



St Mary's RC First School

Hexham

"We love, we learn, we live"

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Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Report 2019-20

School Name	St Mary's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided First School A mainstream school for pupils aged 4-9 years old
How accessible is the School?	St Mary's RC First School is fully accessible and we comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Equality Act 2010.
Accessibility at St Mary's	Ramp to main entrance and entrance leading from school playground. Disabled access to main school playground. Handrails on steps leading from church car park to main entrance and down the ramps leading from school playground and school playing field. All entrances and exits meet requirements for wheelchair users. Disabled parking space in school car park. Accessible toilet: adult sized toilet with handrail, changing facilities, emergency pull cord and full size shower.
What is the purpose of The SEND Information Report ?	Our SEND Information Report has two key purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the provision available for all children in our school.• To make provision more responsive to local needs by directly involving children with SEND , their parents/carers, and service providers in its development and review.
Policies	The following school policies are available on the school website: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEND• Safeguarding• Behaviour• Equality and Diversity

<p>How does a child get a place at St Mary's RC First School?</p>	<p>Parents/carers are welcome to contact School to arrange to visit where they will have the opportunity to view School and to meet the children, staff and our Executive Headteacher and Head of School.</p> <p>The Governors and the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are the Admissions Authority for St Mary's RC First School and Parents/carers interested in a place for their child should contact the school for further details.</p>
<p>What type of placement is available at the School?</p>	<p>Pupils attend St Mary's RC First School on a full-time basis. Some of our children attend St Mary's Nursery, a private nursery situated in the grounds of the school but many children attend other nurseries. All children are welcome in our school. Most children enter school in our Early Years Reception Class but children are welcome in all year groups; Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4.</p>
<p>What proportion of children currently at the school have SEND ?</p>	<p>Currently 12% of our pupils are registered on our SEND Support List.</p> <p>In addition to this, other pupils receive additional support in reading, writing and mathematics when required. These children receive intervention support either on an individual or group basis.</p> <p>If you feel your child has special needs please contact our SENDCo. If you feel your child will require additional support in school please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.</p>
<p>How much support will my child receive?</p>	<p>At St Mary's every class is taught by a qualified teacher and classes are supported by an experienced teaching assistant. All our pupils have access to a skills based, broad, balanced and creative Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum.</p> <p>Our pupils receive an appropriate balance of whole class, small-group and individual teaching as required. If a child is assessed to have special or disability need or needs which are deemed to be additional to or different from the majority of the children within our school, the School will ensure that further support is available to them.</p>
<p>What kinds of SEND are provided at St Mary's</p>	<p>Communication and Interaction Cognition and Learning Sensory and/or Physical Needs Social, Emotional or Mental Health</p>

What resources are available at the school?	<p>The school building has large, well equipped, bright classrooms, library, music room, ICT suite, dining and assembly hall. All classrooms have ICT facilities to support pupil's learning; these include interactive whiteboards, a whole class set of iPads and an ICT suite for whole class, group or individual teaching.</p> <p>We have an additional classroom which is available for pupils who require additional support or intervention or when they need a quiet space that is distraction-free.</p> <p>Large accessible outdoor play areas include an Early Years outdoor classroom, garden, prayer garden, playground, trim trail and field.</p> <p>We also have a quiet, private room to meet with parents and other visitors to school.</p>
How do children travel to the School?	<p>Our children travel to school from a wide catchment area ranging from Hexham, Stocksfield, Bellingham, Bardon Mill, Haltwhistle and Haydon Bridge. Some children walk, some come by car and some of our pupils travel by taxi.</p> <p>Further details regarding home to school transport including eligibility can be obtained from School Transport Section, County Hall, Morpeth Tel 01670 624081</p>

What specialist services are available in the School?

Specialist staff on site:

- 1st class@number trained staff to lead mathematics intervention groups
- Read Write Inc trained staff to lead English intervention groups

- Talk Boost trained staff to lead Speaking and Communication intervention groups
- ELSA trained staff to lead intervention and nurture groups
- Rainbows trained staff to lead bereavement counselling groups

We also have access to wide range of services to support our pupil's health and education, these include

- Speech and Language Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapists
- School Nurse
- Specialist Teachers for the Hearing Impaired and the Visually Impaired
- Communication Support Service
- Educational Psychologists
- Child and Young Persons Health Services (CYPS)
- Literacy Support
- Numeracy Support
- English as an additional language Support

A range of other experts work in our School and these include:

- Musicians- Singing, Violin, Guitar and Drumming lessons take place each week.
- Sport Coaches- Cricket, Tennis, Gymnastics, Athletics, Tag Rugby, Multi-Sport
- We have a specialist French teacher who teaches Y1, 2, 3 and 4 weekly.

What specialist equipment is available to support SEND?

Lap cushion
Special pencils with handgrips
Writing Slopes
Accessible toilet
Rooms for intervention sessions (e.g nurture room)

What will my child learn at the School?

Our curriculum is based upon the Early Years Foundation stage Framework and the subjects of the National Curriculum including French.
Every child is offered a broad and balanced curriculum that is appropriate to their age and stage of development. The majority of pupils make good or outstanding progress in their development of skills including those in reading, writing and mathematics.
All pupils are prepared for the next stage of their education and life. There is a strong emphasis on the development of pupils' emotional, spiritual and social skills and on giving them the skills and knowledge that will allow them to live a good quality of life as young people.
In addition to our whole class teaching we use a rich variety of tried and tested interventions and programmes to support our pupils learning and these include:

- Read Write Inc. programme
- 1-1 Reading with Teaching Assistants
- Reading comprehension groups.
- Individual spelling Interventions
- Handwriting Interventions
- Precision teaching
- Success at arithmetic intervention
- Greater Depth Maths Intervention
- Talk Boost
- Simple Semantics
- ELSA Group
- Health and Wellbeing Group
- 1st Class @ Numbers (1+2)

All interventions are assessed through individual sessions according to the needs of our children.

How do you promote inclusion within the school? Including day and residential trips?

Children with SEND are fully included in all activities in school as well as on day trips and residential visits. If needed additional support is provided to ensure support and safety of individual pupils.

Inclusive lessons are provided with adjustments made to meet the needs and learning styles of individual children. Multi-sensory teaching strategies and a range of resources are available including laptops, handwriting bags, visual timetables and working memory activities.

Individual Education Plans for pupils when needed.

Personalised Learning Programme to meet individual needs

When appropriate, additional funding is sought to provide further support and resources.

Meetings with support staff and lunchtime supervisory staff to ensure they are aware of the particular needs of specific children.

Adjustments to non-structured aspects of the school day to accommodate the needs of individual pupils.

Peer support through buddy system.

Staff mentors for individual pupils when needed.

Dyslexia friendly classrooms and teaching approaches.

Accommodating individual learning styles.

<p>How will I know what progress my child is making at school</p>	<p>Teachers assess pupils attainment continuously on a day to day basis and make a formal assessment 3 times a year towards the end of each term during the Autumn, Spring and Summer term. Each June these assessments are then moderated with colleagues to ensure that they are objective and accurate. Pupils from Year One to Year Four are assessed using P Scales and National Curriculum assessment procedures. The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile is used to assess the attainment of our younger pupils.</p> <p>P Scales are used nationally and are linked to performance descriptions which have been written for use with pupils of all ages who have a range of special educational needs. There are eight descriptions termed P1 to P8 that lead to Level One of the National Curriculum. Pupils working beyond the P levels are assessed on National Curriculum assessment procedures. These processes enable us to monitor all our pupils' progress and give us a yearly measurement of added value, which informs the setting of targets for individual pupils and gives us the knowledge to address any concerns as soon as possible. Pupils' progress is discussed with parents/carers at our Parents' Evenings in the Autumn and Spring Terms, this is a great opportunity to observe and discuss your child's progress and to look through your child's workbooks.</p> <p>Parents are always welcome to speak to members of staff and are asked to make an appointment with the class teacher, this can be either face to face or via the telephone, if it is more convenient for parents. In addition to this, parents of pupils with Special Educational Needs are invited to meet with school at least 3 times a year, and more often when required, to discuss your child's progress and next steps. We also hold additional curriculum meetings throughout the school year for all parents. When required we can operate a Home-School Liaison Diary to communicate essential information between School and home. Staff write a message in the child's diary every day and parents are asked to do the same.</p>
<p>How will my child's health and well-being be supported</p>	<p>Children's emotional well-being is paramount to us and we take great care to ensure that all of our pupils enjoy School and have positive learning experiences throughout their time with us.</p> <p>Considerable emphasis is put on the teaching of Personal Social and Health Education and pupils are given many and varied opportunities to enjoy a range of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural experiences during their time at school. Each year the pupils choose peers to be representatives on our School Council. They carry out a wide range of roles to support the development of our school.</p> <p>Staff treat pupils with respect and have high expectations of them. Much emphasis is placed upon developing pupils' confidence and self-esteem and ensuring that all our pupils feel valued.</p>

St Mary's RC First School has been accredited with an award for Citizenship and as an Anti-Bullying School. Generally relationships between pupils are excellent. All children are taught what they should do if they experience any form of bullying.

There is a positive learning environment at school and staff provide excellent role models.

School has a qualified Emotional Literacy Support Assistant that works with pupils who need additional emotional support.

School operates a 'Buddy system' which allows older pupils to support and act as positive role models for younger children at the School.

We also run a junior SVP group called "The Mini Vinnies" where children support the school, local and church community.

What training do staff at the school have?

Staff are trained as either Teachers or Teaching Assistants.

We have a broad Continuing Professional Development programme which is accessed by all staff.

All staff receive comprehensive and on-going training in meeting the needs of our pupils.

Mandatory training includes:

- Safeguarding
- Manual handling
- First Aid 1st response
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Communication needs.
- Staff work closely with the Literacy Support Team and our school has many features of a dyslexia friendly school.

The five annual training days are used to further extend staff knowledge and expertise and to work collectively on areas of whole school improvement.

All teachers and teaching assistants undergo yearly appraisal procedures which identify any training needs.

<p>How does the school support families?</p>	<p>School establishes a relationship with parents/carers prior to their child starting at St Mary's RC First School and we strive hard to ensure that this is a positive experience for parents/carers and other family members. Parents/carers are encouraged to play an active role in their child's education. All parents of children starting EYFS Reception class in September are invited to an individual meeting with the class teacher to enable a smooth transition to starting school and to enable us to get to know your child and his or her needs well.</p> <p>Children meet in the playground before school with their parents/carers. School staff come onto the yard at 8.45 am and the school bell is rung at 8.50 am. Children are taken into school by their class teachers at 8.50 am ready for registration in school. Parents are always welcome to speak to members of staff and are asked to make an appointment with the class teacher, this can be either face to face or via the telephone, if it is more convenient for parents.</p> <p>Coffee mornings are held regularly at School after Mass, Liturgies and other whole school occasions such as "Fair Trade" coffee afternoons and there are two Parents' Evenings each year. Parents may also join the "Friends of St Mary's" which has an active role in the school.</p> <p>Every year Governors hold "St Mary's Ambitions Meeting" where parents are invited to meet and discuss the attainment and progress of all our pupils and school development with governors and staff.</p> <p>School can introduce parents to Parenting Programmes such as the "Triple P" Parenting programme and other parent support groups organised in the local area.</p>
<p>What activities are available to children outside of the school day?</p>	<p>School operates after school Sports Clubs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket • Tennis • Multi-sports <p>Many of our pupils access the "Hexham Holiday Club" organised by Churches Together in Hexham and "Messy Church" events at St Mary's Church.</p> <p>Residential visits are available to Year 4 pupils who visit and stay overnight in Holy Island during the summer term. Children can attend Breakfast Club and After School Club at "Smarty's" which is a service provided by St Mary's Nursery located within school grounds. For further details of this service please contact: St Mary's Nursery directly: telephone: 01434608723</p>

<p>How will the School support my child at times of change?</p>	<p>Staff visit pupils in their pre-school setting at St Mary's Nursery and all children are invited for a series of taster sessions prior to their admission to St Mary's RC First School. Time is spent talking with parents/carers, as we respect that they know their child better than we ever could. These approaches allow our staff to gain as much information as is practical to support a child's admission to School.</p> <p>When children move class at St Mary's RC First School this is supported through a visit for the child to the new class on Transfer Day and, where necessary, we produce a "My New Class" booklet containing pictures of the new classroom and teacher.</p> <p>We also arrange transfer sessions for pupils transferring to middle school. These sessions will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting new staff Getting to know the new building Play times Lunch times
<p>Who was consulted about this SEND Information Report ?</p>	<p>The SEND Information Report for St Mary's RC First School was shared with Governors, Parents and Staff.</p>
<p>What can a parent do if they feel that The SEND Information Report is not being delivered or if their child's needs are not being met?</p>	<p>If a parent has concerns about the provision available to their child at St Mary's RC First School they are invited to discuss these promptly with their child's Class Teacher in the first instance.</p>
<p>How will The SEND Information Report be reviewed?</p>	<p>The SEND Information Report will be formally reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure that it is relevant.</p> <p>Governors, parents/carers and staff will be invited to take part in this process.</p>
<p>Arrangements for supporting CLA children who have SEN?</p>	<p>At St Mary's CLA Pupils have an Pupil Education Plan (PEP) and an individual profile which includes parent and pupil voice, any involvement with outside agencies, barriers to learning, and specific strategies to support the pupil in school.</p>

Who can I contact for further information about the School?

If you require any further information about St Mary's RC First School please do not hesitate to contact:

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