

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 of 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.

God made each one of us. We are all His unique disciples and are all part of His family.

We act as God wants us to whilst living the Gospel daily, praying and worshipping together so that we can grow closer to Him and each other.

We believe in ourselves and share our gifts and talents. We help each other to do our best, celebrating when we and others do well.

We respect each other's differences and include everyone.

We show care and support for others in school, at home, in our local community and in the wider world, especially by helping those in need.

Mane nobiscum Domine – Abide with us O Lord.



Our Values

At Cottesmore St Mary we have identified seven 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. Our weekly Good Disciple assembly and awards reward children who have worked particularly hard to demonstrate these values.

Courageous

Forgiving

Respectful

Helpful

Reflective

Thankful

Truthful



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

Nate.



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 no faith, 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 and pond area.

“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 to play too and we support working parents through our daily Breakfast Club and after school provision. We are pleased to benefit from a vibrant parent association called PTA, the Supporters of Cottesmore School. There is also a Parents' Forum, where parents can influence the latest developments in the school.



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 Georges. 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

This is our St Vincent de Paul Group, who 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.

Anti-freeze

Children support this local homeless charity by making sandwiches for their soup kitchen each week.

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, our Fairtrade Tuck Shop and activities during Fairtrade fortnight. We have been awarded the Fairtrade Mark for our work.

Love in a box

Every winter, families put together their 'Love in a box': a shoebox of small gifts that the Mustard Seed Charity sends to underprivileged children throughout Eastern Europe.

"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. Aspirational people we look at include the Saints, Leonardo Da Vinci, Neil Armstrong, Mahatma Ghandi, 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.

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 Gold 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 Year 6, there is even a chance to explore their resilience and courage on our residential trips to Blackland Farm and PGL Activity Centres.



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, the guitar and the clarinet, with instruments being provided within lessons. They also have access to a range of other instrumental lessons both during and after school. There is a school choir, a school band and our annual music concert is one of the highlights of the year.



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.

We are proud to have achieved the Artsmark Quality Award and ensure that, by the time they leave Cottesmore, all children will have received the accredited Arts Award.

Bringing the Curriculum to life

To help our children become creative, confident thinkers and innovators, our curriculum provides a rich playground for them to explore. Each topic fully engages the children through trips out and immersion days. Whether they are on an African safari at Port Lympne, dressing up as a Victorian and trying to get a job at Preston Manor or waging a Roman battle with their shields, learning is fun and involving.

Children have lots of intriguing questions about the world around them. We aim to provide them with the necessary knowledge and investigative skills to answer those questions. Our curriculum is full of times to practically test out ideas and problem solve, so we are proud to have been awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark.

We are also privileged to have fantastic computing resources, including a computing suite, with a computer for every child, in addition to iPads. Children receive weekly specialist lessons via our computing teacher and have the option to attend a daily after school club where skills are developed further.

"I enjoy the topic celebrations and workshares so I can see what my child has been learning. It's also helpful to attend the maths and phonics workshops so I know how to support my child at home." Parent.



Outdoor Adventure



We are fortunate to have our very own, onsite, Forest School and Forest School teachers, in addition to a Settlement Area. We believe that all children should have regular, long term access to sustainable woodland and natural environments that provide inspirational and challenging outdoor learning opportunities and support wellbeing.

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.

"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.

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.





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the school please contact:**

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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.

