St Mary’s School is a Catholic school committed to building positive relationships between staff, students and parents. Each student is catered for and challenged to achieve their personal best in an environment which values respect and dignity. At St Mary’s School we recognise that parents are the first educators of their children, and we accept our responsibility for the development of the child as a whole person based on the gospel values. We teach Gospel values and express our faith by being involved in social justice projects and demonstrating awareness and care towards the needy of society. We keep Religious Education relevant across all learning areas and seize the moment to address faith in the classroom. Mass is a key part of Evangelisation and preparation for this includes a process that is inclusive and not overwhelming.

We fulfil our vision by working as a team whereby all staff members feel valued and supported. Staff members are provided with regular opportunities for relevant training and professional development. Learning is shared at teacher driven Cluster Meetings that focus on students. We participate in relevant and timely meetings in which good communication determines that all ideas are supported and accepted. There is a strong leadership team that provides structure and follows up on decisions made as a staff community. Positive relationships evolve as we communicate openly, mentor, support and walk beside each other for mutual growth.

Teachers are able to cater for all students due to extra support. St Mary’s School values the early years as a time where play based learning assists with developing skills required in society. Our focus on teaching skills such as reading using cooperative reading strategies ensures students are engaged and explicitly taught. There is a focus on building positive student - teacher relationships. We use cooperative strategies and best practise, age appropriate pedagogy to engage and motivate students.

Teaching and planning is informed at St Mary’s School through maintaining regular records of ongoing student progress and using progressive assessments. Teachers engage in reflective practice by using data to inform teaching. Opportunities are provided for teachers to moderate work samples with others of a similar age group to ensure consistency when reporting. The background of each child is known by their classroom teacher and value is given to teacher handover.

School policies are readily available, up to date and reflect the demographics of the school with the interests of the child at the forefront. Our policies are realistic, manageable and easy to implement. Everyone’s opinions are valued and there is equality between all staff members. Staff members ensure high standards and expectations are maintained for all students. Policies are summarised and are readily accessible. The school website acts as a primary communication tool for parents and the wider school community.

Together, we are doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way.