Congratulations to all the children, staff, governors, and wider community of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School on achieving the prestigious Lancashire Learning 4 Life Gold Award. This wonderful achievement reflects the school's strong commitment to supporting our children's personal development, wellbeing, and preparation for life beyond the classroom.

The **Lancashire Learning for Life Award** is a personal development quality mark for schools that recognises and celebrates how they prepare children for life in modern society beyond academic achievement. Developed by the Lancashire Professional Development Service, the award accredits schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to pupils' personal growth, wellbeing, and citizenship.

St. Mary's has achieved the gold standard in all of the six key themes:

- Living Safely
- Our Lives Beyond School
- An Equal and Diverse Society
- Our Wellbeing
- Our Relationships
- Being a Responsible Citizen

The accreditation enables schools to showcase their own unique and effective ways of supporting young people to thrive both in and beyond school life.

Recognition for this wonderful achievement has been received from Jen Macdonald (FCCT), PSHE Consultant, who said:

"As a school, you have created a space where children take a lead on making a difference to your school and your community and their drive to succeed is clear.

It has been a pleasure to work with you over the past two years on the Learning 4 Life Award and you are now ***our first school to officially achieve both the silver and gold mark across the whole county****.*

I will very much look forward to working with you to become one of our flagship schools who can support others. It always sticks with me that you talk about 'our little school with a big heart' and this is a perfect description! It encompasses all the amazing things that you do to promote the personal development and wellbeing of your children, and it should be widely celebrated. Your 'little school in Fleetwood, with a big heart' should be incredibly proud of this achievement and I can reiterate- it is a very special place to be!"

This achievement is a proud reflection of the hard work, shared values, and strong sense of community that make St. Mary's Catholic Primary School such a special place for children to learn and flourish. Thank you to all the children, staff, governors, families, and wider community for your continued support.

Maggie Bottomley
Deputy headteacher, St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Congratulations also for the tremendous achievement of two consecutive 'outstanding' Diocesan Section 48 Catholic Life and Religious Education Inspections.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Fleetwood, received the highest possible grading across all areas, with inspectors praising the school's strong Catholic identity, high-quality religious education, inspirational leadership and the way pupils live out Gospel values each day.

The report recognised St Mary's as a welcoming, faith-filled community where children flourish spiritually, academically and personally. Inspectors highlighted the school's commitment to ensuring every child is known, valued and loved, while also commending the strength of relationships across the school community.

Inspectors praised pupils for their exemplary behaviour, enthusiasm for learning and deep understanding of faith in action. The report also celebrated the many ways children put Catholic Social Teaching into practice, supporting charitable causes and showing compassion, respect and service to others.

Headteacher **Ann Kowalska** said the judgement was a proud moment for the whole school community.

"We are absolutely delighted to have achieved Outstanding in all areas. This is a wonderful recognition of the dedication, faith and hard work of our children, staff, governors, families and parish community. At St Mary's, we strive to ensure every child feels valued, nurtured and inspired to be the very best they can be, and we are thrilled that the inspection has recognised this."

Inspectors also commended the quality of prayer and liturgy throughout the school, noting the meaningful opportunities pupils have to develop spiritually and actively participate in the Catholic life of the school.

Chair of Governors **Karen Higham** said the outcome reflects the shared commitment of the whole school community.

"This achievement is a testament to the passion and dedication of everyone involved in St Mary's. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and staff, and this report reflects the strength of our shared mission to provide an exceptional education rooted in faith, love and service."

To mark the achievement and thank pupils for the important part they played during the inspection—sharing their work, speaking confidently to inspectors and helping showcase daily life at St Mary's—the school held a special celebration day for the children.