



Care, Grow and Flourish
in God's Loving Hands

Parent Survey

February 2024:

Qualitative responses
and developments

Here is our revised school vision: 'Care, grow and flourish in God's loving hands.'

What is your child's experience of this at school? Do you have any comments about this vision statement?

- *My child feels care and 'being loved' in school.*
- *My children have become more confident and have developed so much more than I thought they would in such a small time, and the attention to detail with each individual child is so comforting to see as a parent. Both of my children love coming to school and are always happy when I pick them up and they are always excited to tell me about the wonderful things they've done at school that day.*
- *My child is cared for and helped to learn and grow.*
- *My child's experience in society's education system has been a challenge for him but St Mary's is definitely the perfect family for his education to take place, they have adapted the curriculum right around his individual needs and done everything in their might to provide him with all he needs and more to grow and flourish. Beautiful vision statement!*
- *My child is learning to be more caring towards others.*
- *He is well cared for in a nurturing environment and support and guidance is given for his holistic needs.*
- *I am really proud that my daughter is part of this mission.*
- *It has shaped my child's attitude to become and caring individual and feel part of a community.*
- *All my children love the school, their teachers, headteacher and all school staff. It's their second home, where they feel heard, loved and understood.*
- *We can see our children experience this vision on a daily basis. It sums up St. Mary's perfectly. The care our children receive by all adults at school is wonderful. They will often comment on small things that have happened at school, which clearly make them feel very special. For example, going to see Mrs Constantinou to show a piece of learning they have worked hard on, and the class teachers texting to say one of them did some great work in class, is such a highlight and makes them feel very happy and valued. The adults know our children so well and draw on their interests at any opportunity, for example, our son in Year 5 loves nature and recently came home very excited because he'd been praised for knowing the name of an unusual bird that had been spotted outside of the classroom window. He loved that the class were given time to observe the woodpecker and discuss it.*
- *It's also clear to see that the children at St. Mary's are encouraged to care for each other and show kindness. They learn to 'disagree wisely' which is such an important skill to take with them through life.*
- *We can see our boys growing and flourishing in so many ways as they make their journey through the school, and it's wonderful to see this as a parent. There's nothing better than seeing your child so excited and happy about their learning and wanting to share what they've done at school. The many enrichment opportunities they're given help them to grow and flourish too, for example, exciting school trips, productions, Choir sessions and singing in the community, piano lessons, workshops and the list goes on.*
- *We know from comments my children make that they feel very cared for and safe at school, and that St. Mary's Christian values underpin this.*

- *This reflects very well with the way St Mary's is run*
- *The school is definitely strongly focused on pastoral care and high expectations for behaviour*
- *It shows in the care and love that radiates in the school. It's like one big family.*
- *My daughter loves to recite the School vision. It makes her feel proud to be part of the school*

January 2023 areas for further development linked to school vision from parent survey	Action since January 2023
A slight question mark about caring for God's creation, this should perhaps be prioritised given the effect the climate crisis will have on their future.	The focus for our collective worship in Autumn 2023 was 'Heart for the Earth'. As part of this, we explored the book of Genesis and reflected on the concept of climate justice. We held a climate justice exhibition as part of a Christian Aid project. This reflective work continued in our Hope-anuary initiative.
School could give more recognition for individual achievements, particularly extra-curricular ones, outside of the weekly specials. This could boost excitement, pride and determination	We reminded parents in newsletters about sharing achievements outside of school. Since then, many children have shared achievements outside of school during collective worship e.g. music/swimming certificates, sporting trophies/medals, scouts/cubs/brownies badges, fundraising efforts etc.

As a church school, daily collective worship is a valuable and special part of the day. Please comment on your child's experience of collective worship and our focus values e.g. what does your child say about collective worship/focus values/prayers/hymns?

- *Our children really do enjoy collective worship, for many reasons. They like the whole school being together in the same place. They enjoy learning about other places and what might be going on in the world. It's lovely to hear about the value that is the current focus because then we can refer to it at home. They often mention if they answered a question in Worship and it's clear this makes them feel proud. They LOVE singing in Worship and we'll sometimes hear them singing certain hymns they've learnt, in the bath at home!! Our oldest loves 'Christ be our Light' and our youngest loves 'Shine Jesus Shine'. Specials Worship on a Friday is always an exciting time too.*
- *My children have learnt a lot through worship at school and love coming home and practicing the same values which is beautiful to see.*
- *My child finds the daily worship pleasant and instructive, often quoting some phrases from the worship at home, such as "may the light of Christ, shine in our hearts". I believe the daily worship is an invaluable part of their learning experience at St. Mary's.*
- *He learns new things that can help in him developing as a person.*
- *My child talks about God and worship at home which is lovely and has loved visiting St Mary's and East Barnet church and talks about this. [Brookside Methodist Church]*
- *My son enjoys collective worship, he particularly likes the singing and often sings hymns to himself at home.*

- *They seem to enjoy it and often sing some of the hymns, and are learning about how to pray (the teaspoon prayer!)*
- *My child tells me he loves it, he is understanding the unity with the Holy spirit and having the Lord as part of our daily life.*
- *Our children really enjoy collective worship, especially on a Tuesday when the whole school get together. Learning different stories from the bible is also proving to be beneficial and often discussed at home.*
- *He loves the music and often sings the hymns at home.*
- *My child uses the values vocabulary within his everyday speech, showing a genuine understanding of the values in context.*
- *Our son enjoys the singing and stories in collective worship. He will often tell us the message behind the story.*
- *It encourages my daughter to ask questions about her own faith and our values as a family.*
- *He values it and associates it with his St Mary's church experience.*
- *Can recite the Lord's prayer word for word. It is the highlight of his week. I feel he truly understands the meaning and importance of it*

January 2023 areas for further development linked to collective worship from parent survey	Action since January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can sometimes be less interesting and not exciting</i> • <i>Could be more interactive</i> • <i>I don't know what focus values are so cannot comment</i> • <i>I understand how it is a special part of the day but how much curriculum time does this take up?</i> 	<p>Collective worship has become more interactive and now includes more opportunities for children to participate and lead e.g. hope committee, children dressing in role for Bible stories.</p> <p>Parents and carers are reminded about the important purpose and focus of collective worship in regular newsletters. We have shared outcomes of worship e.g. class prayers, reflections and comments. We have also shared activities for home reflection linked to focus values.</p>

We are very proud of whole school initiatives like our climate justice exhibition and the work of the hope committee on 'hope-anuary'. Please comment on the impact these have had on your child if you feel able to

- *My child loved taking part in hope-anuary, making bird houses and putting out food to help the birds, personal message from head teacher was lovely and a sticker which he loved and was very proud of that he did so well. Thank you.*
- *I think these tasks are a great way of getting children and parents to work together and thing about important topics that affect our lives and communities.*
- *My children are still quite young so don't understand it in full but have started recycling things and talking about it at home, which is both helpful for me but also it's wonderful to see what a positive impact the school has had on them already.*

- *We're really pleased that sustainability is a key focus at the school and all of these initiatives are inspiring and valuable for our child.*
- *It helped the children to reflect on the way they complete day to day tasks and how they treat others around them.*
- *My child now asks lots of questions based on the initiative so it has sparked curiosity*
- *These activities have been extremely impactful, not just for my children, but also for us, as parents. They have given us focus and more meaningful material/discussions to have with the children, reflecting on important things. We continue to talk about hope-anuary at home, we have converted it into hope-annually :-)*
- *The climate justice initiative was amazing!! It inspired lots of discussion at home and prompted us to act on things, like turning off lights and taps to save energy and water. It was so lovely to see the children's work exhibited in the hall and see how happy this made them. Similarly, the hope-anuary home learning was fantastic because it encouraged us as a family to discuss and do things that inspire hope (which is a lovely focus to have during such unsettling and uncertain times in the world right now). We loved thinking about a 'hope-filled future' and doing mindful things to help our wellbeing.*
- *Hope-anuary has encouraged my child to be a better person.*
- *Raising issues such as climate justice is excellent. And my Y1 son's new favourite phrase is "that's not good for the environment"*
- *My daughter is a member of hope committee and I get to hear about the amazing work St Mary's is involved in*
- *These projects have increased understanding and broadened the learning of the children*

Any other comments or questions:

What's working well:

- *My children and I love St Mary's and can't fault anything from the classes, to lunch, to PE and everything and everyone in-between. I know a lot of parents in Barnet and surrounding area whose children go to other schools and I thank God that this is the school my children go to, as they have progressed so well and well, really do live up to their school vision.*
- *I'm very happy with how my SEN child has integrated and included in the school and all activities*
- *Thank you to the headteacher, teachers and staff for working together and helping to sort out the issues occurring at the start of the school year with my child being hurt by another child. Because of this, I have noticed over the last couple months that my child is happier, wanting to go to school and is enjoying being there which wasn't the case at the start. I hope this continues.*
- *I can't thank everyone at St Mary's enough for all they do for both xxx and myself, the prayers, support, care and teaching is so genuine. I also thank the Lord that we weren't sent to any other school as I don't think xxx would have been supported and loved quite the same way as at St Mary's.*
- *Just wanted to say, on the questions I have answered as disagree, this is not a shortcoming of the school at all, but rather our child's own challenges related to learning. As before, we are much appreciative of the SEN support given to him at school*

and we feel the school is doing all they can to help him. Our special thanks to his class teachers and Mrs Williams.

- *Thank you for all you do at St Mary's - for recognising the holistic child.*
- *I just appreciate and thank you for all the hard work you do for the school and the children. Your successes are increasing day by day.*
- *We couldn't ask for a better school. Caring, supportive staff, and equally lovely children. They are a testament to the school.*
- *The school has a special and unique community it's lovely to be a part of.*
- *We are proud of our School and all its staff. It is all that we had hoped for, for our children, and more. It is incredibly touching to see and feel the kindness, love and support our children get from their teachers/headteachers and all staff, despite their very different and individual needs. The ethos and values of the School, and which the teachers help to instill within the kids, are powerful. This School is so special and we feel lucky to be part of its wonderful community.*
- *I really value my own experiences, as a parent, with the school and staff. The amount of effort and passion that goes into school fairs, the staff presence and interaction, not to mention looking like they are enjoying it at the same time. It's wonderful to see. And the Christmas productions; another great showcase of a staff who work hard together, clearly go way above and beyond to put on a fantastic and inclusive performance, and Maria Constantinou being the inspirational and engaging headteacher she is. Her genuine love and care for the pupils, staff and school is there for all to see, and it's wonderful. Thank you to all at St. Mary's for making it such a special experience for our boys.*
- *A fantastic school*
- *The staff try extremely hard every day to make sure the children are safe, happy and understood. They know the children all by name*

Comments about further developments and improvements:

- *Can there be an option for homework to be returned to the school, then it will always be on time*
- *Is there any way of finding out the reason why a child has got a special mention?*
- *Would love after school club and any additional activities after school to finish at 5:30 in order to cater for working parents.*
- *It would be really useful for the church visits to be added into the calendar so volunteers can arrange the dates in advance.*
- *Once or twice I have emailed first thing in the morning about another parent picking up my child at home time, and the message hasn't been passed on to the teacher. It would be helpful if these messages could always be passed onto the teacher please*
- *It would also be great to have some more options for paid after school clubs on site as there is not a great deal on offer and those that are get full very quickly. Thanks very much.*

All of the above will go into strategic evaluations and where possible, will inform future planning and actions at St. Mary's School.

Take a look on the next page to see how we have actioned the 2023 areas for development.

January 2023 areas for further development from parent survey	Action since January 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some more school trips would be great to inspire the children.</i> • <i>After school clubs/activities – more of a variety for more year groups and clubs that finish later to support working parents.</i> • <i>I think there needs to be more homework.</i> • <i>We should be told more about what our governors’ contribution goes towards.</i> • <i>There is sometimes not enough notice to bring things into class such as boxes or lorry rolls or payment for trips.</i> • <i>On unusual school days it would be beneficial to have guidance on what they should be wearing.</i> • <i>It would be great if the school had access to a mini bus for some trips</i> • <i>Could the school give parents more idea about how their child is progressing?</i> • <i>More sporting events e.g. competitions with other schools.</i> • <i>Some traditions in school could be updated e.g. May Day, and some trips put additional financial burden on families.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every class now has at least one experience either in school or as an external trip each term to enrich learning. • Introduced some lunchtime clubs, after school chess, choir and gymnastics since last year. More research being done! • Home learning is in line with school policy for all year groups. • Newsletters have provided explanations of how parental contributions have been used and how future donations will be used in school. • We endeavour to provide as much notice/detail as possible for payments/curricular items/non uniform days. We’ll keep doing our best! • Increasingly, we have used free public transport for trips as we don’t have access to a mini bus. • If any parent is ever concerned about their child’s progress, they are always welcome to speak to the teacher. Consultations are 3 times a year along with annual reports which describe progress. • Children have competed in more sports events e.g. netball and football with other schools. • May Day is a St. Mary’s tradition. We will always endeavour to make changes to reflect our school community and demographic where needed. One such change has been regarding ‘all girls wearing white dresses’. We have made reasonable adjustments for individual pupils and have also welcomed other dresses being worn to avoid additional financial burden.