

**St. Mary's
Primary School
Standards & Qualities
Report/School
Improvement Plan for
Parents
2024-2025**



Our School

St. Mary's is a Roman Catholic Primary School. The current school building is 13 years old. We serve the community of Lanark and the extensive Clydesdale area stretching as far south as Abington and east to Biggar. We belong to the Holy Cross Learning Community, though our feeder school is St. Aidan's High School (NLC). Our children have the option of transferring to Lanark Grammar School and dependant on catchment, our children may attend Biggar High School or Carluke High School.

The current school role is 140 pupils split over 6 classes. We also have a Nursery Centre for children aged 2-5 years. This has a current role of 72 with a capacity for 114. The Senior Leadership Team consists of a Head Teacher, 2 part-time Principal Teachers (2 days per week) and an Early Years Depute who is responsible for the Nursery. The PT remit involves co-ordinating and developing Additional Support Needs and supporting pupil Health & Wellbeing/Nurture/Attachment. This session, class configuration allowed for: P1, P2, P3/4, P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7. Allocated teaching staffing was 4 full time fully qualified members, and 3 part time members of staff. Pupil Equity funding also provided the part time staff member for 1 additional day. 4 members of Support Staff provide pupil support throughout the school. Of our 138 pupils, 21% live within SIMD 1&2, 31% (living within varied SIMD) are in receipt of a free meal and 13% have English as an additional language and 7% are care experienced.

St. Mary's has a very unique ethos. We pride ourselves on faith traditions and our Roman Catholic beliefs permeate all aspects of school life. We have strong links with the parish of St. Mary's and our parish chaplain Fr. John-Paul plays an active and key role in the life of the school. We have an intrinsically welcoming and inclusive ethos and our pupils and staff promote our school values (based on Gospel values) in all aspects of school life. We have a strong nurturing environment for the pupils in our care and have strong school-home partnerships.

St. Mary's Vision, Values and Aims

SMALL LEGENDS

(St. Mary's are Leaders of Learning)

Vision Statement

We believe that our unique community is the best place to cultivate a legacy of excellence and equity in education, rooted in our Catholic faith. We envision a successful future for each and every one of our pupils and that they are well equipped to navigate an ever-changing world with resilience, wisdom and grace. We are committed to encouraging our pupils to be the best they can be: today, tomorrow and for years to come.

Our core values reflect those of the Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland:

Faith

Education

Kindness

Inclusive

Helping Others

Respect

Our Aims

- To provide high-quality teaching and learning experiences for our learners empowering them to discover their potential.
- To promote our strong unique Catholic ethos, creating a community of faith and learning – welcoming and inclusive to all.
- To provide a nurturing and safe learning environment for all our learners, ensuring they are well supported and cared for.
- To build strong, positive relationships between staff, pupils, parents and parish community.
- To cultivate a climate of sustainability: develop awareness of cherishing our planet, making eco-friendly choices and safe guarding nature for a greener future.

Review of '24-'25 progress/ Successes

- All staff received CLPL training in Play Pedagogy.
- All staff across the lower school agreed the format of play-based approach allows for easier identification of needs across Literacy and Numeracy.
- Feedback from Thematic Inspection in Literacy identified that high-quality Literacy experiences were delivered incorporating the play-based learning approach.

- All staff received training on the Explicit Teaching of Writing.
- Explicit Teaching of Writing resources purchase.
- All staff and pupils participated in a modelled lesson by Literacy Consultant, Stephen Graham.
- Almost all pupils made gains in Literacy attainment.
- Of equity learners identified, almost all made progress in writing following targeted input of the Explicit Teaching of Writing.

- All classes co-created class charters and have them displayed.
- All pupils given opportunities to express their views via pupil voice groups.
- P5-7 pupils participated in a series of anti-racism lessons, consistent with all schools in our Learning Community.
- Almost all parents and pupils (from survey) agreed that St. Mary's is a welcoming, inclusive school regardless of religion, skin colour or ethnicity.

- All classes developed a consistent approach in using the SLC Skills Framework.
- Pupils and staff are developing skills based language to ensure continuity throughout the school.
- All staff have completed training in Maths Recovery and the CPA approach (concrete, pictorial, abstract).
- All staff agreed they had made positive changes to their practice as a result of training.

Notable achievements

Extremely positive feedback from HMI Education Scotland following Thematic Inspection in Literacy.

Increased community profile for our Children's Choir from Parish and local Masses and events.

Equity
Continued provision of experiences for all children at no cost: swimming, Fun Day, theatre company.
Subsidised residential/pantomime trips.

Increased uptake in music tuition. 4 pupils selected to take part in IMS Play Day Performance.
Success in local sporting events: Cross Country, Clydesdale Athletics and Dance Festival.

Priorities 25-26



Continued training
and early
implementation of
The Explicit
Teaching of Writing

Continued focus on
skills and
exploration on
inquiry-based
learning.

Sustained focus on
raising attainment
in Literacy and
Numeracy for
identified learners
not already on
track.

Continued focus on
equality and diversity,
creating an inclusive
ethos to honour the
life, dignity and voice
of each person made
in the image of God