



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

A doorway to a life of love and learning in the light of Christ.



Headteacher Candidate Pack



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"Staff promote high standards of behaviour and are excellent role models, treating children with genuine care and respect... As a consequence, the school is a supportive and joyful community."

R.E. Inspection, March 2019



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Welcome from the Chair of Governors

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. We are delighted that you are considering an application to our school.

The motto of our school is "A doorway to a life of love and learning in the light of Christ", and this is firmly embedded in the principles and ethos of the school. This Catholic ethos informs the teaching, learning and life opportunities that are given to our children. As such St Mary's is a school that embraces and values a broader sense of education, striving to develop each child's full potential in all areas – spiritual, religious, moral, creative and academic.

Our school has close links to the Parish church of The Immaculate Conception, which is located a short distance from the school. The church contributes to the Catholic Life of the school and offers a warm welcome to many of our families.

If you join us at St Mary's School, you will be supported by a caring, professional and dedicated staff team, a wonderful pupil body, and supportive and committed governors, PTFA and parents.

We invite you to visit the school to learn more about us and we would very much welcome your application.

Your sincerely,

Sean Taylor

Chair of Governors

Welcome from Canon John Batthula

Dear Applicant,

St Mary's Catholic Primary School serves the vibrant Parish of the Immaculate Conception, where the parents with their children actively participate in the life of the parish. St Mary's Catholic Primary School has a strong reputation for providing high quality Catholic education.

As a Catholic school, we seek to live out the values of Jesus Christ. "A doorway to a life of love and learning in the light of Christ" is our School motto which underpins everything we do at St Mary's. We promote these values through our words and deeds recognising that every child is unique and is created in the image of God. Jesus told us to "Love one another as I have loved you" and this reminds us every day to go the extra mile for the children within our care.

We are very much blessed to have such a talented and hard-working staff who provide an outstanding quality of care and education and who encourage all children to aspire to achieve their very best. With confidence I can say that St Mary's Catholic Primary School governors, staff, children and community is seeking a passionate and energetic leader who will inspire staff and pupils to achieve their educational and life goals through effective strong leadership and practice.

It is essential that the Headteacher leads the school by example of his/ her own personal faith, high expectations and work ethic.

I look forward to working with you and supporting you in your vocation as Headteacher.

God bless you

Your sincerely,

Canon John Y Batthula

Parish Priest

"A doorway to a life of love and learning in the light of Christ".



About St Mary's Catholic Primary School

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a thriving school with 7 classes. The age range of pupils is 4- 11 years old. The current number on roll is 248. We are lucky to be a diverse school with a multitude of languages and cultures, with families from every corner of the world. Our Catholic ethos inspires everything we do and emanates a distinct atmosphere of peace, love and respect.

St Mary's is located in the growing town of Bicester, close to the city of Oxford and home to the popular Bicester Village retail outlet. Bicester has excellent transport links to Birmingham and London. The catchment area is large, but most pupils live in the immediate vicinity. The grounds and facilities provide the children with excellent outdoor space and facilities. It sits on a parcel of land surrounded by two other schools and a nursery and is directly across from the Bicester Leisure Centre which comprises a gym, squash courts, a multi-use indoor sports court and a large 25m heated swimming pool.

The grounds include three playgrounds: one for Early years and one each for Key Stages 1 and 2. Each of the outdoor playgrounds boasts a state-of-the-art outdoor sound system which was paid for by the PTFA and is used to play uplifting music every morning to welcome students to school, "encouraging children to sing and dance." (OFSTED, January 2023). The grounds also comprise a Prayer Garden with a shrine to Our Lady, which also has its own sound system for use in the warmer months when Holy Mass is held outdoors. A wooded nature area complements the site, while a running track loops the school building. Outdoor libraries are widely used at break times. There is a newly refurbished outdoor climbing frame for EYFS and a large pergola which can host a whole classroom for outdoor lessons.



The School is built around its hall, which serves both as a dining hall as well as a space for performances, Mass, assemblies and during inclement weather or winter months – various activities. There is also an indoor climbing frame which folds out in minutes and is very popular with the older students. The hall has recently (Easter 2023) had its entire sound system upgraded to a fully digital system, once again funded by the PTFA, together with soundproofing panels installed to minimise echoing and background noise. It also boasts a rack of lighting equipment for cultural performances.



The strong relationship between the school and its dedicated PTFA means that events are frequent and fun, with the school community as a whole encouraged to contribute and participate in the events, whilst raising funds for the improvement of school facilities.

The school also provides a variety of After School Clubs and a possibility to sign up for a variety of extracurricular activities which are very popular with our pupils. The selection of clubs changes term by term, giving pupils the opportunity to explore various areas of interest including, but not limited to, Music Lessons, iRock, Multi-Sports, Football, Outdoor Arts and Crafts, Choir, Eco and Gardening Club. There is also a breakfast club called “High Flyers”.

St Mary’s serves the growing parish of The Immaculate Conception in Bicester and has strong community links with the parish. We enjoy a high attendance amongst the school community in Church with a large number of Altar Servers.

Achieving excellent pupil behaviour outcomes has contributed to St Mary’s consistent academic success, most recently having outperformed the national average in all 2022 SATS results, see table below. A recent (January 2023) OFSTED inspection confirmed the good status of the school:

“Leaders, staff and pupils live out the strong values of St Mary’s School. Leaders are ambitious for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Overall, their high expectations for pupils are met. Pupils are confident, successful learners who benefit from a well-rounded education.”

“Pupils are keen to learn. Leaders’ high expectations for behaviour are understood throughout the school. This begins in the early years, where children carefully follow well- established routines. Classes are calm and purposeful. Pupils are able to concentrate fully on their learning.”

“Leaders place pupils’ well-being at the heart of all that they do. Consequently, pupils feel safe. They love coming to school.”

St Mary’s is a feeder school for Blessed George Napier Catholic Secondary School in Banbury (BGN), part of the Pope Francis MAC. BGN is consistently over-subscribed.



Headteacher Job Description & Person Specification

Headteacher

Indicative Salary Range (ISR): L15 - L21

Responsible to: The Governing Body

Responsible for: All staff within the school



For further info and to view the Job Description and Job Specification, please access via the button below:

[View Job Description and Person Specification](#)

ACADEMICIS

How to Apply

Further information about our school is available on our school website: <https://st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk/>

Applicants are actively encouraged to visit the school prior to application. To arrange a visit please contact Rachel Santime, our recruitment partner at Academicis at rsantime@academicis.co.uk or telephone on 07733628155.

If you would like to discover more about this exciting opportunity, need any further information or you wish to have an informal discussion, please contact our retained consultant at Academicis, Rachel Santime: rsantime@academicis.co.uk or 01223 907979 / 07733628155.

Please email your application to rsantime@academicis.co.uk

Closing date: Monday 9th October 2023

Shortlisting: Wednesday 11th October 2023

Interview dates: W/C 16th October 2023



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Queen's Avenue, Bicester OX26 2NX