learning with enrichment activities, trips and visits to make learning come to life.



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Our pupils are able to access and are encouraged to avail of a wide variety of activities after school. These activities include;

- ⇒ Gaelic Football
- ⇒ Hurling/Camogie
- ⇒ Singing/Traditional Music
- ⇒ Art and Crafts Club
- ⇒ Cycling proficiency
- ⇒ Heart Start
- ⇒ Gymnastics
- ⇒ Hip-Hop
- ⇒ Snag Golf
- ⇒ Soccer
- ⇒ Netball
- ⇒ Drama

Appropriately qualified coaches, classroom assistants and teachers facilitate the after school clubs. All after school leaders and assistants are also vetted.

We also offer a very popular Minding Club every afternoon from 2.00—3.00pm.

We also offer a Breakfast club each morning for our children from 8.00am.



THE ARTS (MUSIC/ART/DRAMA)

Children are able to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world in diverse ways by developing their creativity through Art and Design, Music and Drama. Each child is encouraged to explore and combine their own experiences with their imagination and natural curiosity. These are developed and built upon from year to year fostering children's artistic, musical and kinaesthetic talents and intelligences.

Throughout the year, many opportunities are offered for children to participate in role-play, assemblies, seasonal plays and concerts.

Mrs Casey leads our school choir and traditional music group. Our children also receive tuition for clarinet and flute from Mr Bothwell and violin and viola from Mrs Moore, EA Peripatetic Music teachers. Children have opportunities to enter public examinations/grades.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

All children are provided with opportunities to take part in daily physical activities including, = the Golden Mile, physical play and frequently planned sessions of Physical Education.

During P.E. sessions, our pupils develop knowledge, understanding and skills in Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics. Children are encouraged to think about the importance of how physical activity can contribute to a Healthy Lifestyle.

Pupils are presented with appropriate problem-solving tasks such as devising games or outwitting opponents. Children from P1-4 take part in the Healthy Kidz Program, while our Key Stage 2 classes have an opportunity to take part in 5week program through the Burns Soccer School on Healthy eating and staying active.

Our P5—P7 children also avail of GAA coaching every week, part funded by our local GAA club.



CHARITY AND FUNDRAISING

Here in St. Mary's our children are made aware from a very young age the importance of helping those in need. Pupils are encouraged to look for God in their daily lives and to share God's love and kindness. This is developed through charity in our community and world. We are extremely charitable in St. Mary's and raise money for many different charities. These include; Sri Lankan appeal, school aid Romanian, Trocaire, Christmas jumper day for the Hospice, MS and Motor Neurone Disease to name but a few.

Our parents, families and community are also very supportive of our school and show exceptional generosity at school fundraising events hosted by our school..



RELIGION

To epitomise St. Mary's Primary School's approach to Religious Education we quote from the C.C.M.S. document, "Life to the Full – A Vision for Catholic Education. "Catholic education is the responsibility of the entire Church community and is delivered initially through the influence of three key partners, namely, the home, the school, and the parish community. These partners work together to create the best possible environment for children to develop all their physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and social skills. The success of this educational project depends on the kind of relationships, the style of leadership and the type of curriculum which the pupils experience. The interaction of all these elements enables pupils to:-

- Experience God's love
- Love and respect each other's uniqueness and dignity
- Make the world a better place through justice and peace
- Celebrate the sacraments
- acquire a rich, varied and challenging education
- Strive for excellence.

Beyond the school community, Catholic education continues throughout life as a journey into a mature faith in Christ. Therefore the foundations laid in the Catholic school aim to help pupils to judge certain values such as faith, hope, love and truth as being of ultimate concern in their lives."

As a catholic school, St. Mary's Primary School seeks to promote the highest possible educational standards and it also facilitates the pupils' acquisition of values and the discovery of truth in all human experience

Sacramental Preparation is very important in St. Mary's Primary School. Children in Primary 4 prepare for First Confession in Term 2, and First Holy Communion in Term 3. Our Primary 7 pupils prepare for Confirmation in Term 2.

The catholic ethos and faith is promoted throughout the school year in St. Mary's P.S in many ways, including a celebration of our grandparents during our Catholic School week. We also honour our saints throughout the year during our class assemblies. We start our year with a beginning of year mass celebrated by Fr Greg and in June we celebrate an end of year mass for all our children and families. We finish our year with our leavers' mass for primary 7 and their families. This is a very important, special and poignant event in our school calendar.

Children in St. Mary's value the importance of prayer and having God in our lives as we engage in daily prayer. Children learn their morning, lunch and home time prayer, as well as other prayers they will say during mass.

