



# A CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## *Journeying together in faith*

St Mary and St Peter is a Catholic school, founded for the education of children from Catholic families. About two-thirds of our current children are Catholics. However, we also welcome children from families of any faith or none. What is important is that you agree with our guiding principles which are based on the teaching of Jesus Christ:

- Cherishing the special nature of each child as a unique human being made in the image of God, providing the care to ensure enjoyment and success in learning, and meeting individual needs.
- Fostering children's sense of personal responsibility, and their ability to stand up for what they know to be right.
- Enabling children to develop relationships through showing generosity, honesty, tolerance and forgiveness.
- Encouraging a concern to help others, both locally and globally, and to care for the environment.

Children learn to live by these values through their daily life as part of the school community. There are frequent opportunities for children to show they care, both formal and informal. This is what we mean by 'journeying together in faith'. Our aim is that, whatever their religious background, all our children should become 'people of goodwill' with a lifelong commitment to creating a more perfect world.

Other aspects of children's experience are more specifically Catholic. Children learn about prayer and worship in their classes, in daily whole-school assemblies and, on special occasions, in our local parish church of St Peter. Worship is always presented in a way that is suitable to children's ages. We are sensitive to the needs of our non-Catholic children, who are never made to feel 'different'.

We hold regular celebrations of the Mass, where the whole school community can come together. We always welcome parents to attend, whether or not they are themselves Catholics.

Religious education lessons are based on the syllabus drawn up by the Diocese of East Anglia. The syllabus encourages children to engage with ideas and the implications of faith. Topics are wide-ranging and include a study of other major world religions. Children also learn about sexuality within the context of Catholic teaching, in a way that is appropriate for their stage of development. We aim for children to accept their own and others' sexuality in a positive light, and to develop relationships in which love, dignity and responsibility are central.

We support our two local churches that sit within our wide parish, St Peter's and St Mary's, in preparing Catholic children for the Reception of First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.