



ST MARY'S SCHOOL HAMPSTEAD

An Outstanding and Inspirational Catholic Education



A Catholic Prep School educating girls from 3 to 11 years

“This is a school with a big heart.” - Good Schools Guide



Welcome to St Mary's School, Hampstead



I feel very privileged to be the current custodian of St Mary's; we are proud of our long tradition and wonderful community. Our girls are delightfully happy, oozing in confidence, self-belief, kindness, and creativity.

At St Mary's, we celebrate the value and uniqueness of every girl and rejoice in their success. We have an excellent academic track record and a rigorous, varied, creative curriculum, which serves the girls well so that they are able to access top secondary schools in London and beyond. Our extra-curricular programme also affords each girl of the opportunity for self-development and the chance to nurture her talents. We value our holistic approach and education of the whole person.

We aim to instil four key qualities in our pupils: we encourage the children to be risk-takers in their learning, their play and their extra-curricular pursuits. We teach the girls to be resilient, not to fall at the first hurdle, to "fail" well and to understand that it is from their mistakes that they will learn best. The girls at St Mary's are respectful of each other but also of themselves, underpinned by a strong sense of value and worth of every individual. Finally, we ask them to be reflective on their faith, their behaviour, and their academic work.

We are a school proud of our Catholic heritage. Part of our ethos is to welcome girls and families of all faiths and none; everyone has a place here. Our St Mary's Way is the spirit by which we live: to treat other people as you would like to be treated, to do your best to be your best, to be honest and truthful, to listen to each other, to be kind and helpful, to forgive, and to share.

Unashamedly an all-girls' school, I see the benefits of such a setting every day as the calm and focused environment allows the girls to be themselves, to take risks, and to think big. As our pioneering founder, Mary Ward, wisely said, "There is no such difference between men and women that women may not do great things."

I would be delighted to give you a tour of our exceptional school; I look forward to meeting you and your daughter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Charlotte Owen'.

Charlotte Owen
HEADMISTRESS



**Please scan here
to meet our pupils**

| A day in the life of our school

The whole school comes together at the start of each day before an exciting programme of lessons and activities.

At St Mary's, we provide our children with an education that is rich, varied and tailored to their needs to enable them to discover their full potential. The learning environment is supportive and positive, yet challenging. We believe that real learning stems from nurturing a love and curiosity for the subjects being taught. These foundations will stay with our girls throughout their lives and will be valued by universities and future employers.

A Lifelong Love of Learning

At St. Mary's School, we teach using the Creative Curriculum. This approach uses a single topic to deliver all aspects of the curriculum. By linking all of the academic subjects, learning becomes motivating, purposeful and real.

The Creative Curriculum encourages every child, at every stage of their learning, to develop their abilities and passions.

Placing creativity at the centre of our curriculum ensures our children remain at the forefront of education practices. We have seen that it enables them to take greater risks, make tangible connections in their learning and think deeply about real-world problems.





Shaping The Future

We are immensely proud of our pioneering Global Learning Centre. The space includes a cutting-edge Engineering and Robotics Lab, Virtual Reality Launch Pad, Art and Design Studio as well as a Green Room. This modern, innovative centre has been specially designed to promote STEAM at St Mary's. STEAM is a holistic approach that brings together Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths within their learning.



The benefits for our girls are wide-ranging and invaluable, including:

- **Asking** the important questions and encouraging inventive problem-solving.
- **Removing** idea inhibition...there's no wrong answer in art!
- **Improving** spatial awareness and mathematical concepts such as geometry.
- **Building** confidence through inclusive, approachable and fun teaching.

Our ambition is to prepare the girls to change the world. These multi-disciplinary skills will support them throughout the next stage of their education and beyond in an ever-changing workplace.

Spiritual reflection

All visitors who walk through the doors of St Mary's comment on the unique and special atmosphere that welcomes them. We deliver academic excellence, but also the opportunity to learn and develop in a setting that is characterised by care.

We are proud that our school community is inclusive and diverse. We embrace and celebrate families from all faiths, and none. We teach the principles and foundations of all world religions during R.E. and the children are encouraged to discuss their beliefs openly.

At the centre of the School, you will find our Chapel; not just in a physical location, but also in ethos and action. Here at St Mary's, our Catholic education is based on the Gospel values of love, kindness, friendship, generosity, forgiveness and respect.

Our pupils are actively encouraged to engage with the wider community and to enjoy the immeasurable benefit of making a positive contribution to society as a whole. At St Mary's, we put this into action by placing a significant focus on charity work and caring for the world around us.

Exploring all faiths enables us to promote greater understanding amongst our future citizens, so that they may enjoy a more tolerant and respectful society. In turn, this provides the foundations for the children's personal and spiritual growth throughout their lives.





Playtimes in our leafy oasis

The day at St Mary's is punctuated by regular playtimes. Our leafy playgrounds make it easy to forget you are in London and are located within one safe, convenient site. Uniquely for the local area, the outdoor space is extensive and this enables staff to integrate many outdoor lessons into their timetables to support the creative curriculum.

Pupils love the variety that our playgrounds offer and they are encouraged to make full use of the spaces. You will often find the girls watching the fish in the pond, riding bikes, exploring the Dell, playing hopscotch on the roof garden or counting insects in our rewilding garden. They can read under the shade of the trees, play Duck, Duck, Goose with their friends or practise their football skills on the astroturf.

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, learn from nature and spend time in the sensory room.





Creativity outside the classroom



Music, drama and art form an important part of the creative curriculum and involve everyone. From Nursery upwards, the lessons are lively, engaging, fun and of an extremely high quality.

At St Mary's, we believe that a love of music gained in childhood lasts a lifetime and that making music with others is a social and uplifting experience.

The children are taught the essential skills of performing, composing and appreciating a variety of musical styles. Our one-to-one instrument lessons are hugely popular and we nurture our young musicians from a young age. We benefit from talented peripatetic teachers who offer individual or group tuition in piano, violin, clarinet, saxophone, flute, recorder and voice. We are very proud of the superb results our pupils gain in external music exams.

Drama and role play are used across all curriculum areas, building confidence and allowing individual talents and strengths to develop. We plan weekly class assemblies where all the children are encouraged to speak, sing and dance in front of an audience.

These invaluable opportunities broaden the imagination, foster creativity and develop communication skills.

Developing sporting talent

Sport is an essential and fun part of the day at St Mary's School. The P.E. Department are passionate about inspiring children to fall in love with sport, so we provide a wide range of options to ensure they find their special talent.

Our sports programme is inclusive and every pupil from Nursery to Year 6 will participate in at least two P.E. lessons a week. The lessons are supported by a plethora of sports clubs before and after school.

We benefit from a well-equipped hall on-site for gymnastics and the spacious outside play area has been enhanced. Climbing equipment has been installed and the full-size netball court has been upgraded allowing football, rugby, cricket and tennis lessons to be introduced alongside netball, dodgeball and rounders.

The School also uses excellent local facilities such as Hampstead Heath for athletics and Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre for swimming and rock climbing.

Children show great enthusiasm and an appropriate competitive spirit for the individual and team events. Pupils also enjoy participating in many fixtures and tournaments against local schools and the School achieves considerable success across the board.





| Enriching and extending the school day

We offer a variety of School Clubs that take place before school, at lunchtime and after school to support the truly well-rounded education that our girls receive. The current club list numbers over 45!

Enrichment Clubs

Our excellent extra-curricular provision encourages pupils to stretch their imaginations. Whether academic, creative or active, pupils find their confidence.

The clubs change regularly in order for new ones to be suggested by the girls and organised by the staff or visitors. Clubs typically include chess, drama, Spanish, debating, robotics, cooking, street dance, graphic design, accounting, gymnastics, photography, Lego, Science, yoga and wind band to name but a few.

After School Club

The After School Club provides high-quality and stimulating wraparound care to support working St Mary's families until 6pm (Monday to Friday).

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



Holiday Clubs

Our Holiday Club for Nursery upwards enables us to stretch our enrichment activities beyond the regular school term and deliver an unforgettable holiday camp experience.

The children will select from an activity programme designed by our talented staff to engage and delight. There will be something for everyone, including arts and crafts, sports days, 3D printing, VR trips around the world, outdoor free play, group games and so much more.

Join us at St Mary's!

St Mary's School offers a distinctive educational experience. Your daughter will become a valued member of our thriving and kind community. St Mary's pupils care about each other and making a difference, all while having a great deal of fun every day.



Beyond St Mary's

Every year we are justifiably proud of our excellent 11+ results.

Our Year 6 leavers gain offers and Academic Scholarships from schools including Channing School For Girls, City of London School For Girls, Francis Holland School, Highgate School, North London Collegiate, South Hampstead High School, St Mary's Ascot and St Paul's Girls' School.

Become Part Of Our Community

Nothing can replace stepping through the doors of our school and meeting our vibrant pupils. To arrange your tour, please contact our Admissions Registrar: admissions@stmh.co.uk

Parents are warmly encouraged to register as early as possible.

Please visit our website for more
information about life at St Mary's:

www.stmh.co.uk



Please scan here
to visit St Mary's





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