

**Letter from the Chair of the Academy Council**

St Mary's is a Catholic primary school that serves the Roman Catholic parish of St Mary's, Knaresborough. It takes children from age 4 (Reception) to 11 (Year 6) in one form of entry and currently has approximately 200 pupils on roll. Although the majority of the school's pupils are Catholic, St Mary's welcomes applications from families of other faiths, who require a faith-based education for their child within a Christian context.

St Mary's is a partner school within the Bishop Wheeler Multi-Academy Trust, established by the Diocese of Leeds. The governance of the school is overseen by an Academy Council, which operates, in accordance with the requirements of the Trust. This council works with the school leadership, consisting of an executive headteacher shared with St Joseph's, Harrogate and the St Mary's head of school, together with all members of the school staff to ensure that the school achieves its goals and retains its distinctive Catholic identity.

St Mary's seeks to be a true community, where every single person is supported, cared for and valued for what they bring into the school. At the heart of the school is its distinctive, Catholic nature, where the children are nurtured in their Faith, following the teachings of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The school is also proud that it achieves good outcomes for its pupils, above the local and national norms, and that children are very well prepared for the next stages of their education. In its last annual review, the school was graded as at least good in all aspects, with a strong, Christian ethos being a particular strength. The school provides a caring, welcoming, and orderly environment for learning and development and the vast majority of the children seem genuinely happy at the school and make very good progress.

We hope that you find this website informative and helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any further information. The headteachers and I can all be contacted through the school if you have any issues or questions that you wish to raise.

Paul Jackson  
Chair of the Academy Council  
November 2016.