

Cottesmore St Mary

Catholic Primary School



*'Mane nobiscum Domine
– Abide with us O Lord'*



PROSPECTUS

Message from the Governors and Parish Priests

Governors are responsible for rigorously challenging the information provided by the school leadership team. We have a detailed oversight of the school's academic, religious and social output. We know the school is in a good place and are confident that our Catholic faith is evident throughout all aspects of school life. We have a fantastic school community made up of the children, parents and carers, parish priests, PTA, the Governing Body, and all the staff. With everyone's support, and under the leadership of our Headteacher Mrs Breen, the school can only continue to get better and better.

Yours,
The Governing Body

As priests, we value immensely the close relationships we enjoy with Cottesmore and with the children, families, teachers and staff. Parents are the first teachers of their children in faith and, with the school, we pledge to support you in this very important task. May your time in Cottesmore be happy and fruitful.

With God's blessing,
Your Parish Priests,
(St Peter's, Sacred Heart, and St George's)



Introduction from the Head

We are very proud of the community we have here at Cottesmore St Mary. It is very consciously modelled on the communities of the early Christians. Those early Christians tried to live their lives according to the teaching and example of Jesus, their friend.

Through our Mission Statement and our Values, we endeavour to provide the best education for each child in our school as we guide them towards discovery of their own unique set of God given talents.

We are a community of learners. We have high standards for our children with regards to all they do and, in return, we strive to give them the very best of what we can offer. We pride ourselves on our relationships with families and always operate an open door policy. We hope this prospectus gives you a glimpse of how we work together as a Catholic community to ensure our vision is met.

We want all children, in our school, to dare to dream and to always have hope.

Knowing that God has a special plan for them, we want them to make the most of every learning opportunity so that they can grow into the best people they can be; fulfilling their dreams, living life to the full, being honourable and making a difference to the world around them.

We want all children to feel safe, content, confident, and proud and to joyfully reveal their faith and Christ to others.

Our school is a successful, two form entry primary school. We hope that when you come to visit us, you will sense what a wonderful school it is. We look forward to meeting you.

Rachel Breen
Headteacher



Mission Statement

Children, staff, parents and our parishes worked together to create a mission and a set of values that are important to our whole school community.

**As a community of life-long learners,
with Christ at the centre, we strive to do our best
and make a difference to the world.**

**Dare to dream and always have hope,
revealing Jesus to others through the choices
we make, while living life to the full.**

Mane Nobiscum Domine – Stay with us Lord.



Our Values

At Cottessmore St Mary, we have identified three core values that help our children grow into the best people they can be.

The children learn how they can embody these values throughout their everyday life. We explore how these values can guide them to make a difference to the world, as well as helping them to reach their full potential. Our weekly Good Disciple assembly and awards encourage children to identify ways that they have demonstrated these values through their choices and actions.

Love

Believe

Achieve



**"I like praying. I feel happy when
I have been speaking to God."**

Charlie.



Exploring our Spirituality



We pray and worship together, supporting one another towards a closer relationship with God. Throughout the school, we have quiet places we can visit alone or gather together to spend some time reflecting.

In a busy world full of distractions, it can be challenging to make space for inner calm. In addition to daily prayer, we make space through daily meditation. We light a candle, play music and focus our minds. Children also explore their uniqueness through regular positive affirmations.

Our Religious Education curriculum is central to the life of our school. We explore the mystery of God, through the Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We reflect on what this means for our own lives. We also develop respect and

sensitivity to others through the teaching of the symbols and traditions of other world religions. Cottesmore welcomes children of all faiths, and those with of no religious denomination, supporting all spiritual growth accordingly.

We come together as a community to celebrate events such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The parish priests regularly take Masses in school and one of the most special times is when we gather together for our annual outdoor Mary Mass in the summer.

All children care for each other and our eldest become ambassadors for the youngest. As they buddy up, the children develop a relationship of guidance as they work and celebrate together.



"I wouldn't miss the Mary Mass for the world. It's a real celebration of Mary and all mums and needless to say, I always cry. I love the children handing out the flowers at the end of the celebration and the picnic on the field with the children afterwards makes it a really special day!"

Parent.

Building Community

Our Community starts at home ...

We all have a role to play in our school. A child in each class is voted to sit on the School Council, where decisions about the school can be discussed and new ideas put forward. Other children volunteer to be Play Buddies who help children at breaktimes. Both sets of children also promote a culture of anti-bullying and work with leaders to ensure all children feel safe at school. There are also opportunities for children to become Sports Leaders and Digital Leaders, taking responsibility for sports events and Computing in the school whilst Office Angels and Helping Hands make a difference by supporting staff. Children on our Eco Council guide us on our sustainable journey whilst overseeing the school vegetable patch, meadow and whole school initiatives.

"Play leaders look after us at playtime. They play games with us and look after us if we are on the buddy bench." Emily.

Families have a role too and we are pleased to benefit from a vibrant association called PTA, Friends of Cottesmore Primary, who offer many social events for our children and families to enjoy.

We support working parents through our onsite, wrap around care. Our staff run Breakfast Club, complete with Sports Coach, is available daily from 7.35am. Awards such as the Healthy Choice Gold Award have been received for this. We also have a wide range of after school clubs (that run until 4.20pm) that reflect a range of hobbies such as languages, gymnastics, dance, football, karate, computing, art, forest school, dance, drama and more. We also have an excellent onsite club that runs until 6pm.



Building Community

It extends to our local area ...

Parishes

We believe that the education of children takes place at home, in school and in the local Catholic community. We are privileged to serve three local parishes: St Peter's, Sacred Heart and St George's. It is a joy to watch our children as they learn more about their faith through the process of taking their First Holy Communion and we support the celebrations with our special Communion Breakfast. We also gather with other parishes in the diocese when we celebrate the annual Good Shepherd Mass at Worth Abbey.

Mini-Vinnies

Our St Vincent de Paul Group meet regularly to organise ways of helping others in our local school community. They promise to make a difference in the world by being a friend to those who are alone, in need or in trouble.

Our sense of responsibility for others reaches around the world ...

Fairtrade

With Fairtrade we have the power to change the world every day. With the choices we make, we can get farmers around the world a better deal, so they can make their own decisions, control their futures and lead the dignified life everyone deserves. Our Fairtrade Council meets regularly and they encourage us to support Fairtrade through stalls at our Summer Fair and activities during Fairtrade fortnight. We have been awarded the Fairtrade Mark for our work.

Charitable acts

Throughout the year, children and families support those in need, through charitable acts, both within in our local area and around the world.

"We are always asked for our ideas and our views. We help make a difference to our school and our community." Viola.

Embracing Academic Challenge

Every child is full of potential and we want each of them to develop the learning skills they need to achieve anything they want to. From the very start, we introduce children to the idea of having a growth mindset, where they can change and grow over time. We openly challenge the fixed mindset that says what we are able to achieve is already set by the sort of person we are.

All classrooms have eight characters, which represent the Learning Muscles we would like to train. Using these muscles helps the children overcome any barriers to learning and develops their growth mindset. Such attitudes are praised with weekly awards.

Cooperative Cheetah

Imagination Parrot

Keep Improving Kangaroo

Have A Go Hippo

Concentration Camel

Curious Meerkat

Persevere Penguin

Enjoy Learning Elephant

We achieve academic excellence through fostering an open mind to learning and challenge. We use the mental image of a pitstop as a place where you might need to stop to get some extra help. That might mean taking a different approach, working with a friend, using classroom resources or working with an adult. In every class, the pitstop is promoted as a great place where the most effective learning takes place.

"It is great to see teachers with such passion and talent." Parent.

Aspirational People

We work to identify those who show us how amazing people can be. Some of the aspirational people we learn about include, the Saints, Neil Armstrong, Katherine Johnson, Marie Curie, Rosa Parks, Malala Yousafzai and Tim Berners-Lee. Through looking at their special attributes, we consider the people we would like to grow into.

"Our teachers make learning fun and help us to challenge ourselves." Molly.



Every Child is Unique

Every child at Cottesmore St Mary, with all their individual needs and gifts is seen as a unique. Everyone at the school is committed to meeting the pastoral, social and academic needs of each child and it is seen as part of the Catholic life of the school community. Children with Additional Educational Needs are valued, respected and entitled to develop to their full potential, irrespective of need. We strive to identify children with Additional Educational Needs as soon as possible so that we can make learning a happy and successful experience. We believe that support is likely to be more effective if both pupils and parents are involved and hold regular meetings and forums with families.

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for helping my child – it has made a world of difference. All the creative teaching approaches that are being used are certainly paying off" Parent.

We are also fortunate to have Teaching Assistants, in every classroom, who are able to support children learning the fundamental concepts in English and Maths. A range of interventions are also run throughout the school day and children benefit greatly from the small group work offered and go on to make great progress.

Brighton and Hove is a rich and culturally diverse city and we are enriched by the many families in our school community for whom English is an Additional Language. We are able to support any child learning the English language through the way we teach and with one to one programmes and small group interventions. We celebrate the languages spoken and all diversity in our school through celebration assemblies and class work.

All children have the opportunity to learn French and we have access to a specialist French teacher for those in Years 3 to 6.

Physical Challenge

Blessed with a beautiful field, spacious playgrounds, two climbing walls, an adventure structure and an outdoor gym, we make the most of our opportunities to be physically active. We believe that great physical challenge gives children the chance to develop their bodies, team-working skills and self-confidence. Lessons that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

We are lucky enough to benefit from a specialist sports coach, supporting the children to enjoy and succeed in sport. We relish competition and set up whole school events, including our annual Sports Day. There are opportunities to compete against other schools, with swimming galas and netball, football and rugby tournaments and leagues. We also take part in 'Run the World' at Hove Park and the 'Let's Dance' festival at the Dome. Every success is celebrated with enthusiasm and we are pleased to have been awarded the Platinum Sports Mark. In addition to this, we have achieved the Gold Healthy Choice Award and Smile Project Award in recognition of our combined work linked to sports, physical activity, mental health and healthy food.

Our wide range of after school clubs include include football, karate, girls' football, basketball, tennis, running and multisports. Children have swimming, zumba, yoga and bikeability lessons. Sports activities are also available before school in Breakfast Club and at lunchtimes, run by our Sports Coach. For children in Year 5 and 6, there is even a chance to explore their resilience and courage on our residential trips.



Artistic Endeavour



A creative mind has the ability to make discoveries and create innovations. The greatest thinkers, like Einstein and Mozart had something in common in that they were constantly exploring their imaginations.

We aspire to provide our children with the opportunities to explore their own emotions and imagination through music. We are incredibly lucky to have a specialist Music teacher and well-resourced Music room. All children are encouraged to sing and play musical instruments during their weekly Music lessons and hymn practices. During their time at Cottesmore, every child will learn the recorder, guitar and keyboard.



Our specialist Art / DT teacher also provides unique opportunities for children to understand and respond to the world. There is a wonderful Art / DT room, with a variety of materials and a state of the art kiln. This helps us to provide the chance for our children to communicate what they see, think and feel and these skills can be further developed during after school clubs. Children have the opportunity to become Art Councillors.

There are many opportunities for children to participate in drama, giving the children the chance to create a vision of what might be and see the vision through to the performance. As well as a number of after school drama clubs, we enjoy putting on performances, including one at Christmas, Easter and a farewell production in the summer.

Bringing the Curriculum to life

To help our children become creative, confident thinkers and innovators, our curriculum is designed to provide a knowledge-rich, logically sequenced, and progressive learning experience that ensures all children develop the essential skills and understanding needed to succeed in life. We have defined the essential cultural knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best of human creativity and achievement.

We are committed to fostering a learning environment that is relevant, inclusive, and memorable, ensuring every pupil has the opportunity to thrive.

We take a discreet subject approach with the children taking on the mindset of a historian, geographer, scientist, musician, artist or computer programmer in their learning and our subject-specific lessons are tailored to the unique learning goals of each discipline. Learning is structured carefully to build on prior knowledge.

As well as learning about the wonderful world around them, our curriculum is also firmly rooted in our location and is bespoke to our community.

The children learn about their city, its history and geography and about their surroundings. Through a range of engaging and memorable activities, including hands-on projects, field trips, and collaborative work, we aim to spark curiosity and enthusiasm. Across the school, local visits include Arundel Castle, the Cuckmere River, Brighton Seafront, the Royal Pavilion and Rampion Wind Farm.

Our curriculum is designed to reflect the diversity of our school community and the wider world. We embrace a broad and balanced approach, ensuring that all pupils see themselves reflected in what they learn and our richly diverse curriculum reflects the achievements and significance of a diverse range of people from all races and cultures.

The children are also privileged to receive weekly lessons from subject specialist teachers in Computing, Music, Art, DT, Forest School and PE, with dedicated teaching spaces in Music, Art, Forest School and extensive outdoor spaces, including a large field for sport.



Outdoor Adventure

We are fortunate to have our very own, onside Forest School and Forest School teachers.

Our vision for outdoor learning is to offer all children opportunities to achieve and develop confidence, resilience and self - esteem, whilst developing team work and problem solving skills. We provide creative, hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment and support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world. We believe that outdoor learning further enhances personal, academic and spiritual growth.

During regular, year round sessions, children from all year groups, carry out a range of activities such as woodcraft, learning about plant life and

habitats, den building, fire making and a host of other enriching activities that support cross curricular learning.

At Cottesmore St Mary, we pride ourselves on providing different ways to encourage our children to grow in all aspects of the world.

Our Eco Committee are incredibly active and are proud to have achieved various awards linked to their work.

"I loved Forest School when I learnt to be a forest ranger. I made things out of clay, built fires and sawed wood. It was so much fun." Connor.





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**For further information or to visit
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Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School is
committed to safeguarding and promoting the
welfare of children and ensuring equality for all.



Eco-Schools

