



# ST MARY'S SCHOOL HAMPSTEAD

**An Outstanding and Inspirational Catholic Education**





“Endless fun and forever-lasting friendships”  
- Emma



Welcome to St Mary's School Hampstead. We are a Catholic preparatory school, educating girls from 3 to 11 years. Here at St Mary's School we celebrate the uniqueness of every pupil and their achievements. We maintain a rigorous, challenging curriculum in a culture of care and support.

We are fortunate to belong to the St Mary's group of schools founded by Mary Ward, which includes high-achieving schools such as St Mary's Ascot.

We believe that there are four key qualities that we should instil in our girls. We encourage the children to be risk takers, not only in their play and extra curriculum activities but also in their learning. We teach the children to be resilient, not to fall at the first hurdle and to understand that through every mistake they make, the more they learn. The children at St Mary's School are respectful, not just of each other, but of themselves. Finally, we ask the children to be reflective, on their faith, their behaviour and their academic work.

You will find St Mary's School to be an unexpected oasis amidst the bustle and activity of Hampstead. If you would like to come and meet us and see the school in action, then please arrange a visit. It will be my pleasure to show you around.

Harriet Connor-Earl  
HEADMISTRESS



ST MARY'S SCHOOL  
HAMPSTEAD



*"The teachers make lessons fun but challenging"*  
- Susanna

We aim to provide the children in our care with an education that is rich and varied, places a strong emphasis on high academic achievement and meets both the National Curriculum and the Independent Schools Curriculum requirements.

We endeavour to deliver our curriculum in a way that takes account of the children's individual needs and will encourage them to develop and discover their full potential.

The St Mary's School curriculum encourages every child to stretch themselves to develop their individual talents at every stage of their learning. The curriculum is broad and enriched with many arts-related activities and sport.

We fully recognise that Computer Science and digital literacy skills are a necessary requirement for our children. We therefore use technology to support and enhance all curriculum areas and learning, through the use of laptops and iPads.



# Academic excellence

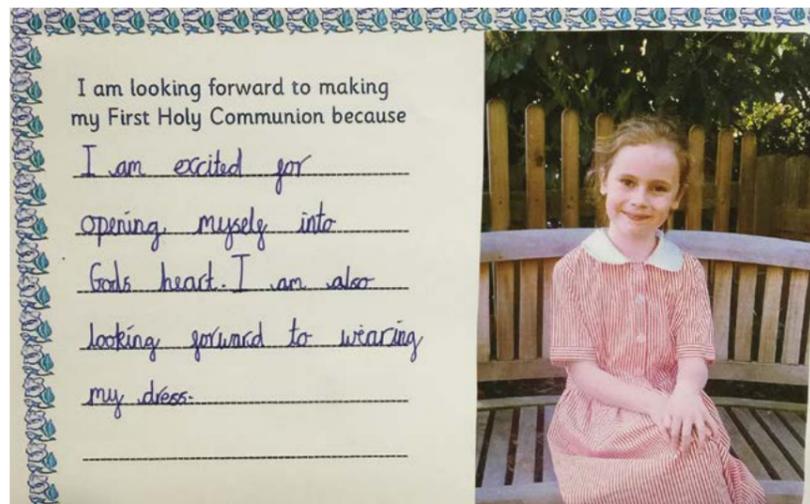


# Faith



"If God was a teacher he would teach at St. Mary's."  
- Olivia

At the centre of our school you will find our chapel, not just in physical location but in ethos and action. Jesus taught us to 'Love your neighbour' and at St Mary's School this commandment is seen in action by all the children. They all attend a service during the week and are taught about the Sacraments of the Catholic faith. The girls are also prepared for First Holy Communion in Year 3.



"Faith is very important even if we are not all Catholic"  
"Our chapel is magnificent because God is in there"  
- Hanna





*"St Mary's feels like a second home"*  
- Clara

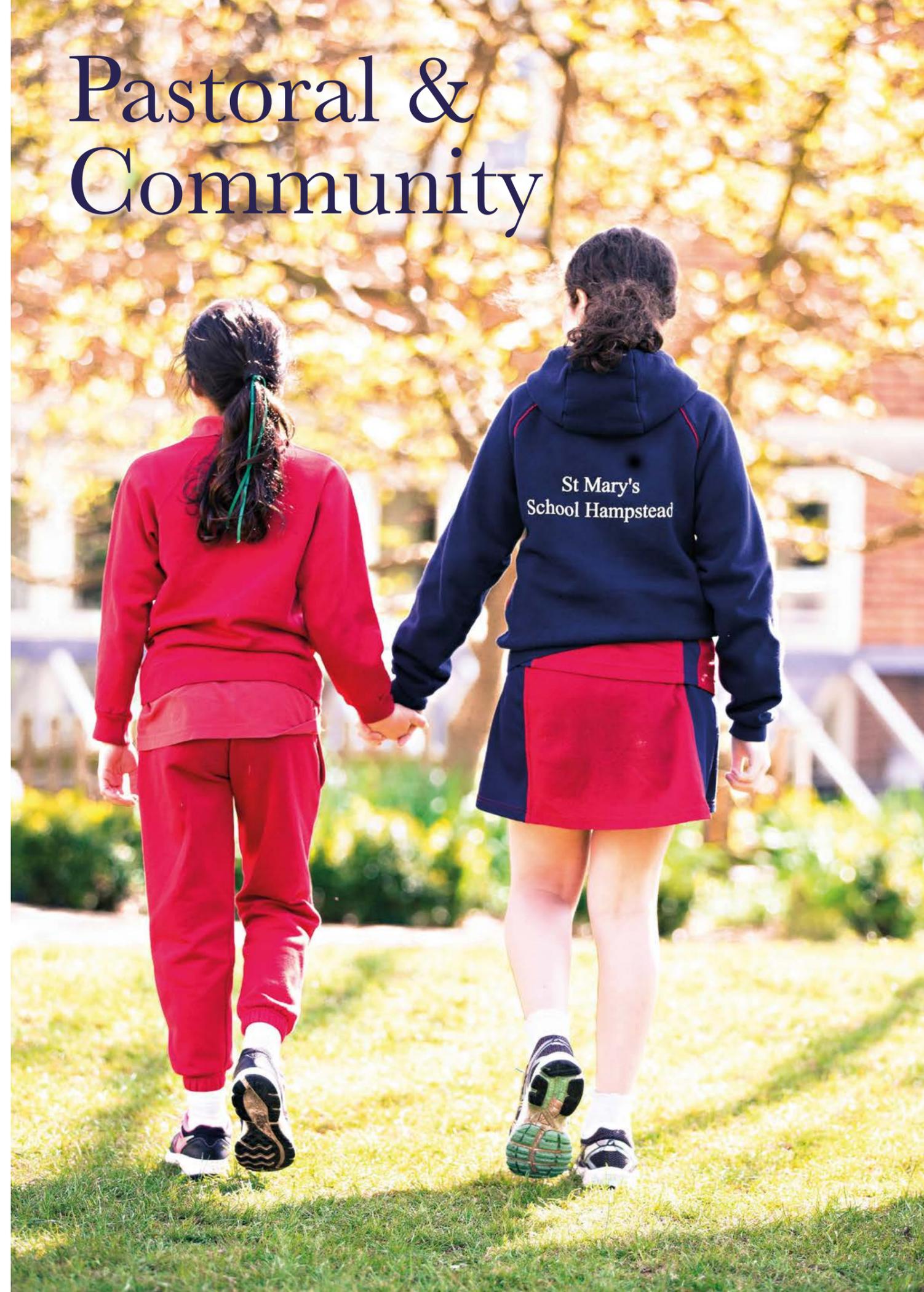
The children at St Mary's School are encouraged to follow the **St Mary's Way**. These core values are underpinned by the Catholic faith, but will find resonance with families of other faiths and beliefs:

- Treat other people as you would like to be treated
- Do your best to be your best
- Be honest and truthful
- Listen to each other
- Be kind and helpful
- Forgive
- Share

The children are based in form rooms and their Form Tutors ensure that they are happy, feel safe and are confident to learn. There is an Early Years Co-ordinator who cares for the children in Nursery and Reception. The Head of Lower School (Years 1-3) and the Head of Upper School (Years 4-6) have responsibility for the care and well-being of the children in these years.



# Pastoral & Community



# Sport



*"I love sport at St Mary's. Everyone gets a chance to do something" - Mellissa*

Sport is an essential part of life at St Mary's School. Children show great enthusiasm and an appropriate competitive spirit for the many individual and team events which are encouraged at both curriculum and club level.

Our sports programme is inclusive and in all sports we insist on whole class participation. We enjoy success across the board but are especially proud of our achievements in gymnastics. We have several gymnastics clubs as well as a squad, who excel at both national and international level.

Pupils have the opportunity to take part in tennis, hockey, netball, football, cricket, athletics, swimming and diving, dance and rounders. Girls from Year 3 to Year 6 swim at Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre on a weekly basis.

There really is something for everybody.

*"My favourite sport is gymnastics because I get to do competitions and practice them" - Tamara*





*"I like Music because it makes me feel calm in my thoughts and in my mind" - Georgia*

Music forms an important part of the curriculum and involves everyone. We believe that a love of music gained in childhood lasts a lifetime and that making music with others is a social and enjoyable experience.

The children are taught the key skills of performing, composing and appreciating a variety of musical styles. They have the opportunity to learn one or two instruments. We benefit from talented peripatetic teachers who offer individual or group tuition in pianoforte, violin, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, flute, recorder and voice. We are very proud of the results our pupils gain in external music exams.

We have three choirs: Junior Choir (Yrs 2-3), Middle Choir (Yrs 4-5) and the Chapel Choir. We also offer Wind Band and Recorder Ensemble. Choirs and soloists frequently perform in school concerts and in concerts at local venues.

Drama and role play are used across all curriculum areas, building confidence and allowing individual talents and strengths to develop. We have weekly class assemblies where all the children are encouraged to speak, sing, dance and perform in front of an audience. Throughout the year, we offer parents the opportunity to see their children perform: from the annual younger children's Nativity Concert and termly Cake Concerts, through to the more formal Carol Concert performed by the Upper School and the Year 6 end of year play. They broaden the imagination, foster creativity and develop confidence and communication skills.



# Music & Drama





"My favourite lesson is Art, because you can use your imagination to make things creatively"  
- Mariko



# Art

During their time at St Mary's School, children are introduced to a variety of creative activities including drawing, painting, printing, modelling and needlecraft and are taught how to use different materials and techniques with precision and care.

A carefully planned and thorough Art and Design curriculum encourages all children to develop their skills and allows artistic talent to shine. They are encouraged to carefully observe and record what they see; drawing, painting and creating three-dimensional work using a variety of media and stimuli.

Children participate in art exhibitions and are able to discuss their work and the work of others using appropriate vocabulary. Artwork is displayed around the school and portfolios of work are available to view on the website.



*"The library at St Mary's is excellent. I like it because it has lots of books and because it is very adorable. It is also super-cosy. There is a sofa to sit on and a pod to read books in with your friend" - Amelia*

The newly renovated library is an exciting place for the children to be. There is a wide selection of books for them to read, pods to sit in to enjoy their books and desks to work at. Fiction and non-fiction books are available for all the age ranges.

They can also explore the history of St Mary's School and learn about Mary Ward herself. Our pupils are fascinated to discover more about this woman of vision, who saw the potential for women and the need for their education. In addition, there is an area where the girls can explore prospectuses to enable them to make informed choices when selecting their senior school.



# Library



*"There is always a fun, lively atmosphere at St Mary's and everyone is always smiling" - Francesca*

Our kitchen and dining area have been recently renovated to provide a contemporary setting with a lively and vibrant atmosphere.

The Catering Team ensure that we serve a healthy, nutritious and above all tasty lunch to all the children. There is always a wide range of foods on offer; a gluten-free option and a vegetarian option are freely available. The salad bar is always popular, as are the jacket potatoes. Fresh fruit is available every day.

Teachers sit with the children to encourage good manners and engagement in conversation. Children in the Nursery eat lunch in their classrooms and they sit in small groups to encourage a sense of community.

Cookery Club is a popular activity. The girls delight in baking and creating delicious treats, which are then enjoyed by the group.



# Lunch & Food





*"I love playing tag in the green playground because it is very big"  
- Amelia*

The outdoor space at St Mary's School is extensive and the leafy playground makes it easy to forget you are in London. The children love the variety the playgrounds have to offer: watching the fish in the pond; riding the bikes in the reflective garden; playing hopscotch on the roof garden. They can read under the shade of the trees or play Duck, Duck, Goose with their friends on the hard court. The children in Nursery have their own dedicated garden, aptly named 'The Secret Garden', where they can dig in the mud, play at the water tables, dress up and spend time in the sensory room.

*"I love playing 'it' on the grass because it is so nice and shady"  
- Laura*



# Playtime





**The After School Club** at St Mary's School enables us to extend our exceptional education and care beyond the regular school day:

**8am – 6pm**

**Monday – Friday**

**Nursery to Year 6**

The After School Club provides high quality, structured and stimulating wraparound care to support working STMH families.

Led by members of the existing teaching staff, pupils benefit from a varied programme of structured activities designed to engage and delight. There is also a quiet area for children to complete their homework or reading with a teacher.

*“At St Mary's there is always a club that suits everyone and they are always super-duper fun”*  
- Rossella

The extra curricular clubs at St Mary's School change each term in order for new ones to be suggested by the girls and organised by the staff or visitors. Chess and Gymnastics remain firm favourites. The wide variety of clubs allows the pupils to mix with children of other ages and to socialise with those they may not otherwise meet during the school day. Examples include:

- Chapel Choir
- Gym
- Street Dance
- Spanish
- Science Club
- Chess
- Mandarin
- Ballet
- Fencing
- Einstein's Puzzle Club
- Drama
- Wind Band



# Clubs

*“The greatest thing about the clubs is that everyone works together and the teachers help everyone”*





*"I have enjoyed a lot of opportunities at St Mary's and I will never forget them" - Amaya*

With London on our doorstep, many trips are undertaken to support the curriculum in the classroom. The Nursery and Reception children may venture to a local supermarket or restaurant or go and see the lions and elephants at the safari park! In Year 4 the children attend their first residential trip for a night away. There is an activity week for the Year 5 pupils. In Year 6 there is a ski trip to the Alps for post-exam enrichment and a trip to France to practice their French in real situations.

At St Mary's School we believe that every pupil is different and unique and therefore the enrichment opportunities we offer should reflect this. Every child can participate in at least one experience during the year. These might include visiting the Houses of Parliament, spending time in a restaurant kitchen or even performing for the local residents in Hampstead.



# Trips & Enrichment





*“St Mary’s is a friendly, kind, spacious place with lots of exciting and fun lessons and activities, which will leave you with a long life memories” - Sybil*

Our leavers achieve impressive results, gaining offers from the best schools in the country, including **St Paul’s Girls’ School, North London Collegiate, City of London School for Girls** and **St Mary’s Ascot**. A full list of leavers’ destinations can be found on the insert included in this prospectus.

Choosing the next school for your child can be a daunting prospect. We are here to help you and we pride ourselves on our extensive knowledge of the schools available. When your son leaves, our Early Years Team can advise you on appropriate next stage schools.

Girls taking the 11+ are prepared for entry assessments and interviews; however, we also ensure that their emotional well-being is cared for. In Year 5 you will be invited to meet with Mrs Connor-Earl to discuss which schools would be suitable for your daughter. In Year 6 further meetings are held with Mrs Connor-Earl and the Year 6 team, to ensure that together we find the right school for your daughter, the one in which she will continue to thrive.

*“It’s a wonderful school and I believe my daughter leaves having received an excellent foundation in education and learning and emerges as a confident and self-resilient young lady.”*





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