



Term 1 February 2025

School website www.stmarys.ac.nz

School Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysschoolwanganui

School App From the Google Apps / Play Store: [SchoolAppsNZ St Mary's School](#)

Welcome back!

We've had a fantastic start to the year! It's been so rewarding to see our students return refreshed and eager to learn, happily reconnecting with friends. Classes are settled and focused. Our teachers have been working incredibly hard to develop exciting and enriching programmes for the year. We're confident 2025 will show significant growth and achievement for all.

You will receive this form to fill out this week. Keep an eye out for it in school bags. Your Child Through Your Eyes is an important document so we can build strong relationships with our students and their whanau.

Please keep us in the loop with anything that may change and impact on your child/ren as we are here to help.

On the back of this form is a space for you to update your contact details, medical information, indicate how you receive information and a request for information regarding sacraments that you may be interested in.

Your Child Through Your Eyes
Mai i te kāhau mōunga ki Fangarua, ko au te awhi. Ko te awhi ko au.
Your child's name _____

1. Tell us about your tamariki. Share what you think we need to know?

2. What qualities/values are important to your whānau, and community?

3. What responsibilities does your child have in the whānau, the home and outside of school?

4. In our community whānau participate in many different celebrations. Can you tell us about yours? (Cultural and/or spiritual, Ethnic, Community, other).

5. Success for your child would look like...?

6. Learning experiences and support that you believe would help your child be successful...

Our school community is deeply saddened to learn that one of our families has experienced a significant hardship. During the recent school holidays, the mother suffered a serious stroke.

This has understandably placed a tremendous burden on the family as they navigate this challenging time, focusing on each day as it comes.

As a school community, we want to offer our support in a practical and meaningful way. We believe that providing grocery vouchers would be a tangible way to alleviate some of the immediate pressure they are facing. These vouchers will allow the family to purchase essential groceries, freeing them up to focus on what's most important right now: supporting their mother's recovery and adjusting to this new reality.

Any contribution, no matter the size, will make a real difference to this family. If you are able to spare a few dollars, we would be incredibly grateful. We will collect all donations and use them to

purchase grocery vouchers, which will be passed on directly to the family. Your generosity and compassion during this difficult time will be deeply appreciated. Please deliver any donations to Ivy in the office.



Thank you for your support.



A few changes...

A warm welcome to **Mrs. Liz Anderson**, our new Classroom Release Teacher! Her passion for music is infectious, and we've already enjoyed hearing the sounds of music throughout the school. Mrs. Anderson joins us from St. George's School, where she built and directed an outstanding choir. We're thrilled to have her and look forward to the musical opportunities she will create for our students.



Many of you already know **Mrs. Sarah Hanna** from her work as our classroom release teacher. We are absolutely thrilled to welcome her to a full-time teaching position in Room 6. Mrs. Hanna is already a valuable member of our school community with her expert knowledge in Literacy, and we are excited to see the positive impact she will have on her students in this new capacity.





Exciting news for our Middle School! **Mr. Alex Caradus** has stepped up to lead the middle team. He will be your go-to person for anything related to students in Rooms 5, 6, 7, and 8. We are thrilled to have him in this leadership position.



We are delighted to welcome **Mrs. Heather Loveridge** as our new Director of Religious Studies! She has enthusiastically embraced this role, building upon the foundation laid by Cath. Mrs. Loveridge will be the key resource for all questions and initiatives related to our Special Catholic Character. We are excited to see the positive impact she will have on our students and families as she cultivates and strengthens this integral part of our school's identity.

MEET THE TEACHER

PARENTS, WHANAU AND CAREGIVERS

-  Date: Thursday, February 20
-  Location: St Mary's School
-  Time: 3:30 – 6:00 PM
-  Free BBQ sausages at 5:00 PM

Join us to meet your child's teacher! For a more in-depth conversation, please contact the teacher to book an appointment.



JUNIOR TEAM YEARS 0-3

The Junior Team teachers are available for chats from 3:30 to 5:45 PM.

MIDDLE TEAM YEARS 3-6

The Middle Team teachers will introduce themselves outside Room 7 at 3:30 PM and 5:30 PM.

INTERMEDIATE YEARS 7-8

The Intermediate teachers will introduce themselves outside Room 7 at 3:40 PM and 5:40 PM.

BRING YOUR FAMILY

Your children are welcome to join us, enjoy the afternoon, and play on the field or playground.



Kia Ora

My name is Vivienne East and I am a Public Health Nurse based at the Whanganui Hospital. I visit throughout the school year offering support, advice, and referrals for any health concerns that parents, caregivers, or teachers may have.

Some of the health problems include allergies, nutrition concerns, growth and development, immunisations, puberty concerns, bedwetting, toileting issues, vision and hearing, and parenting support.

I can be contacted on my mobile on 021 373 212 or through the Whanganui Hospital on 06 348 3343 or you can email me at vivienne.east@wdhb.org.nz
This is a free service offered by the Whanganui District Health Board.

Nga Mihi
Viv

We need your help...

We have a lot of bugs floating around and they are spreading.

If your child is unwell with flu like symptoms, vomits or has diarrhoea you are required to keep your child home **48 hours after** all symptoms have stopped.

This is vital to contain the spread of illness. It is really helpful if you could ring our absentee line or message us through the school app to let us know if your child is going to be away.

It saves Ivy a lot of time and it is appreciated.

On the next page there is some information about changes with how attendance is tracked.





One of the governments priorities is to get attendance back to pre covid levels across the country.


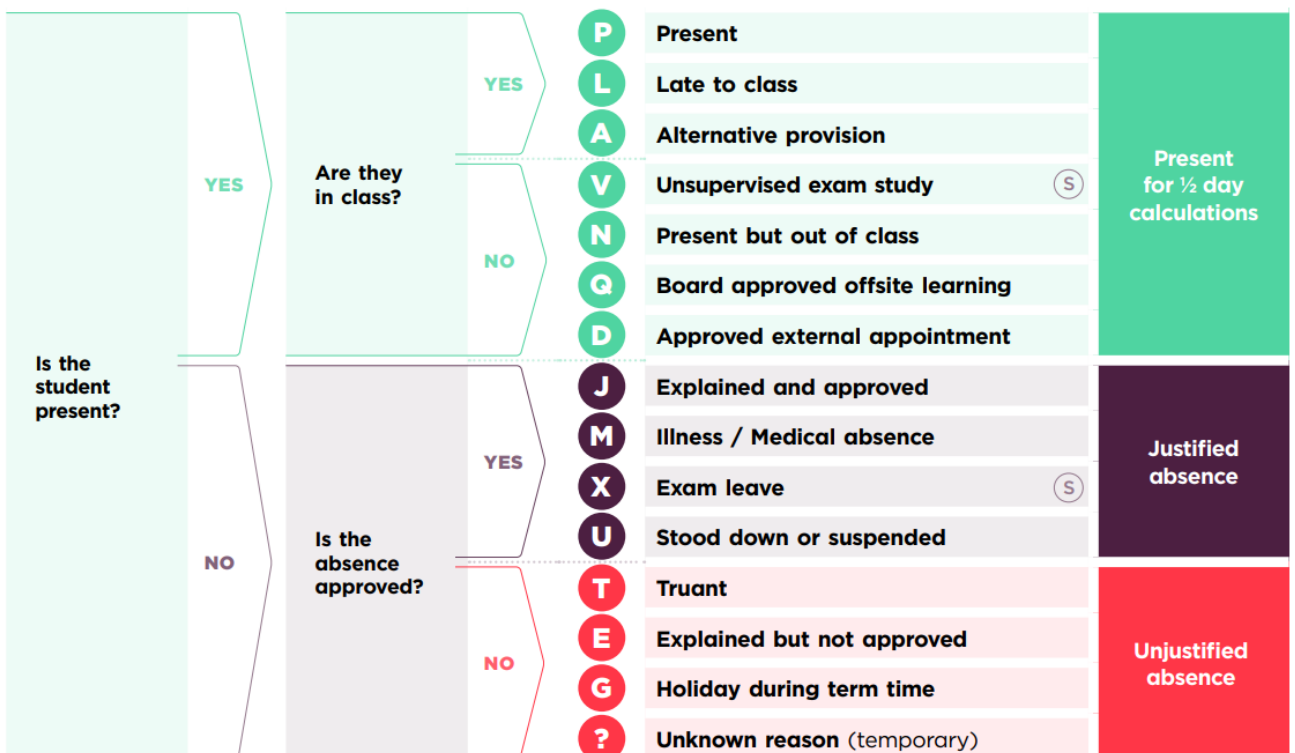
What does this mean for our school and students?

Attendance data is now collected daily by the Ministry of Education. If there is an attendance concern this will activate an Attendance Officer who will work with you to problem solve a student’s absence.

It is vital that when you notify us that your child will be absent you give us the information about why they are away. This is so we can enter the correct code. Below is the process we follow and on the next page an explanation of the codes.

Thank you for your support with this.

Attendance Code Decision Tree

Attendance Code Descriptions

Present for ½ day calculations

P Present

Student is present in class. This includes supervised dual tuition with Te Kura.

L Late to class

Student is late to class. Schools set the threshold for lateness (e.g. 10 minutes) in their school policy.

A Alternative provision

Student is present in a Ministry-approved alternative provision, such as a teen parent unit, alternative education, secondary-tertiary program, health school or activity centre.

V Unsupervised exam study ^(S)

Student is present in an examination or unsupervised study where the student is on-site.

N Present but out of class

Student is present but out of class due to an on-site school activity (cultural or sporting event), internal appointment, temporary removal from class, or time in the sickbay.

Q Board approved offsite learning

Student is present in Board-approved off-site learning, including courses, school-organised activities, and work experience.

D Approved external appointment

Student is present but has a medical appointment which is unable to be scheduled outside of school hours (e.g. doctor or dentist and includes travel time) or is participating in court proceedings.

Justified absence

J Explained and approved

Student is absent due to explained and approved reasons (e.g. family emergencies, bereavement, representing in national / cultural events, approved exemptions, or accompanying parents on overseas diplomatic / military postings).

M Illness / Medical absence

Student is absent due to illness or medical reasons, including mental health-related absences (e.g. anxiety).

X Exam leave ^(S)

Student is absent studying offsite preparing for exams. NOTE: Time allocated to this code is not included in Ministry attendance calculations.

U Stood down or suspended

Student is absent due to formal stand down or suspension. This code applies to the period of the stand-down or suspension, excluding the day it was imposed.

Unjustified absence

T Truant

Student is absent without explanation or permission from a parent / caregiver (e.g. skipping class)

E Explained but not approved

Student is absent and the reason provided does not meet the school's policy for a justifiable absence (e.g. a parent states their child didn't want to attend sports day).

G Holiday during term time

Student is absent due to a holiday taken.

? Unknown (temporary)

Temporary code used when the reason for a student's absence is initially unknown. This will be updated once the reason is confirmed.

^(S) Secondary schools only



Enabling school-aged learners to realise their full potential by supporting their wellbeing and nutrition.



Breakfast...

If your child would like to have breakfast before school they are most welcome to go to the 'hall café'. We have a great team of senior students who are so excited to be serving Weet-Bix to the children. This is a great initiative to ensure full tummies before the learning gets underway for the day. All are welcome!

Our Reset Room

We operate a Reset Room to support student learning and foster uninterrupted classroom learning time. If a student is disrupting the teaching/learning in the classroom, they are asked to go to the Reset Room with their work. This enables them to refocus and complete their work, with support. This benefits both the individual student and the entire class. Parents/Caregivers are notified by the classroom teacher when their child visits the Reset Room, and we encourage you to discuss and reinforce respectful behavior with your child—respect for teachers, fellow students, and, most importantly, respect for their own learning. Students in the Reset Room miss their next break time as a consequence. After completing their work, they return to class for the following learning block with a fresh start. The positive impact on student learning and classroom environments is clear, as evidenced by the decreasing number of students requiring this support.

The Reset Room is located within the shared office space of the Principal and Deputy Principal. Therefore, if your child mentions being sent to the Principal's office, please be assured that we will contact you directly if the situation involves anything beyond a reset.

Our Reward System

All children receive "ICIC (In Christ I Can Gospel Values)" tickets for making great choices. Inclusion, Courtesy, Integrity and Courage are the Gospel Values we actively promote and teach.

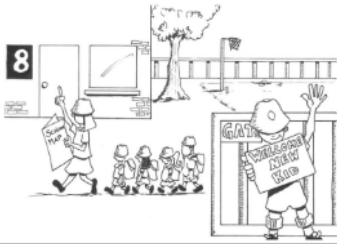
These tickets can be redeemed at the "Shop" on Mondays, where a diverse "menu" of rewards are available.

This creates a fair system where all children can save towards a reward rather than it being a lucky draw. Children can work together to purchase rewards also.

Popular choices include "renting" the chair, sandpit, playground, or field, and spending time in the craft corner. On the next page I have included our Gospel Values and the reward menu's.

Welcoming

Making new people welcome.
Knowing and using people's names.
Ensuring new people know the way we do things.
Fully participating with reverence and respect in the School Powhiri.



INCLUSION

Āpiti

The second commandment is 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." MARK 12:31

Forgiveness

Accepting that learning is messy and that it is OK to make mistakes.
Letting someone say sorry.
Being open to a restorative conversation.
Letting a person learn from their mistakes and have a clean slate.



TEACHER AND STUDENT VOICE

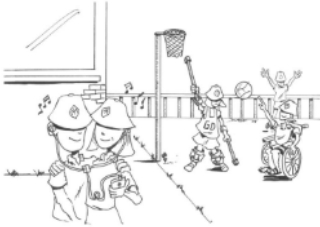
Curiosity

Getting to know your classmates likes + dislikes.
Greeting someone in a language that is important to them.
Valuing a person's culture through our actions.
Recognising the value of learning about cultures of the world.



Togetherhness

Sharing with others.
Including others in play who are lonely.
Including everyone of all abilities when making teams or groups.
Allowing all to fully participate.



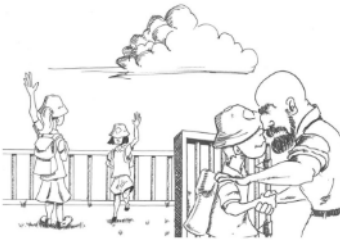
Acceptance

Support someone who is struggling.
Accepting diversity in our community.
Through your actions + words let someone know they're precious.
Tolerance of people's personalities, traits + interests.



Manners

Using please and thank you
Returning a greeting
Greeting manuhiri appropriately
TREASURE YOUR KAUMATUA / Elders



COURTESY

Whakaaro atawhai

"to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people." (Titus 3:2)

Managing Self

Cleaning up after myself
Lining up quietly
Walking around the school sensibly and quietly
Managing myself when it's challenging



TEACHER AND STUDENT VOICE

Voice

Putting your hand up
Be an active listener using your ears and eyes
Using body language in a positive way
Tone of voice is polite and respectful



See a Need

Stepping aside for an adult
Opening a door for someone
Putting someone's needs before my own
Offering assistance to others



Patience

Waiting to take my turn
Sensibly entering and exiting situations
Respecting people's conversations
Show patience until the time is right to act



Responsibility

Apologise to others
Be a Role model, do what Jesus would do.
Be committed to a given task.
Follow rules at all time.
Being committed to a leadership position.



Respect

Have pride in your uniform, bookwork & school.
Value others and the environment.
Being grateful.
Have self respect. like who you are.
Refuse to participate in actions detrimental to others.



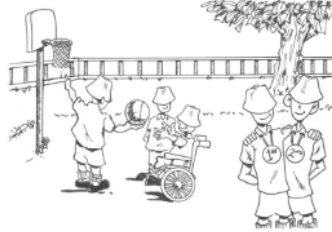
INTEGRITY

Ngākau pono

People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall. (PROV 10:9)

Fairness

Treat others as I want to be treated.
Let someone go before you.
Enjoy the game whether you win or lose.
Handle decisions made, even if you don't agree.
Treat everyone equally and fairly.



TEACHER AND STUDENT VOICE

Initiative

See a need and do it.
Go above and beyond.
Act independently of others that do otherwise.
Stand up for what is right even if you're alone.
Speak out about ethical world issues.



Honesty

Keep your word.
Own up.
Be aware of your actions.
Be true to who you are.
Be forthright with your beliefs and values.



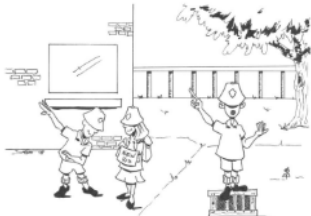
Faith

Do the sign of the cross.
Participate in class prayer.
Lead class prayer.
Participate in faith talk in classrooms.
Live out your faith by being the eyes, ears and hands of Jesus.



Sharing

Introduce yourself to new people.
Share your ideas and experiences to a group.
Present a speech with confidence.
Share your gifts and talents with others.
Lead at assemblies, Masses and Powhiris.



COURAGE

Māia

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be people of courage, be strong (1 Chron 16:13)

Taking a Stand

Walk away & speak up when it is wrong.
Find help for someone who is doing the wrong thing.
Do the right thing even if it is difficult.
Challenge others when you know it is wrong.
Being proud of your identity.



TEACHER AND STUDENT VOICE

Independence

Say goodbye to Mum and Dad in the morning.
Deliver messages to other classrooms.
Go on class or school days out.
Stay overnight away from parents.
Be the first in a group to start something new.



Being Truthful

Tell the truth.
Front up to a person of authority.
Say sorry and come up with a solution.
Try new things even if you might fail.
Be honest with yourself when reflecting.





10 Tickets



10 Tickets



15 Tickets



15 Tickets



20 Tickets



20 Tickets



20 Tickets



20 Tickets



20 Tickets



20 Tickets



20 Tickets



20 Tickets

Bring 2 friends

1 HOUR

20 Tickets

Bring 2 friends

1 HOUR

20 Tickets

Bring 2 friends

1 HOUR

20 Tickets

For you and 2 friends

1 HOUR

20 Tickets

Own Clothes Day

For you and 2 friends

25 Tickets

3 books to keep

25 Tickets

For you and 2 friends

1 HOUR

Peer Mentor Cupboard

30 Tickets

Half a day in another class

30 Tickets

30 Tickets

CRAFT CORNER

Bring 2 friends

1 HOUR

35 Tickets

With a friend

1 HOUR

50 Tickets

50 Tickets



20th February	Meet the Teacher
5th March	Ash Wednesday
6th March	Year 7 Vaccinations
23rd March	School Mass @ St Mary's Church
1st April	Intermediate Gala
11th April	Term 1 ends
28th May	Catholic Schools Day Mass
28th April	Term 2 starts
26th August	Staff Only Day for Professional Development

Let's embrace this year with enthusiasm, collaboration, and a shared commitment to fostering a supportive learning environment for all. We love to have you involved in school life.

On the next page you will see teachers emails. Your child's teacher should be the first port of call if you have any concerns or worries. They know your child best. If you feel you are not being heard please reach out to the Team Leader. Their role is to support their team to get the best for our students.

Kate Linklater, our Deputy Principal, is our Special Needs Coordinator. She works closely with classroom teachers and Team Leaders to ensure your child is supported with their learning.

Ivy Scott is your contact regarding absences, general running of the school, uniform, medical needs... the list goes on. Please ensure you use our app to let us know if your child is away. This saves Ivy having to ring parents which takes quite a bit of time.

My door is always open if you need to pop in for a chat!

We communicate with you through the following ways... please ensure you are able to check one or all of these options.

Your Email

School website www.stmarys.ac.nz

School Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysschoolwanganui

School App From the Google Apps / Play Store: SchoolAppsNZ St Mary's School

If you have any issues getting connected please pop in and see Ivy and she will help you.

Classroom teachers will also communicate through SeeSaw. If you are having difficulty with this contact your child's teacher.

Last but not least please ensure your child has their hat at school. The sun is fierce! Please name your uniform items clearly so we can return any lost items if left around the school.

Welcome back, and let's make this year extraordinary together!

Mā te Atua e manaaki
Jacqui Luxton

Who to see...

If you have a query or concern regarding your child please email or see your child's Teacher first. If you still require assistance please see your child's Team Leader as follows:

Junior Team

Team Leader Dallas Limpus: dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from the JLC, Room 3 and 4

JLC: dallasl@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 3: amandab@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 4: theresec@stmarys.ac.nz

Middle Team

Team Leader Alex Caradus: alexc@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from Rooms 5, 6, 7 and 8

Room 5: heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 6: sarahh@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 7: alexc@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 8: tammyf@stmarys.ac.nz

Senior Team

Team Leader Chris Scudder: chriss@stmarys.ac.nz

Students from Rooms 9, 10 and 11

Room 9: chriss@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 10: tash@stmarys.ac.nz nadinek@stmarys.ac.nz

Room 11: iank@stmarys.ac.nz

If you are requiring further assistance:

Ivy: ivys@stmarys.ac.nz

DRS: heatherl@stmarys.ac.nz

Deputy Principal: katiel@stmarys.ac.nz

Principal: jacquil@stmarys.ac.nz

