



St Mary's Primary

<https://www.stmarysderrytrasna.org>

2025 School Prospectus



Contact Us

191 Derrytrasna Road, Derrytrasnaa

BT66 6NR

Tel: 028 38340295

Email: info@stmarys.derrytrasna.ni.sch.uk

Foreword

On behalf of the Governors, Staff and Children, I would like to warmly welcome you to St. Mary's Primary School. The purpose of this prospectus is to provide you with an insight into our school. We care about the welfare of your child and we value the support that you give us. If there is any information you wish to share about your child or if you have any queries, need help or information please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or myself. We very much look forward to working with you to help your child grow in their independence, knowledge, abilities and social skills. We look forward to working together to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

Mrs U. McAlinden
(Principal)





Mission Statement

In St. Marys our aim is to provide a Catholic education, which is person centred and which promotes the dignity, self-esteem, and full development of each child. We believe this will enable our children to maximise their individual potential for academic, spiritual, personal, emotional, and social development thus, preparing them for future learning and living.



About Our School



Our school is situated in well maintained grounds in Derrytrasna, beside Derrytrasna Playgroup and within proximity to St Mary's Church, Sarsfields GAA Club and Community Centre.

The present building has 5 classrooms, a large assembly/dinner hall, kitchen, resource room, office spaces, outdoor play areas and eco garden.

The school also has dedicated teachers, classroom assistants and support staff. Together we promote a happy and secure learning environment in which all children can reach their full potential and have the opportunity to succeed.

At present the school enrolment is 100. It is the policy of the Board of Governors, that children are taught in composite classes. At present there are 5 classes within the school: - Primary 1, Primary 2, Primary 3/4, Primary 5, Primary 6/7

**Contact Details:
School Address:
191 Derrytrasna Road
Lurgan**

**BT66 6NR
School Telephone Number:
028 38340295**

School Website: www.stmarysderrytrasna.org

School Facebook: St. Mary's Primary School, Derrytrasna

Admissions



Prospective pupils and their parents are welcome to visit the school at any time by appointment. Children who are admitted to Primary One in St. Mary's Primary School are invited to meet the Primary One teacher and classroom assistant in June. On these Open Days parents and children are welcome to take part in activities and games in their new classroom.

New children who wish to transfer into Primary two – seven will meet with the Principal and class teacher prior to their enrolment.

Our whole school community contribute to welcoming and supporting new families. All staff work closely to identify needs of all pupils tracking and monitoring early progress. When a child enters our school, we liaise closely with parents to form supportive links for them and build firm foundations for their future learning.

Admission is through the Education Authority EA Connect portal.
<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/>



OUR STAFF

Principal

Mrs U. McAlinden

Class Teachers

Mrs B. Chambers
Mrs F. Coleman
Mrs C. Dargan
Mr I. Lavery
Miss S. Lennon

School Administrator

Mrs S. Moore

Classroom Assistants

Miss C. Bawn
Mrs W. Boyce
Mrs M. Breen
Miss C. Campbell
Miss K. Dunlop
Mrs C. McAlinden
Miss C. McCartan
Miss L. Scullion
Miss E. Timlin

Building Supervisors

Mrs J. Doyle
Mr P. Murphy

Catering Staff

Mrs L. Gardiner

The School Day

Staggered Arrival 9:00-9:15am

All children will enter through the Dining Hall entrance. Staff are available to meet the children and take them to their classroom.

Registration - 9.15am

Class begins with prayer and registration.

Break time - 10.45am – 11.00 am (P1 – P7)

During break time all children eat a healthy snack and spend time outside. There is a selection of outdoor play equipment for the children to enjoy whilst being supervised by members of staff.

Lunch Time - 12.30pm – 1.15pm (P1 – P7)

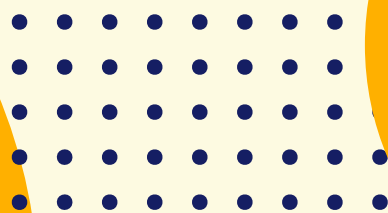
The children have their lunch/dinner together in the school canteen. They can bring a healthy packed lunch or take a hot school meal at a cost of £2.60 per day. The children then play outside supervised by our staff.

Home Time

Primary 1- Primary 3 finish their school day at 2:00pm.

Primary 4 to Primary 7 children finish school at 3:00pm.

Children can avail of the service bus to travel home.



School Meals

At St Mary's Primary School, we understand the importance of helping our pupils to develop a healthy lifestyle. One of the main aspects of this is healthy eating. Our pupils learn about a healthy diet and are encouraged to eat a well-balanced diet.

School Dinners

Our school meals are cooked in St Francis school canteen and delivered daily to St Marys. The meals are of a high quality with numerous healthy options. The meals are provided in the school-dining hall. A monthly menu is provided in advance and school dinners can be booked and paid for using the School Gateway Payment App. If you are in receipt of benefits, your child may be eligible for free dinners. Children may also bring a packed lunch if they prefer.

Healthy Break

St Mary's operates a 'Healthy Break' policy. For our younger children in Primary 1 to Primary 3 a healthy mid-morning snack is provided. Children are provided with a range of locally sourced fresh fruit which is prepared on site. Older children are asked to bring a healthy choice such as a piece of fruit, sandwich, or a yogurt for their snack at break.

Milk

Milk is also available to purchase and can be paid on a termly basis. We encourage our children to drink water through out their day.



The NI Curriculum



At St. Mary's we deliver the full breadth of the Northern Ireland Statutory Curriculum (CCEA, 2007) at each of the three developmental key stages.

Foundation Stage – Primary 1 and Primary 2

“The Foundation Stage aims to build on these preschool learning experiences by providing children with an appropriate learning programme to develop their dispositions to learn and to provide them with the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life.”

- Key Stage 1 – Primary 3 and Primary 4
- Key Stage 2 – Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7

Children at Key Stages 1 and 2 build and develop the experiences provided at the Foundation Stage. Continued emphasis is placed on personal, social and emotional development as well as an explicit emphasis on the development of skills in Communication, Using Mathematics,

Using ICT and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. Children are provided with opportunities to develop these skills through a range of worthwhile, challenging, relevant and enjoyable learning experiences.



The Statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum identifies the major areas of learning as:

Language and Literacy – Talking, Listening, Reading, and Writing

Mathematics and Numeracy – developing knowledge of mathematical concepts and numeracy.

The Arts – Art and Design, Drama and Music

The World Around Us – Geography, History, Science and Technology

Physical Education – Promoting knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activity.

Religious Education is also central to our curriculum experience.

This curriculum aims to, “empower children to develop and grow to their own potential, equipped with the skills they will need for life, enabling them to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives” (CCEA, 2007, 5).

The Statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum also identifies these core skills and capabilities as being integral throughout all areas of learning.

- **Communication**
- **Using Mathematics**
- **Using Information and Communications Technology**

‘Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities’

- **Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision Making**
- **Self-Management**
- **Working with Others**
- **Managing Information**
- **Being Creative**



Literacy



In St. Mary's learning is at the very core of our existence. We firmly believe in establishing and developing vital literacy skills which include talking and listening, reading, and writing. We believe that our fundamental task is to teach our children to speak clearly and articulately and to read and write effectively. Reading across all curriculum areas is a priority to extend and deepen pupils understanding and use of vocabulary. We want pupils to develop a love of reading during their time at St. Mary's and be exposed to a range of texts and genres.

English is taught using a cross- curricular approach, meaning that the skills children learn can be applied in writing right across the curriculum, giving them a clear purpose and scope for creativity. The children participate in daily phonics and shared reading and writing activities. Once children develop an understanding of letter combination and sound association they are taught spelling and grammar rules through investigation and direct teaching. We welcome and actively encourage the support that children receive at home. It is vital that parents give reading a high priority at home and continue to support children even after they have mastered the early stages of reading.

Reading

The library van visits our school monthly. All children are members of NI Libraries and use this service to borrow books. They are also encouraged to use class libraries. We aim to promote reading for enjoyment and a love of books. Children from Primary 4 to Primary 7 currently participate in the Accelerated Reader program.



Mathematics & Numeracy

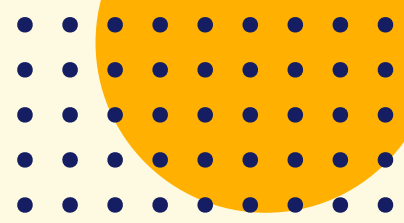


We aim for our children to learn and explore through the use of practical materials. We encourage them to explain their thinking and use mathematical language. We like to challenge our children and help strengthen their understanding of mathematics and numeracy. To develop the skills which are vital to real life and living in our world today, our pupils are taught a range of mental maths and problem solving skills.

The foundations for learning in numeracy are established in the early years and developed in Key Stage 1 and Key stage 2. Lessons involve counting, mental calculation strategies, written calculations, visualisation, reasoning and problem solving activities. ICT is used to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics. Mathematical ideas are developed in the areas of number, shape and space, measures and data handling. A variety of approaches and methods of investigation are used to develop a sound understanding of these mathematical concepts. In every area of mathematics, including numeracy, practical activities support children to become confident and successful mathematicians.



Religious Education



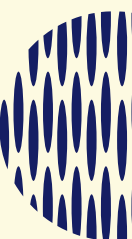
At St. Mary's we recognise that faith begins at home. Together with the parents and parish community we work together in partnership. As a Catholic school our ethos permeates all aspects of school life.

In our school, Religious Education is delivered through the programme "Grow in Love". Children learn faith values by living them out.

We are concerned not only with helping each child achieve academically, but to develop emotionally and spiritually.

Sacramental preparation is very important at St Mary's Primary School. Children in Primary 4 make their First Confession and Holy Communion. Our Primary 7 participate in the Ceremony of Light and make their Confirmation.

Our school Chaplin Rev. Fr Fitzpatrick supports the delivery of Religious Education within the school.



ICT



In St Mary's we place great emphasis on using ICT as we equip our children with the skills to develop their confidence and ability to use various devices and hardware.

In school we have desktops, laptops, iPads and Interactive Whiteboards. Pupils have safe access to the Internet in a controlled environment, which is monitored by C2K for schools. As well as developing and encouraging computer skills and knowledge, ICT enhances learning across the curriculum and promotes both teamwork and communication skills.

Our school is involved with the JDO Foundation. This is a global collaboration program that pairs classrooms from around the world through an innovative and creative use of technology. This year our Primary 6/7 children are working with children from Holy Angels School in Newark, Delaware America.

Our children have the experience of working with c2K, Google Classroom, IXL and Accelerated Reader.



The Arts

Art, Drama and Music are very important subjects in our school and the children are provided with many opportunities to develop their creative skills. All children from Primary 5 to Primary 7 participate in the Musical Pathways Project where they learn to play a musical instrument.



The World Around Us

Pupils will have a balance of experiences taught in a topic based approach that includes Geography, History, Science and STEM. Throughout the school year children are provided with opportunities to attend school trips, which enhance their learning.



Extra-Curricular Provision



St Mary's Primary School provides an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities throughout the school year which children are encouraged to avail of. Appropriately qualified coaches, tutors and teachers facilitate them. These activities add a valuable dimension to the education of the children, and they include:

Gaelic Football
ICT Club
Musical Pathways
Cycling Proficiency

Healthy Kidz
Arts and Crafts
School Choir
Cricket

We also offer a number of extra-curricular opportunities through diverse activities such as drama, history workshops and the school choir.

Our Pupils have their Say

We have lots to play with during break and lunch time.

I like to see my friends at school.

We enjoy playing netball in school.

The teachers and Principal are kind, supportive and caring.

Our school is a very friendly school, and we love it.

We are given lots of opportunities to learn about the World Around Us through Eco Schools and interesting World Around Us topics.

We love to use our imaginations to create amazing pieces of work.

We are lucky to learn how to play the violin and viola.

We are super proud of our Green Flag.



School Uniform



It is our wish that children should wear the uniform as we feel it gives the children a sense of identity and loyalty with the school. The uniform consists of:

Boys

Blue shirt
Blue jumper
Grey trousers
Grey and blue striped tie
Black shoes

Girls

White blouse
Grey Skirt/Pinafore
Blue jumper/cardigan
Blue and grey striped tie
Black shoes
Grey or white socks

P.E Kit

Blue shorts
Plain Black Track bottoms
White School Polo Shirt
White socks
Trainers

School uniform can be purchased from the uniform suppliers in Lurgan. All uniform items should be labelled.



Pastoral Care and Child Protection

Our Safeguarding Team

We in St. Mary's Primary school 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.

The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy.

- It is a child's right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- We have a pastoral responsibility towards the children in our care and should take all reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.
- In any incident the child's welfare must be paramount; this overrides all other considerations.
- A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; but where there is conflict the child's interest must always come first.
- To have in place a structure within the school which will provide a swift effective response to any incident of suspected abuse.

A detailed Pastoral Care Policy and Child Protection Policy are available on request setting out guidance on the action required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected and outlines referral procedures.



Mr Lavery
Designated Teacher



Mrs Chambers
Deputy Designated Teacher



Mrs McAlinden
Principal

Mrs K Doherty
Designated Governor

Special Educational Needs

In St Mary's our staff are committed to providing equal access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum. We recognise that some pupils during their school career may have special educational needs and/or a disability. In the interests of these children we will endeavour to make every reasonable arrangement to promote their individual needs.

Our Learning Support Co-ordinator oversees the provision of the school's SEN programme and liaises with external agencies such as; Literacy Support, RISE NI, Educational Psychologists, Speech therapy and many more.

Children requiring support are placed on the Special Educational Needs Register. They are provided with a Personal Education Plan which identifies targets for development, these are reviewed regularly in partnership with the Learning Support co-ordinator, teachers and parents.

Medical Needs

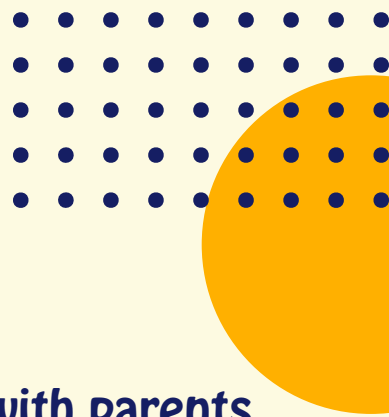
At St Mary's we ensure that children with medical needs or illness are supported in making a full contribution to the life of the school. When necessary, a care plan will be devised to ensure high quality care.

Our school First Aid team will ensure that all children's injuries are assessed and looked after.

Good Diabetes Care Award

We are proud to have been awarded the Good Diabetes Care in School Award from Diabetes UK. We were acknowledged for our whole school approach to good practise diabetes care and management. As described by Diabetes UK *"You are setting the standard for great diabetes care in school and making a difference to all students with diabetes."*

Home School Partnership



At St Mary's we strive to work in partnership with parents and encourage parents to be involved in the education of their child. Parent meetings are arranged in the first term to discuss children's progress. Any parent who has a query or worry regarding their child should contact the school and arrange a meeting to speak with the class teacher.

Communication between Home and School

We seek to provide parents with up to date and accurate information about what is happening in St Mary's. We regularly communicate with parents via newsletters, text, email, Class Dojo, website www.stmarys.derrytrasna.org.uk or Facebook: St Mary's Primary School, Derrytrasna. We appreciate our parents notifying us with any changes in information or absences.



Before and After School Care

Before and After School Care

St Mary's Primary school has strong links with Derrytrasna Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs. They are located within the grounds of the school. The Derrytrasna Breakfast Club is open from 8am to 9am each morning and provides the children attending with a range of healthy breakfast options before school starts.

The Derrytrasna Afterschool Club is open from 2pm to 5.00pm. At 2pm and again at 3pm an Afterschool staff member will collect the children from their school teacher and accompany them to the Afterschool Club.

For further information on the Derrytrasna Breakfast or Afterschool Clubs please contact the setting on telephone (028)38 340505 or email derrytrasnaafterschool@gmail.com.

Bus

There is a service bus available at 3.00pm for use by the children. Application forms for transport are available through the EA website – Home to School Transport, should a parent be entitled.

Homework

St Mary's recognises the value of engaging children in homework. Homework can be used to; revise both written and oral work, extend learning outside of school, involve parents in their children's studies and develop good work habits.

We also believe there should be a balance with each child's need for recreation and the development of interests and hobbies. Homework includes the use of technology along with traditional forms. The school also uses the Class Dojo app and 'Google Classroom.'



Charity & Fundraising

At St. Mary's we remain mindful of 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 engage in a range of charitable events including St Vincent de Paul and Troacire. Our parents, families and community are very supportive of our efforts.

Friends of St. Mary's

The Friends of St Mary's is a vital support, which raises funds to support the educational experiences of our pupils, and organise social events for the school community. Over the past number of years, the FOSM have helped secure grants and raised money that has provided the school with Chrome Books, new blinds for our Assembly Hall, Healthy Kidz, books, outdoor play equipment, treats and activities for pupils,



Friends of St Mary's
Primary, Derrytrasna

Parentkind are delighted to inform you that
your PTA has been shortlisted for

**PTA Transformation
of the Year Award**



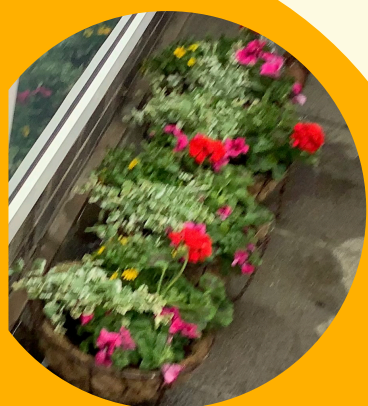
Eco Schools

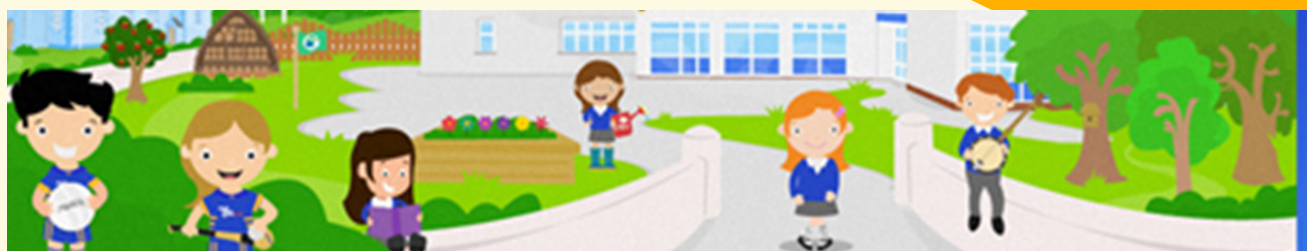


We are proud to have been awarded the **Green Flag** by Eco-School in 2020, 2022 and in 2024. This continues our tradition of being awarded Eco-School status. Caring for the environment is at the heart of our ethos.

Our school provides a platform to encourage children to care for creation and take responsibility by living more sustainably. Our school Eco Committee is responsible for leading the school's response to green issues.

This is a fabulous opportunity for the children to develop their awareness of the environment, be creative and show innovation





St Mary's Primary School

We hope that having read this Prospectus you will have some idea of the rich and varied life your child will have during his/her time here in St Mary's. You can be assured that their happiness and well-being will be always our concern during their years here. We will be happy to clarify information contained in the prospectus or answer any other queries. Please contact the school to arrange an appointment.

We look forward to meeting you and your child.

