

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School
Great Barr, Birmingham



School Prospectus 2024



Welcome to St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Part of the St John Bosco Multi Academy Company



*Proudly and Joyfully, we Love, Live
and Learn as God's Children*



Welcome from the Principal

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School is a family school whereby partnerships with parents is of paramount importance to us. We believe that St. Mark's school is special and the relationships we have developed with our children, our families and our Parish community have enabled us to create a friendly, inclusive, caring and supportive atmosphere.

As the Principal of St. Mark's, I want nothing but the very best for ALL the children who attend school here. I have strong morals and values rooted in my Catholic beliefs and I strive to ensure the children at St. Mark's not only receive a first class formal education but also a spiritual, moral, social, vocational and cultural one too.

I am very proud that we have so many talented and confident children at St. Mark's who have helped make our school a better place to love, live and learn together.

In order for every child to fulfil their God-given potential, I, along with all the staff work hard to provide the best possible quality of care and education to all our children and we constantly review our provision so that we continue to get better and better. We have a dedicated team of governors who work in partnership with myself and the school leadership team to help St. Mark's school succeed in achieving all its aims and objectives.

Our mission statement - Proudly and joyfully, we love, live and learn as God's children - is at the heart of everything we do here in school.

I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into life at St. Mark's Catholic Primary School, however should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or arrange a visit to our school.

Mrs Linley

Principal

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School
Almond Croft
Great Barr
Birmingham
B42 1NU
Telephone Number
0121 357 9892

Email: enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk

Website: <https://www.stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk>

The Governing Body of St. Mark's

The school is governed, in accordance with the City's Instrument and Articles of Government for the Archdiocese of Birmingham Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools, by a Governing Body comprising of:-

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Chair of Governors | Mr. S. Warner |
| Foundation Governors | Mrs. P. Gordhan |
| | Mr. D. Hennessy |
| Parent Governor | Dr. B. Awoyemi |
| | Mrs M. Stanisz |
| | Mr L. Collins |
| Principal | Mrs. D. Linley |
| Teacher Governor | Miss. M. Dorsett |
| Clerk | SIPS |

The governing body's responsibility is to **approve the strategic vision for the school** working in partnership with the Principal promoting continuous improvement in the performance of the school whilst adhering to the Catholic ethos of the school.



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM



Catholic Education Service
Supporting Catholic Education Since 1847

Our Mission

Proudly and Joyfully, we Love, Live and Learn as God's Children.

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School values all children for their unique gifts and talents. Each child is encouraged to reach his or her full potential, academically, socially and spiritually.

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Children are nurtured and supported as they grow to become curious, confident and independent learners, who work hard and aim high.

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All are welcomed into our happy, caring Catholic school community, which has the Christian values of love, patience, generosity, kindness and mutual respect at its heart.

The school aims to:

- Provide a Catholic setting for the development of the curriculum
- Develop and maintain in each individual their faith as a personal, living experience.
- Ensure that the pupils' experience of love and respect within the school has a formative and significant influence on their understanding of relationships.
- Encourage active partnership with home, parish and school and so prepare children to be responsible, caring members of the community.

To achieve these aims, the school will:

- Ensure that visual aspects will be obviously Catholic and that the ethos of the school will be based on the command to love, which will be reflected in the relationships between pupils, staff, parents and parish.
- Encourage the daily involvement of everyone in meaningful, active and joyful worship.
- Recognise and develop moral obligations to each other and follow Christ's example.
- Inform and involve the community in all aspects of school life.
- Extend links with other faith communities

Our Catholic Faith

We are part of the parish community of Holy Name of Jesus, Great Barr. Children and families gather to celebrate mass on a regular basis with our parish priest, Fr. Vincent who also visits school to support learning and development of children's faith.

Sacramental Preparation

In year 3, we prepare our children, with the support of families and parish, to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

In years 5 and 6, our children make the decision to affirm their faith and prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Daily Prayers

Prayer is a special part of our daily lives as we talk to Jesus. Each day begins with the morning prayer to ask for help throughout each day. We thank God for our food at lunchtimes and for a successful day of learning before we finish our school day. All prayers are available on the website.

Catholic Social Teaching

At St Mark's, we believe in inspiring children to love learning with Jesus as our guide. We place Christ at the centre of all we do. We are a caring Christian community as an extension of home, where children feel confident and secure, valued by all and helped to become caring, successful members of the community.

Inclusion - A school for ALL

We are proud of our inclusive community which ensures that everyone experiences support, tolerance, respect and understanding in our school. We regularly celebrate different cultures, learn other languages and visit other places of worship.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

We understand that each child is an individual, who will have their own particular needs, gifts and talents. We are committed to providing high quality provision and support for all pupils regardless of ability. There will be regular reviews to check progress. Where appropriate a referral to an external agency may be arranged. You can find out further information about our SEND provision on our school website - please take a look.



School Hours

The school gates open at 8.30am and close at 8.45am each morning and children can go directly into school. Mrs. Linley welcomes children into school each morning on the gate. On entry to school, children have morning activities prepared by class teachers for the children to complete.

School begins at 8.30 a.m. and ends at 3.15pm. All children have a morning break of 15 minutes and lunch break of 45 minutes.



Helping Hands Before and After School Club

Breakfast Club - 7.30am - 8.45am

After school Club - 3.15pm - 6:00pm

<https://www.helpinghandschildcare.co.uk/>



Uniform Expectations

We expect to see all children in our school uniform which makes them look smart and encourages them to take pride in St Mark's and feel that they belong to the community; it also promotes positive attitudes to learning.

Winter

- White polo shirt with embroidered emblem
- Red sweatshirt with embroidered emblem
- Grey trousers or pinafore/skirt (woollen tights may be worn)
- Shoes (not trainers or boots)

Summer

- Red checked dress
- Socks (nylon tights are not allowed)
- White polo shirt and trousers
- We request pupils wear a hat/cap in hot weather (red baseball cap with school emblem)
- Reading bag, with emblem
- Pump bag, with emblem

For P.E. your child will need a pair of black shorts, red t-shirt (with emblem) and a pair of slip on pumps (available from any supplier).



School Meals and Snacks

At St Mark's we promote a healthy eating environment. Children are offered a choice of nutritionally balanced hot meals every day through the school catering service. From Reception to Year 2, all children receive a free school meal, or may bring in a healthy lunch box from home.

At break times, children are encouraged to eat a healthy snack brought in from home.

Children are expected to bring a bottle of water to keep hydrated throughout the day.

Learning for Life

St. Mark's School is a place for much more than academic learning. We are a community whereby every child can develop their unique talents and gifts. Our school is a place where we hope to enrich every child with the spiritual awareness and social skills needed to become caring, confident, responsible and valued members of our ever-changing society. At St. Mark's we place great emphasis on developing the skills of respect, sharing and co-operation that we believe are essential to every child's development.

Pastoral Development

Every child will meet and get to know many people in our school community - some will be members of staff but the majority will be other children. The way in which we care for each other is based on Christian values and teachings. Our school code of conduct ensures that each child is cared for not just by staff but by every other child too. At the heart of all that we do is respect for themselves, other people and the world in which we live.

We believe that by creating a loving and caring environment every child and adult can be happy and flourish. Children are encouraged to live out this ideal in the same way that a parent encourages it at home.

We reward good behaviour and have sanctions when behaviour is in breach of our expectations. In these matters all staff strive to be compassionate and fair. However, we are also firm in our desire to provide a safe and happy school for all children. This is not something upon which we feel that we can compromise. This can best be achieved when parents and school work together in caring for each child.

Discipline within the school is firm but fair, and is built upon a message and encouragement of mutual respect. Responsible behaviour by all children is encouraged.

We need to share the same goals and values and co-operate in overcoming any difficulties that may arise. It is for this reason that the 'Home-School Agreement' is so important. Every child's happiness depends upon the home school relationship.

A copy of the home school agreement is contained in home school planners and parents are requested to sign the agreement at the start of every new academic year.

Curriculum Intent

It is our intent at St. Mark's to provide our children with an engaging, exciting and empowering curriculum that equips them with the skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to be life-long learners.

We want our children to know that there is no limit to what they can achieve and we work hard to ensure that all of St. Mark's children fulfil their God-given potential.

Our school mission statement '*Proudly and Joyfully, we Love, Live and Learn as God's Children*' is at the heart of everything we do. The Gospel values and Catholic social teaching is heavily featured in our curriculum because we believe our children must learn how to live as responsible global citizens, treating people with dignity, regardless of their culture, ability, background or religion and to know that they have a voice and they can make a difference in the world.

Our curriculum intent includes giving children a range of opportunities and experiences to not just learn about the Catholic faith but more importantly; how to use their faith to help make the world a better place.

Every child at St. Mark's is recognised as a unique individual. We celebrate and welcome differences within our diverse school community. The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values with a vision to prepare our children for life beyond primary school. We constantly provide enrichment opportunities to engage learning and foster a love of learning.

Communication

Communication with parents is very important to us at St. Mark's. Parents are welcomed into the school at mutually convenient times to learn more about their children's progress and to celebrate their successes. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year (both formal and informal) to meet together and get to know each other. Every child has a school pupil planner and these are checked daily by staff. Any messages written by parents, will be read by staff and a prompt response will be given.

To keep parents updated on developments in school, we release a school newsletter every Friday. This is emailed to parents on a Friday and uploaded onto the school website for all to see. We communicate with parents via email, text, letter, telephone and in person. We hold parents' evenings in October, every year to ensure we meet with parents early into the new school year to discuss and share children's success, progress and targets so that we can work together effectively throughout the year.

Safeguarding

At St. Mark's Catholic Primary School, we take Safeguarding very seriously and we feel it is important that we work together with parents, carers, families and agencies to help to keep all the children at school safe and well.

Parents/carers are asked to not be offended if we seem to be asking questions - we are doing our job and adhering to our 'Duty of Care' in making sure that our children are happy and safe both in and out of school.

Our belief is that, 'it could happen here' and the children's best interest is our priority.

We work with multi-agencies where necessary to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people. Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy applies to all staff, volunteers and visitors to our school as safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

We follow the Safer Recruitment Policy and the Department of Education guidance: 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. We have a Health and Safety Policy for the practical protection of children and staff and site inspections are conducted on a regular basis by the Caretaker, Leadership team and the Governing Body.

You can find out more on how we promote a culture of safeguarding on our school website - <https://www.stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

Friends of St. Mark's

Friends of St Mark's are an integral part of the school and have continuously been successful in raising funds and hosting many events within the community. It is mostly made up of parents and carers of the school. They organise events for the children and local community to enjoy and then use the money raised to provide resources the children may not otherwise have had.

Can you help?

The committee are always looking for new members, new ideas and new helpers. Getting involved with Friends of St. Mark's is a great way to meet other parents, carers and to make new friends!

If you would like to help or be a part of the Friends of St. Mark's in any way at all, from helping out occasionally at events, contributing ideas or joining the committee please contact them!

You can get in touch by:

- Leaving your details with the school office

Please note: The aim of this prospectus is to give you a flavour of St. Mark's, if you would like to gain further insight into our school, please contact us for a visit.

Please get in touch with us by any of the following methods. We are always pleased to hear from you.

Address

St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Almond Croft

Great Barr

Birmingham

B42 1NU

Telephone Number

0121 357 9892

Email

enquiry@stmarkrc.bham.sch.uk

Contacts

Mrs S Hussain, Office Manager - for enquiries from parents and the public

Mrs D Linley, Principal

Mrs S Dykes, SENDCo

Mr S Warner, Chair of Governors

Please make contact via the school telephone number. To write to our Chair of Governors, please send your letter to the school address above.