

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Birchley

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Supporting Information about St Mary's Catholic Primary School Birchley.

St Mary's, Birchley is a popular and highly respected Voluntary Aided Catholic Primary situated in the village of Billinge, within the Metropolitan Borough of St Helens, in Merseyside. The school is a Group 2 single form entry Catholic Primary School for pupils aged 4-11 with a PAN of 30 and a total capacity of 210 places, under the control of St Helens Council and the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have 206 pupils on role and average class size of 29 (Reception Class to Yr.6 Class).

St Mary's is a slightly smaller than average school with the vast majority of pupils from White British heritage. The percentage of pupils eligible for a free school meal is low (4.8%) and children attend from a wide socio-economic range. The school has received Artsmark Gold, Healthy Schools Award, School Games Activemark Silver, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Award mark.

Our current school aims are:

- Each child who attends the school will receive an education of the highest quality within a stimulating environment, helping them to be 'the best they can be.'
- We have high expectations in all areas of learning and encourage the pursuit of excellence intellectually as well as spiritually, morally, socially and physically.
- We promote equality by recognising and celebrating differences within a values-based school ethos of care, mutual respect and discipline.
- We value each person's contribution and prepare all pupils for their role as responsible, caring citizens in our diverse society.

We have a strong Senior Leadership Team and a mixture of longer serving and newer members of staff. We have 12 Teaching staff, 12 Teaching Assistants, 2 Office staff and 8 Mid-day supervisors. Our Teachers and support staff are reflective and supportive of one another. They are an effective and highly experienced professional team, who all share the same vision, working together to provide the very best learning opportunities for all our pupils. We are very proud that Ofsted describes St Mary's as an 'outstanding school' and that our pupils reach high standards. Our staff continue to work hard to maintain high standards while retaining the ethos of mutual care, respect, positivity and warmth, which permeates the whole school.

Our children are delightful, demonstrate caring and respectful behaviours and have a real thirst for learning. Attendance is 96.7%, authorised absence 2.8% and unauthorised absence 0.5%. We have a good parent-teacher-student association (PTSA) and our parents are strongly committed to helping their children succeed in school. Our governors are hugely supportive of the school and work in partnership effectively with the school leadership team. The school's Governing Body was reconstituted in 2016 to serve the school's needs more effectively.

Our school buildings and grounds are in good condition, although we would like to improve the building fabric further. We have seven main classrooms, additional rooms for targeted intervention and small-group teaching, a library, two large halls and a secured, covered play area for the reception class. The school has two playgrounds and an enclosed playing field for sports and outdoor activities. There is a variety of play equipment and spaces with seating and shelter to enable creative learning inside and out. The school provides before and after school child care. We have a relatively small number of pupils eligible for pupil premium (12%). 11% of our pupils are on a SEN register and 2% of our pupils receive SEN support funding. However, the school has been extremely diligent in the management of its resources, including effective review, planning, prioritisation, negotiation and commissioning, against the back drop of a challenging budget position.

Our school development plan aims to maintain the high standards already achieved whilst raising standards even further. Our improvement targets for 2016-17 are:

- To focus on all pupils and staff fulfilling their potential
- To ensure that outstanding leadership and management is maintained
- To ensure that teaching is 100% 'good' with at least 50% 'outstanding'.
- To place emphasis on personal, spiritual and moral development as well as on academic progress
- To ensure that pupils are making at least expected progress
- To equip pupils with the confidence to keep safe, stay healthy and take part in school life
- To ensure all pupils fulfil their full potential and that high expectations are in place for all pupils
- To begin our journey towards Nurture School status
- To ensure that all children follow Jesus by living, loving, learning and working together; are engaged in collective worship and are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Following the resignation of our previous Headteacher, governors are looking to appointment a new Headteacher to take on the leadership of our school community from September 2017. Our governors are excited about the opportunity to appoint a Headteacher, and want to work in partnership to further develop and improve the school. We are dedicated to securing the best person to take St Mary's School forward.

We want our new Headteacher to be a passionate and hardworking natural leader who shares our welcoming, inclusive, nurturing and fun ethos and has the drive and vision to move the school forward and keep it outstanding in every way. In return we will be supportive of their wellbeing, work-life balance and professional development.

If you are excited by the idea of leading our Catholic school, with its supportive, forward thinking governance, strong team and pupils who love to learn, please apply to join us. We look forward to hearing from you.