



St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE

# Pre-prep & Juniors

***The Cambridge school for girls***

Independent day and boarding school

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/junior](http://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/junior)



# Our history and values

Inspired by our foundress, Mary Ward (1585-1645), a pioneer in girls' education, we create a learning community rooted in faith and welcoming to all pupils, regardless of their background or beliefs. We balance tradition with innovation, blending timeless values with modern educational practices. Mary Ward's life of integrity, courage, and love inspires us, providing a strong moral and spiritual foundation for St Mary's School.

Central to our community are our **HEART** values:

- H**ard Work
- E**mpathy
- R**esponsibility
- A**daptability
- T**houghtfulness

## We'd love to meet you

We host open events and personal tours throughout the year to enable you and your daughter to explore the School and experience the St Mary's difference first hand.



Scan to learn more

*We place each child at the centre of everything we do.*

## Welcome to St Mary's Pre-prep and Junior School

Welcome to St Mary's Pre-prep and Junior School, where every girl is valued in a happy, supportive, and academically ambitious environment. Our goal is to create a calm, stimulating space where pupils can explore their curiosity and develop a lifelong love of learning.

With experienced staff and exceptional facilities, we offer a child-centred curriculum that nurtures individual talents, facilitates personal growth, and promotes outstanding academic results. We wholeheartedly believe girls thrive when they are motivated, challenged, and encouraged to direct their own learning.

While this prospectus offers a glimpse of our wonderful school, I invite you to visit and experience the vibrant, inspiring atmosphere firsthand. I look forward to welcoming you to our school, learning more about your daughter and sharing how the St Mary's community can inspire and support your child.



**Olivia Buchanan**  
Head of Juniors



Take an  
interactive  
tour



Scan to  
learn more



*"Everyone here is so caring and understanding, the teachers know how to challenge you and make lessons fun! There are a lot of people who try hard and put in a lot of effort around the School for us to have a joyful education and experience and there are lots of extra-curricular activities you can take part in here!"*

**Junior School pupil**

## A school where your daughter can truly flourish

At St Mary's Junior School, we understand that choosing the right school for your daughter is one of the most important decisions you will make. Nestled in the beautiful surroundings of Coe Fen, with its lush greenery and welcoming atmosphere, we offer a safe, nurturing space where girls can truly flourish.

We know you want your daughter to feel happy, confident, and supported, and we are committed to giving her the best possible start. Our exceptional facilities and expansive outdoor spaces provide countless opportunities for play, exploration, and learning. Whether she's discovering a love for sport, diving into her favourite

subject, or trying something new, your daughter will be encouraged to follow her interests and build lasting confidence.

At St Mary's, we believe in the power of all-girls' education from an early age. In this environment, your daughter is free to explore her potential without limitations, developing resilience

and self-assurance. With small class sizes, we take the time to get to know every pupil, tailoring her learning to match her unique strengths and challenges. We work alongside you to ensure she is fully supported, both academically and personally.

Our goal is to nurture a love of learning that

will last a lifetime. We want your daughter to be ready not just for today, but for the future, no matter what that may hold. By choosing St Mary's, you're joining a community that's as invested in your daughter's happiness and success as you are.



Learn our  
approach

**100%** of St Mary's pupils said they **are happy at school**, it is a safe place to be and they enjoy all that the School has to offer.

**2024 Junior School pupil positivity survey**

## Where your daughter's early learning journey begins

Learning in our purpose-built early years facility, The Coach House, is hands-on and purposeful. We create a stimulating, challenging curriculum that reflects the needs and interests of our pupils, making learning relevant and engaging.

We offer flexible options tailored to your schedule. Girls aged 3+ can attend for a minimum of two full days or four half days, with the ability to add more as needed.

Our bespoke curriculum combines STEM and creative opportunities, offering an individualised academic and pastoral experience. Your daughter will be known, understood, and her unique learning style embraced to help her reach her full potential.

We focus on seven key areas of learning to ensure a well-rounded education:

**Prime areas:** Communication and language, physical development, personal, social, and emotional development.

**Specific areas:** Literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, expressive arts, and design.



Discover  
Pre-prep



**100%** of St Mary's pupils said that **they like their teachers**, they help them do their best and create fun and engaging lessons that help them learn.

**2024 Junior School pupil positivity survey**

## Continuing your daughter's journey through Junior School

In our Junior School, your daughter will benefit from a small class size of around 20 pupils, ensuring she receives the individual attention she deserves. As an all-girls' school, we excel at providing the right mix of support, inspiration, and challenge, tailored to each girl's needs.

Our innovative and broad curriculum is delivered in specialist learning spaces, helping pupils discover their preferred learning styles and prepare effectively for Senior School. Through our academic enrichment programme, your daughter will deepen her knowledge and develop essential skills like resilience,

leadership, and teamwork. Our integrated curriculum connects core subjects, offering a broader understanding of how and why learning is relevant.

To ensure your daughter's needs are met, we regularly assess progress using a variety of methods, including

informal questioning, self-evaluation, peer feedback, and teacher reviews. This comprehensive approach goes beyond the SATs system, focusing on how each child learns best and whether learning objectives are achieved.

This tailored approach ensures a seamless

transition from Pre-prep to Junior School and prepares her for her transition into Senior School, continuing your daughter's journey of growth and discovery.



Discover  
Juniors

*“St Mary’s is the best learning environment for both our daughters, even though they are so different!”*

**Junior School parent**

## Cultivating a lifelong love of learning

From the moment your child joins us until they transition to St Mary’s Senior School, we are dedicated to igniting and developing their natural curiosity. Our skilled specialist teachers work closely with each pupil to foster a genuine love for learning, questioning, and problem-solving.

As well as being academically focused, we believe in supporting your child’s educational journey by also helping them to discover what truly inspires and motivates them. By focusing on intrinsic motivation, independence, and self-awareness, we guide them in

understanding where they are now and where they are headed next.

Our approach leads to consistently strong results, whether in STEM subjects, the creative and performing arts, languages, or humanities. These achievements,

including impressive Value-Added scores, are due to our commitment to each child’s individual growth and development.



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# Your daughter's enriched learning adventure

Our holistic curriculum blends traditional learning with creativity, challenge, independence, and discovery. By integrating subjects like Science, Art, Geography, and Music under one unifying topic, we help your daughter see the relevance of each discipline in context.

For example, exploring a topic like The Titanic allows pupils to reflect on the lives of people at the time (History and English), design and build boats (Engineering), and investigate concepts of floating and sinking (Science).

## Enrich and extend

- We have a comprehensive PAT Policy (Potential,

Able, and Talented) designed to both support and challenge our most capable girls, ensuring they reach their full academic and personal potential. This policy provides tailored opportunities that foster their unique talents and encourage them to excel in all areas of school life.

- Workshops, and talks: From illustrators and

authors to medics and scientists, our pupils engage with professionals who are leaders in their fields. We also host 'Raising Girls' talks featuring both internal and external experts, offering valuable insights for parents, our students, and the wider community to support the development of young women.

Being in Cambridge, we take full advantage of the city's incredible museums, exhibitions, and resources. Whether it's robotics at the Cambridge Science Centre or conservation at the Museum of Zoology, all of Cambridge becomes our classroom.

Reflecting our values as a Mary Ward School, our Development Education programme

introduces important global issues like poverty, hunger, inequality, and environmental challenges. As your daughter grows she will learn how to incorporate the five Mary Ward values – freedom, joy, justice, truth, love – into her daily life.







## How our girls learn

As the Cambridge school for girls, we know that an all-girls learning environment offers your daughter the freedom to explore her strengths and passions without the limitations of gender stereotypes. Here, she'll be encouraged to build confidence, resilience, and independence in an environment designed specifically to help girls thrive. With personalised support and a focus on collaboration, she'll develop the skills and self-assurance she needs to excel academically and grow into a strong, capable young woman ready to take on the world.

### STEM

We inspire a love for STEM from age 3 through specialist teaching, exciting talks, and our dynamic award-winning Yingting Qian STEM Lab, where pupils can experiment and innovate. Our girls have achieved impressive results

in national STEM competitions, such as achieving scores in the top 10% in the national Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, and achieving Distinction Awards in the Oxford University Computing Challenge placing then in the top 1.5% of all entrants.

### Arts

Creative arts are integral, with workshops, drama lessons (including LAMDA exams), and music sessions, helping girls build confidence and express themselves. Our vibrant music programme includes opportunities for

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singing in choirs and performing in events and concerts both within the school and at prestigious venues such as Our Lady and the English Martyrs (OLEM) and The Grand Arcade. These performances allow our pupils to showcase their talents and develop a lifelong love for the arts..

### **Languages**

Pupils study French while also experiencing a range of other languages, including German, Spanish, and Latin, as part of our

commitment to broadening horizons and providing our girls with diverse learning opportunities. This exposure not only fosters a love for languages but also opens doors to a world of cultural understanding and academic growth.

### **Outdoor learning**

We believe the outdoors offers incredible opportunities for growth, well-being, and the development of essential life skills. We are very fortunate to have such

a beautiful outdoor space on our school grounds, along with easy access to both urban and rural environments just beyond our doorstep.

We want to make the most of these spaces and ensure that learning outdoors is a regular part of our girls' experience, not limited to specific times. Whether it's enhancing their understanding of the world, encouraging teamwork, or simply allowing them to explore in a hands-on way, we're

committed to offering this opportunity throughout their day and week.

Outdoor learning isn't just about being outside – it's about challenge, adventure, and developing the whole person. It also allows our girls to see their teachers and peers in a new light, fostering positive relationships and greater self-awareness. With our dedicated Head of Outdoor Learning guiding both the Junior and Senior School,

we are confident that spending more time outdoors will encourage collaboration, creativity, and a deeper sense of enjoyment in learning.

We look forward to seeing how this approach enriches their school experience.

# Sport facilities

Developed in partnership with Homerton College, part of the University of Cambridge, to deliver our ambitious vision for sporting education, our sports ground on Long Road includes:

- Athletics facilities for track and field
- AstroTurf pitches for hockey, rugby, and football
- Cricket nets
- Netball and tennis courts
- Floodlighting
- Pavilion with kitchen and changing rooms

In addition to these excellent facilities, we offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities in sports such as quidditch, fencing, judo, and swimming, providing our girls with diverse and exciting ways to stay active, develop skills, and challenge themselves.



“Single-sex programmes ... create an institutional and classroom climate in which female students can express themselves freely and frequently, and develop higher order thinking skills.”

**Dr Rosemary C. Salomone**

## Exceptional value: everything your daughter needs to thrive

Our girls are at the heart of everything we do. We understand the importance of providing a supportive, nurturing environment where she can thrive, which is why we offer wrap-around care, specialist teaching, and a variety of enriching experiences that help her grow both academically and personally. With delicious meals, all necessary resources, and exciting school trips included, we've designed our approach to ensure she has everything she needs to succeed, while you have the peace of mind knowing she's well cared for throughout her school day.

- Wrap-around care provided from 8.00am to 6.00pm
- Delicious lunches included, with packed lunches for trips
- School trips included in fees (only enrichment trips, such as residentials, require an additional fee)
- Specialist teaching across various subjects
- Snacks provided for Pre-prep (Preschool – Year 2)
- All resources provided by the school
- Conservative uniform list for simplicity
- Majority of enrichment opportunities included in the fees

*“Thank you to all staff for making these precious years so incredibly inspiring and fun for our little girl.”*

**Parent**

## Parent partnership

We understand that as a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. We are here to support, encourage, and walk alongside you in this journey—emotionally, spiritually, ethically, and academically. We believe that your daughter’s success is nurtured not only in the classroom but also through a strong, trusting partnership between home and school.

**Your hopes and dreams for your daughter matter to us,** and together, we will create a foundation that allows her to flourish in every aspect of life. We look forward to building a meaningful relationship with your family, one that honours your role and strengthens your child’s future.

We wholeheartedly support, celebrate, and encourage individuality. We understand that every child learns, plays, and grows in their own unique way, and we are committed to nurturing this through personalised support. Your daughter will have multiple people involved in her journey, including our Head of Wellbeing, and

access to dedicated wellbeing areas, ensuring she thrives both academically and emotionally. We also provide leadership opportunities, such as the Children That Care Committee, where pupils can take an active role in supporting and caring for others, fostering a strong sense of responsibility and community.





*“As a regular flexi-boarder, we feel she has got the “best of both worlds”. She has enjoyed ready companionship with other boarders and a sense of community. At the same time, she has had access to the familiarity and comfort of home ...”*

**Parent**

## Flexible boarding options to suit your family life

Boarding at St Mary's provides not only a welcoming, vibrant community but also extended academic guidance to support your daughter's learning journey. With access to additional study time and tailored academic support, your daughter will have the resources she needs to excel both inside and outside the classroom.

From Year 5 upwards, we offer a range of flexible boarding options to suit your family's needs:

- Full-time boarding: Your daughter lives at school throughout the term, returning home for half terms and holidays.
- Weekly boarding: She can enjoy school during the week,
- Flexi-boarding: Whether it's an occasional night, a regular evening each week, or several weeks at a time, this option offers flexibility for busy schedules.

returning home on weekends and rejoining on Sunday evening or Monday morning.

Alongside their academic growth, boarders take part in a variety of enriching activities across Cambridge – punting on the River Cam, attending Evensong at King's College, enjoying cream teas, and exploring the city's historic and cultural sites.



# Applying to St Mary's

## 1. Visit us

We warmly invite you to arrange a **personal visit** or to attend an **open event**, to understand more about life at St Mary's and to meet our leadership team, staff and pupils.

## 2. Apply for a place

To apply, simply complete our online application form at [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/apply](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/apply)

Contact us with any questions you may have on **+44 (0)1223 224 177** or at **admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk**

## 3. Assessment

Our admissions process involves formal and informal assessments; including age-appropriate tests and an interview. We make this an enjoyable experience, so we can recognise your daughter's true potential.

## Next steps

Arrange your personal visit or to attend an open event [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/visit](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/visit) or call **+44 (0)1223 224 177**

Admissions FAQs:

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/admissionsfaq](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/admissionsfaq)

Assessment and sample papers: [stmaryscambridge.co.uk/assessment](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/assessment)

Fees:

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/fees](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/fees)

Application deadlines:

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/application](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/application)

# Joining our school community

We welcome girls with a broad range of academic abilities, who are enthusiastic and have a desire to engage in learning.

We accept applications for all Preschool and Junior School years all year round, but typically girls join us:

- In Preschool (age 3) to start as they mean to go on
- In Reception (age 4+) to start their formal learning journey
- In Year 3 (age 7+) to begin Juniors
- In Year 5 (age 9+) to ease transition into our Senior School

Find out how to apply at:

[stmaryscambridge.co.uk/joinus](https://stmaryscambridge.co.uk/joinus)

**+44 (0)1223 224 177**

[admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk](mailto:admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk)



# St Mary's School CAMBRIDGE

## ADMISSIONS

### St Mary's School

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admissions@stmaryscambridge.co.uk

stmaryscambridge

St Mary's School, Cambridge

StMarysSchoolCambridge

stmaryscambridge.co.uk



### PARK AND RIDE

1. Babraham Park and Ride
2. Madingley Park and Ride
3. Cambourne
4. Trumpington Park and Ride
5. Milton Park & Ride
6. Saffron Walden

