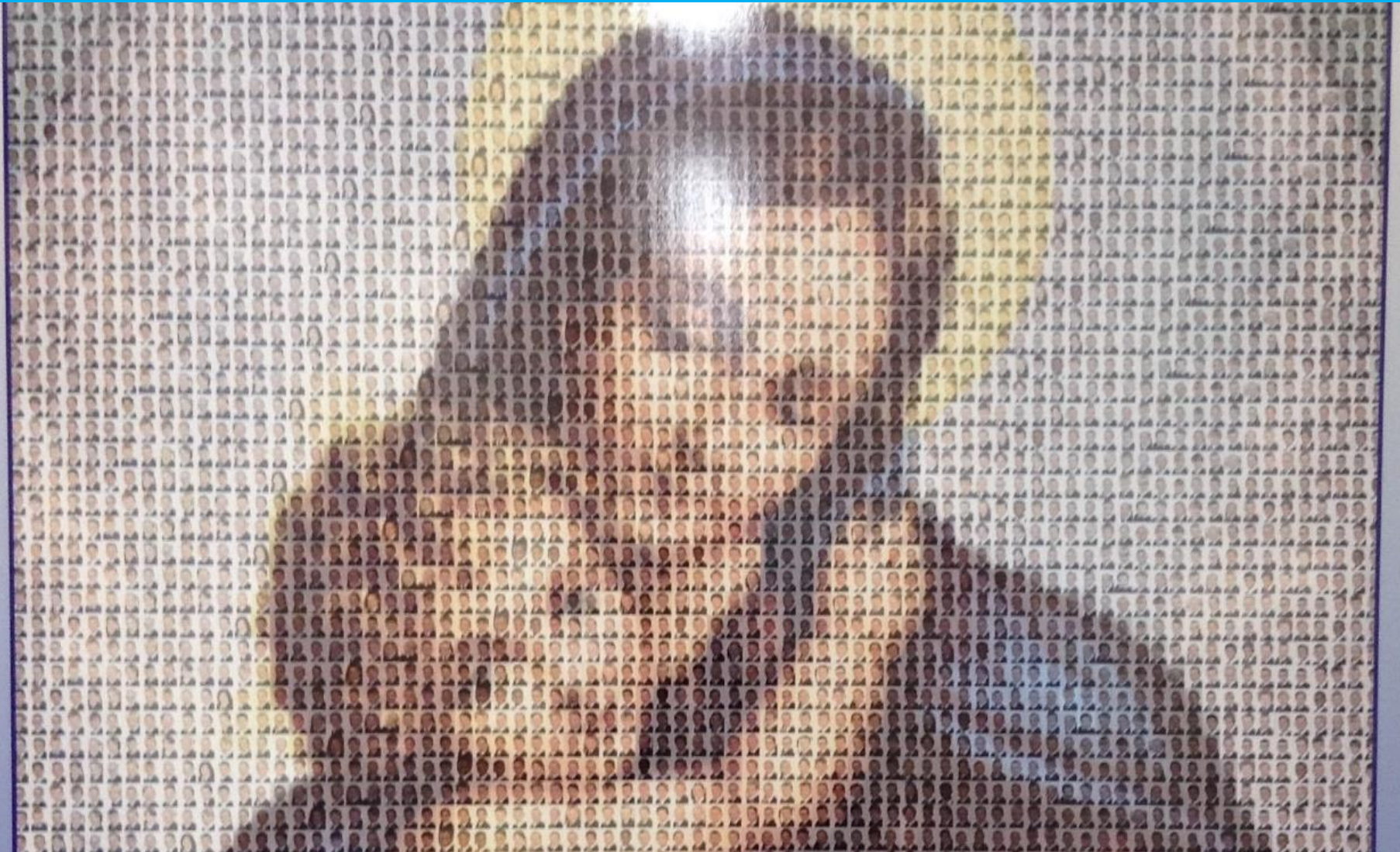




# Welcome to St Mary's Catholic Academy



# Meet the Staff



- Mrs Rathbone– Principal
- Mrs Statham – Head of School
- Miss Wallace – Nursery Teacher
- Miss Molloy - Reception Teacher / EYFS Leader
- In Addition to the Foundation Stage teachers there are currently four Early Years Practitioners
- Mrs Scarlett – Learning Mentor and Parent Support Worker



# Family Support Worker / Safeguarding



- Supports with any anxieties or challenges that children or adults are experiencing
- Works with individual and groups of children helping with barriers to learning, family difficulties, friendship issues, long term illness.
- Works with parents regarding any parenting support.



# Why choose St Mary's Catholic Academy?



- Part of the St Gabriel the Archangel Multi Catholic Academy Trust – Committed to the catholic faith and education for children aged 3 – 18 years
- Outstanding teaching and learning
- A secure, caring and happy learning environment
- High standards and expectations
- Positive relationships with children
- Open door policy
- A close and positive relationship with parents
- Enriched and extended curriculum

# Commitment to the Catholic Faith



- **Everyone is welcomed!**
- We have close links with parish
- Daily Class worship
- Participate in whole school masses
- Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Minnie Vinnies
- Discipleship team – Charity work, working with the parish
- If you would like your child to be baptised please attend mass, Saturday night or Sunday morning and speak to Father John.

# Mission Statement



Many Hearts, One Accord: "In God's love we grow and learn together to build the kingdom of God."  
(School Mission Statement)

# Positive Relationships



- **All children are welcomed**
- We value all children's unique gifts, talents and differences
- Positive behaviour strategies – achievement points, stickers, punctuality prize week, recognition boards (from Nursery – Y6)
- Relationships policy – rather than behaviour policy
- High expectations - teaching, learning, pastoral and behaviour

# Partnership with Parents at St. Mary's



***We pride ourselves on the relationships we have with our families.***

- We operate an 'Open door' policy
- You are your child's first educator
- Partnership working is essential to success – 'Evidence Me'
- Excellent attendance is encouraged through positive reinforcement
- Support for school ethos – Masses and liturgies;
- A Home-School Agreement will need to be signed
- Regular communication- diaries, weekly celebration assemblies
- Parent Voice
- Phonics, English and Maths Workshops
- Watch me learn sessions

# Enriched and Extended Curriculum



## ***We offer a full and rich extended curriculum...***

- All classes go on at least 1 trip a term to complement their current topic
- Residential trips to France, Stanley Head and Alton Castle
- Specialist peripatetic teachers - City music school
- Specialist P.E. teachers
- Breadth of after school activities [School Clubs | St Marys Catholic Primary School \(stmarysstoke.co.uk\)](#)
- City Songbirds
- Children's University
- Breakfast Club
- Wrap around child care - 7.30am – 5:45pm (offered once children are fully settled)

# Foundation Stage Curriculum- EYFS – Early Years Foundation Stage

- Prime Areas:
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Specific Areas:
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design
- RE (Spiritual and Moral)

# Learning Through Play

*At St. Mary's we are committed to ensuring that children throughout the Foundation Stage learn through play.*

This allows children to :

- Develop their independency
- Solve problems
- Develop their concentration and imagination
- Communicate with others
- Practise and build up ideas
- Learn how to control impulses
- Understand the need for rules



# Learning Through Play



- It may seem that your child talks frequently about how they play lots of games.
- This is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge.
- The ‘play’ is planned and structured with effective adult support.
- It allows children to take risks and make mistakes in a safe and secure environment.



# Flexible start to the day



In foundation stage there is a flexible start to the day. The children can come into school between 8.30am and 8.40am and finish at 3:10pm.

As the children enter the classroom, they are free to choose from a variety of independent play activities. This allows them to settle into the classroom straight away and start their learning instantly. It also provides a little time for parents to come and speak to us about any concerns they may have.

# Getting Ready For School



- Children should be...
- Using the toilet (with a little help)
- Used to using a knife and fork
- No longer be using a dummy (past the age of 12 months)
- Used to handling reading books
- Singing a number of rhymes and songs
- If your child has any special welfare requirements it is important that we know these so that we can make preparations for your child (please contact the school for further advice)

# Admissions Process – Nursery



Applications open: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Applications close: 27th February 2026

Notified: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Please apply through the Stoke on Trent Portal

[https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20033/school\\_admissions](https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20033/school_admissions)

## Admissions Criteria

- The school admission number is 30
- Please see the school website for further details

# Admissions Process – Reception



Applications open: 3rd November 2025

Applications close: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Please apply through the Stoke on Trent Portal

[https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20033/school\\_admissions](https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20033/school_admissions)

Notifications will be sent out / emailed 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Admissions Criteria

- The school admission number is 30
- Please see the school website for further details

# Admission Contact Details



- Open Monday to Thursday between 8.45am to 5pm and 8.45am to 4.30pm on Friday.
- Admissions - 01782 234598
- Email: [admissions@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@stoke.gov.uk)

## CRITERIA OF ADMISSION – NURSERY 26/27

The school admission number is 30.



If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, governors will consider applications according to the following order of priority:

1. Baptised Catholic children who are looked after or previously looked after
2. Baptised Catholic children living in the parish of Norton-le-Moors who have a brother or sister attending St. Mary's Catholic Academy at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children living in the parish Norton-le-Moors
4. Other Baptised Catholic children who have a brother or sister attending St. Mary's Catholic Academy at the time of admission.

## CRITERIA OF ADMISSION – NURSERY 26/27

The school admission number is 30.



5. Other Baptised Catholic Children who have a brother or sister attending another school in the St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT
6. Other Baptised Catholic children
7. Non-Catholic children who are looked after or previously looked after
8. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister attending St. Mary's Catholic Academy at the time of admission.
9. Non-Catholic Children who have a brother or sister attending another school in the St Gabriel the Archangel CMAT
10. Non-Catholic children.

# The Nursery Day



- All children are entitled to the universal 15 funded hours and are from 8:30 – 12:00
- If you work equivalent of 16 hours a week or more (at National minimum wage) - 30 funded hours are from 8:30 – 3:10
- If you are not entitled to 30 hours free childcare care, wish to take up 30 hours, this is charged at £10 a day.
- If you are entitled to free school meals (if you receive income support, jobseekers allowance or income related employment and support allowance) you will be offered 30 hours of free nursery education, including lunch.
- School dinners are encouraged - £2.50 per day

# Induction Process



1. Stay and Play Sessions (January 2026)
2. Induction parents meeting (June 2026)
3. Induction pack (June 2026)
4. Nursery & Reception visits (June/July 2026)
5. Setting Contacts (June/July 2026)
6. Home visits (September 2026)
7. Induction (September 2026)



St Marys Catholic Academy  
Open Morning  
Wednesday 10th December



9.30—10.30 am

Prayer Service at 9:00

(school hall - all welcome to attend)



An opportunity  
to see children  
at work and play!





# Thank You



Thank you very much for  
your interest in our school.

Please feel free to visit the school website for further  
information

School website: <http://www.stmarysstoke.co.uk/>

Alternatively, contact the school office on:

Telephone 01782 234820

Email: [office@stmarysnewman.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarysnewman.co.uk)