

# St Mary's College

Independent school progress report

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DCSF registration number	852/6003
Unique Reference Number (URN)	116567
Inspection number	346746
Inspection dates	9 February 2010
Reporting inspector	Sheila Nolan

Monitoring report template for use from January 2010

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## Purpose and scope of the visit

This inspection visit was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002<sup>1</sup>, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005<sup>2</sup>.

The visit was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

## Information about the school

St Mary's College is a co-educational Roman Catholic independent school for pupils aged 3 to 16 years. Founded in 1922 as a boys' school, St Mary's began to admit girls in 1992. Currently, girls make up about a quarter of the school population. There are 296 pupils on roll of whom 41 are in the Early Years Foundation Stage. There are 25 children in the Nursery and 16 children in Reception. The school provides after-school care for pupils until 5.20pm each day. St Mary's mission statement is embodied in that of the De la Mennais Brothers whose aim is to make Christ better known and loved. The school welcomes pupils from other faiths and over half of the pupils are not Catholics.

## Context of the visit

The school was inspected in September 2009. There were a number of regulations that the school did not meet. An action plan was submitted in December 2009. The action plan was evaluated as satisfactory in January 2010. A first monitoring visit was made in February 2010 to assess the progress made by the school in addressing the action plan resulting from the September 2009 inspection.

## Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The previous inspection found that the school did not meet all of the requirements with regard to provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety. It did not have written policies for safeguarding pupils which met the current requirements. No child protection or anti-bullying policies were readily available and the risk assessments relating to the health and safety of pupils on activities outside of the school were not fully formulated.

The school has now ensured that it complies with all safeguarding regulations. The anti-bullying policy has been reviewed for all sectors of the school and now meets requirements. For the senior school, there has been an emphasis on cyber-bullying

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<sup>1</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga\\_20020032\\_en\\_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2002/ukpga_20020032_en_14#pt10-ch1-pb4-l1g162)

<sup>2</sup> [www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga\\_20050018\\_en\\_15#sch8](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2005/ukpga_20050018_en_15#sch8)

which has included training for parents as well as for pupils. This is because the school has recognised this area as potentially one of concern with older pupils. Child protection training for staff is up to date and the headteacher will take part in further safeguarding training through diocesan courses.

The inspection of September 2009 found that risk assessments for activities beyond the school site were inadequate. Recent visits have been fully researched and thorough risk assessments completed. This was clearly evidenced in the documentation for a visit to France on the weekend prior to this monitoring visit.

The inspection found that the single central record did not meet requirements. It is now complies with all requirements, including information on the right to work in the United Kingdom. Records of medical checks on fitness to work, professional and character references, and employment history are all in place and evident in the documentation on recent appointments. Staff qualifications, including those for staff in the Early Years Foundation Stage are all checked and detailed in the central record.

The fire safety precautions did not meet requirements. All of those working on the school site, including all pupils, now have appropriate fire safety information. A substantial fire risk policy document sets out procedures to reduce risks and follow-up checks have been carried out to ensure implementation. Fire drills have taken place, as has the testing of electrical equipment.

The school has ensured that checks on all trustees are in place. Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau checks have been carried out and are recorded on the single central record.

## Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made good progress and now meets all the regulatory requirements.

## School details

Name of school	St Mary's College		
DCSF number	852/6003		
Unique reference number (URN)	116567		
Type of school	Roman Catholic co-educational		
Status	Independent		
Date school opened	1922		
Age range of pupils	3-16 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 208	Girls: 88	Total: 296
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 6	Girls: 5	Total: 11
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational need	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£7,365 (secondary) £5,985 (primary)		
Address of school	57 Midanbury Lane Bitterne Park Southampton Hampshire SO18 4DJ		
Telephone number	02380 671267		
Fax number	02380 971268		
Email address	stmarysoffice@aol.com		
Headteacher	Reverend Brother Francis		
Proprietor	Brothers of Christian Instruction		
Reporting inspector	Sheila Nolan		
Dates of inspection	9 February 2010		