



St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE

# ***Boarding Principles and Practice***

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St Mary's School, Cambridge was founded by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1889. It is one of four Mary Ward Schools in this country and the beliefs and sense of purpose of this extraordinary 17th century woman continue to be our inspiration. St Mary's School, Cambridge is a Christian day and boarding school for girls in the Catholic tradition, but which very much welcomes and appreciates all students regardless of their religious background. At St Mary's School, Cambridge we offer students the support of a caring Christian environment within which they can realise their spiritual, intellectual, creative, social and physical potential. The 12 Characteristics of a Mary Ward School appear in brackets.

- To provide a caring, open, stimulating, comfortable and safe environment in which each boarder can develop personally while learning to live within the boarding community
- To provide accommodation that is suited to the needs of the boarders according to age and maturity and which offers adequate levels of privacy
- To create an atmosphere of trust in which each boarder feels able to approach any other member of the community (staff or student), confident in the knowledge that she will be listened to and respected as an individual
- To support boarders within their personal and academic development through appropriate facilities, in an atmosphere which offers encouragement and values effort (Supporting each other throughout the school)
- To create an atmosphere of tolerance in which teasing, harassment and bullying are unlikely to develop
- To provide different support networks for the boarders (Supporting each other throughout school)
- To empower boarders to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being (Respecting self).
- To prepare and enable girls to take a full and active role in the boarding community, school and society (Working to eliminate injustice)
- To safeguard and promote the physical welfare of each boarder by providing the best possible food, medical care and security
- To instil a sense of compassion and empathy for their peers and people outside the school environment who may be in need through fundraising and charity work
- To encourage boarders to develop an appreciation of their culturally diverse community, to show respect for those from different backgrounds and to learn to build bridges between people of different nationalities (Embracing Diversity)
- To provide opportunities and activities to experience the wider diversity of the Cambridge community (Embracing diversity)
- To develop the boarders' understanding of political and ethical global issues and the part they can play as citizens of the world (Valuing women's role and spirituality)
- To provide care that is sensitive to the different needs of our Boarders, so we may seek to ensure that no student is discriminated against in any way, as a result of the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010) or because of cultural or linguistic background, special educational need or academic or sporting ability.