



*Care, Grow and Flourish
in God's Loving Hands*

Parent Survey

February 2025

A summary of qualitative responses

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

What is your child's experience of this at school? Does your child remember it? Do you have any comments about this vision statement? (Here is a sample of responses)

- *Both children know the vision well. They both feel very cared for at St. Mary's and we have certainly seen them flourish in many ways. For example, they love their learning and often talk about it at home. They've also grown in confidence - it's been lovely to see them performing on stage and hear our eldest read at Church. We are so thankful to all staff who bring this vision to life for our children.*
- *My children not only remember the school's vision, but they frequently say it to each other at home (I think my 4-year olds [not in school yet] already know it by now...), they write it, they draw it. It is powerful and beautiful and heart-warming at the same time. I want this to stay with my children for life. I wouldn't change anything about it, I would let it inspire and help all other children coming through the school.*
- *My child feels cared for and encouraged to do well and develop. He is aware of and comfortable with the emphasis on God's love and protection.*
- *My child's confidence has grown significantly since she started attending St. Mary's. The warm and welcoming staff have played a huge role in encouraging her, making her feel supported and valued. She enjoys her time at school and is thriving in the nurturing environment. The vision statement truly reflects the school's ethos, and we appreciate the care and encouragement given to each child.*
- *My child has a great experience at school with this strong vision which is also what we believe in as a family.*
- *To quote my child... "that slogan is EVERYWHERE!"*
- *I find the statement appropriate for a faith school, and believe it offers a good foundation for good learning and the child's development*
- *I asked my son the vision of St Mary's and to my surprise, he was able to say it confidently which is really encouraging*
- *My child is very aware of making sure all are well behaved and caring and kind.*
- *We really like the statement as it's very nurturing and ambitious for the children. My YR son knows the school vision and mentions it when he tells us about collective worship.*
- *My child always remembers this and we must always remind each other that God has all of us in his hands. He works in mysterious ways but is always there to guide us.*
- *My child feels being loved by her teachers and classmates at school.*
- *Yes, and it's a great vision.*
- *My child (Y4) remembers the vision and understands its meaning, particularly the idea of flourishing in God's loving hands. It's reassuring to see the school not only emphasize these values but also put them into practice daily.*

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/memory verse/prayers/hymns and songs?

(Here is a sample of responses):

- *My child (Y4) has shared positive experiences regarding collective worship and the focus values at school. He enjoys worship sessions, often mentioning how he feels a sense of peace and connection during these times.*

- *They really like coming together in the hall to learn new songs, particularly Yesu Anjagala. It makes them feel 'joyful and upbeat'. They've found it interesting learning about a song from Uganda. They've loved learning sign language to the song 'Jesus Strong and Kind' and to their recent memory verse. They've enjoyed showing us at home! They like the smell and calmness of the candle.*
- *I am amazed at how easily my child remembers hymns and songs and enjoys singing. She also loves to read passages from the Bible at collective worship.*
- *He loves collective worship. Yesterday, when I received the school's newsletter. I asked him what he has learnt about Jesus and he was able to inform me that Jesus is the way, the light of the world, the good shepherd, bread of life, water of life and the gate. I am very much impressed of his enthusiasm in learning the word of God*
- *My son says that he enjoys it and talks about Jesus at home. Although we are not a Christian family, we appreciate the values of Christianity and welcome our child's involvement. He also talks about enjoying going to church.*
- *My kids love collective worship and often talk about this at home. They love the songs, the discussion, the values and lovely words they hear from their headteacher and other staff.*
- *I find that daily worship provides a helpful focus on appreciating the many things people get in life and it also teaches children to cultivate gratitude and sense of belonging.*
- *My child really enjoys the activities in collective worship, especially the hymns, prayers, and memory verses. She finds the focus values meaningful and often talks about them at home. While she embraces the teachings and reflections shared during worship, she is also open to other perspectives, which has helped her develop a thoughtful and inclusive understanding of faith and values.*
- *My child feels part of a community and always shares his experiences*
- *My reception child often speaks to us about collective worship and will tell us prayers and sing songs she has learnt. She enjoyed walking to church and told us all about this and how she had a partner to walk with.*
- *Our Y1 daughter loves worship. She roleplays worship and special mentions and prayers at home. It is a very special memory for us all. We sing the songs together when she tells us which ones she sang!*
- *My son has faith and believes in Jesus. He also referred to a mini bug as God's Creation last week telling his little brother that he must always look after God's creations. I know he is listening in worship even if it seems he is not, as I've never said the words God's creation before.*
- *Our child sometimes sings hymns when she comes home and when we have visitors 'Jesus gives us the water of life' is her go to hit!!*
- *Our son remembers and enjoys the hymns, often singing them to himself at home. He speaks fondly of collective workshop.*
- *My child loves worship. He always remembers the prayers and songs and sings from the heart. It is a very important part of his week.*
- *Enjoys singing and being taught morals of Christianity*
- *She really likes collective worship and always sing songs that she learned in school. She especially likes 'Jesus Loves Me' from Uganda.*
- *My child likes to sing the songs at home and taught me the sign language.*

Optional: We are very proud of whole school initiatives like having a Heart for the Earth (caring for God's Creation) and our recent work on 'hope-anuary'. Please comment on the impact these have had on your child if you feel able to. (Here is a sample of responses):

- *HUGE impact. My children fully and voluntary engaged with this. They did their check lists (which they forgot to take to school) as they also engaged with so many other activities to bring*

home and love to all those around them/us. My Y1 child made a hope-anuary box with messages (31 in total, one for each day of the month) to stay at school, for people to pick at times when 'they may feel sad'. All my children were very inspired by the hope-anuary and other initiatives.

- School initiatives such as those stated are extremely valuable in creating a holistic learning experience that's not simply academic. The opportunity for us to be involved in a school activity (such as Hope-anuary) as a family helps to unite our son's school and home life.
- The boys enjoyed doing Hope-anuary because it's something we could do as a family. It helped us to feel thankful for the smaller things in life and gave an opportunity to think carefully about caring for our beautiful world. It helped us to feel hopeful even when there are difficult things going on in our world.
- Our child has talked about Hope-anuary a lot and he really liked being able to take what he had done into school so Mrs Constantinou could see it.
- This is really good, I'm grateful for everyone who organizes these initiatives! Care is a language of love and this is what children learn early in their lives.
- Hope-anuary has been a great initiative and the drive of completing all the task was definitely there. My child was focused on finding some examples that we could share it with school.
- He shows gratitude all the time. He always says he is grateful for being alive, his parents, teachers, friends, the shoes and clothes he has etc. He now willingly pick litter from the floor without been asked. I must say, the hope-anuary checklist has made a positive impact in my son's life.
- My child has become more aware of his surroundings and the earth as a whole
- Our daughter enjoys the whole school activities. Hopeanuary was really exciting for her - and it helps foster bonds between the years with common values. I like it.
- Our child enjoys these things and it is good to see the school try to nurture a sense of caring in children in a world which often seems to see kindness as a weakness.
- Since she learned more about this topic at school, she's always talking about it and asking more questions. I'm really happy about that.
- He gets excited, likes to take part and to have his opinion
- He takes part and is especially interested in environmental initiatives

Optional: If your child has a Special Educational Need or Disability, you are invited to comment on the quality of provision for your child: (Here is a sample of responses):

- The SENCO, Mrs Williams works tirelessly to ensure our son's needs are met by school. We have found the care and attention from Mrs Williams exceptional and are grateful for her support. We also have found that all the other teachers involved in his education are conscientious in the way they deal with him, recognising his special needs.
- I am very pleased with the support and provision my child receives at school. The staff are attentive and understanding, always willing to make adjustments to help my child thrive. The school provides a supportive environment where my child feels included and valued. I appreciate the open communication between the school and our family, ensuring that my child's individual needs are met. Overall, I feel confident that the school is doing everything possible to support my child's learning and well-being.
- My child has been well supported with her challenges and I'm pleased with the progress she has made. The SEN provision is relevant and tailored to my child's needs/ requirements and as a family we have a good relationship with the SEN team.
- The school has been working with us (parents) closely to apply for an EHCP for my boy. We are grateful for their support and all their efforts.

- *I am really impressed by the care and education my child receives*
- *Even Lisa and Cindy (kitchen staff) really support our child's diagnosis*
- *SENDCO is brilliant. We are delighted with her input and support. One to one TAs also outstanding. We couldn't have asked for more from the school. Thank you.*
- *Of the absolute highest standard. My son's needs are identified and met at all times, more importantly it's with pure love. As a mother I know that he is happy and cared for - second best to me when he is in school. His progress in his learning is above what I had initially thought it would be and this reflects on the high standard of teaching and support he receives.*
- *The school always put a lot of time and huge effort into tailoring lessons to suit my child's needs and always go above and beyond. Behind the scenes which we don't always see, a lot goes on to plan and coordinate everything in order for my child to feel confident and happy in school with everything in place to fit with his high level of needs.*

Areas for development regarding SEND provision:

- We will reach out to individual parents with questions or comments relating to SEND as any areas of development are specific to individuals.

Optional: If you have a child in Reception, how have they found the first term and a half? We welcome any feedback especially regarding settling in to school, the Y6 buddy system etc. (Here is a sample of responses):

- *We are delighted with the way that our son has settled into school and can't speak highly enough of all the staff. They provide such a caring and welcoming environment. He genuinely loves school and that makes us very happy. The Year 6 buddy system is brilliant. Our son's Y6 buddy, is an exceptional role model. In fact, all of the Y6 children are very kind and take their responsibilities seriously. They are a credit to the school.*
- *The settling in the new school has been smooth.*
- *My child loves to go to school not only because of the new learning but for the whole caring environment/ atmosphere that allows her to feel safe*
- *He loves been in school, has settled really well. He loves his teachers and always talks about his buddy and the Y6 pupils been his friends. I am glad he got into St Mary's school*
- *I think the year 6 buddy system works really well. Our child has built a lovely friendship with her buddies even exchanging gifts at Christmas. She talks about her buddies regularly and is also fond of lots of other year 6 students who she will hug in the playground or as she arrives at breakfast club.*
- *Our child has settled in brilliantly and loves coming to school.*

Areas for development regarding settling in to school:

- A number of parents commented that the settling in period was too long for the majority of pupils. It created challenges for many working parents.

Optional: Additional comments - Is there anything else you would like to tell or ask us?

What's working well:	Comments about further developments and improvements:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I have such a high opinion of St Mary's as a school that I would highly recommend to other parents as a school. I feel the senior management team as well as teachers as so</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I would like to ask that you revise the process by which you allocate Y6 buddies to reception children.</i>

supportive of our children and I cannot thank them enough

- *Thank you for providing a setting in which my child feels confident, content, cared for and able to express himself.*
- *We feel lucky that our son is in such a caring, nurturing school. Thank you for all your hard work.*
- *Just to say, as always, that you all do a fantastic job and we all feel very lucky to have our children attend a school that genuinely puts the children's needs above all else. The parents that I speak to regularly only have amazing things to say about both the school and staff. You're doing amazing things :)*
- *Excellent School, excellent values, excellent ethos. We love every single member of the staff, the entire team. The School and its people are like a second family to us and our children. There are challenges (as always) but we overcome these step by step with all the love and support from the staff. We feel we have the teachers and all staff right next to us all along the way and we want to be next to them too. We could not have wished for a better school for our children. THANK YOU to all the STAFF for their excellent work, their values and their ethos which daily inspires our children. Hearing one of my sons (a hard judge!) say about his teacher being 'Firm and fair and simply a great teacher' is so heart-warming and shows me also how nicely they are 'growing' (to be able to make such comments) in their teachers' hands. THANK YOU.*
- *We do really enjoy the My Maths home learning tasks and this year they have been well matched to what has been taught in lessons.*
- *Our children really enjoy coming to school every day and that is a credit to all the staff. The ethos and culture is that of a nurturing and caring one.*
- *The school shows their students the importance of kindness and how it shapes the future generation and making the world a better place. It important to be nice to others especially for children's well-being*

- *We'd like more attention on ensuring children from different year groups get along.*
- *Disappointed that the multi-sports club was cancelled on a Tuesday after school*
- *There is a real lack of after school clubs for KS1 and reception children.*
- *Maths catch up groups for KS1 children please.*
- *More after school provision / sports and activities for children*
- *Price of breakfast club is too high*
- *Can we find out what children are mentioned for in Specials?*
- *We understand hall space is limited but it would be amazing if there was a craft or drama class or similar that reception actually had the option to attend - this could even be done in a class room rather than the main hall.*
- *Home learning – can this be more adapted to suit? More supportive/more challenging.*

and I appreciate everything the school does to show the importance of kindness. This is why St Marys C of E primary school is the best in East Barnet, it's magic the way Mrs Constantinou manages the children and all the staff have outstanding relationships with the students and families. Thank you!

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 at the table on the next page to see how we have actioned the 2024 areas for development.

February 2024 areas for further development from parent survey	Action since February 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can there be an option for homework to be returned to the school, then it will always be on time</i> • <i>Is there any way of finding out the reason why a child has got a special mention?</i> • <i>Would love after school club and any additional activities after school to finish at 5:30 in order to cater for working parents.</i> • <i>It would be really useful for the church visits to be added into the calendar so volunteers can arrange the dates in advance.</i> • <i>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.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any child is having technical difficulties with Google Classroom and task submission, there have been arrangements made for home learning to be returned to school. We are enjoying having mostly paperless home learning because of environmental gains! • Lots of children get mentioned in specials each week by different staff members. We do encourage the children to remember! We will continue to explore ways of feeding back reasons for mentions. • Since February 2024 we have added one more lunchtime club (Y3) and one more after school club (Y1). We are looking at ways to extend after school provision to accommodate working parents. • All church worship visits are on the school website's events calendar. • We are exploring more options for after school paid clubs in school and are ensuring that children across the age range have opportunities to access these.