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Dear Christine,

Re: St Mary's School "Sanctuary School" Award

We are delighted to hear the news that St Mary's Primary is the first school in Lewisham to have been presented with the "Sanctuary School" award by City of Sanctuary UK. From your Butterfly Project for No Resources to Public Funds, to extending your duty of care to the families of students from sanctuary-seeking backgrounds, this is a well-deserved award and testament of the hard work of students, staff and parents.

As you will be aware, City of Sanctuary UK also recently awarded Lewisham with the status of "Council of Sanctuary" and we were the first Council in the country to receive this honour, so we are in fine company!

Lewisham has a proud history of supporting refugees and migrants. In recent years, many individuals and organisations across our borough have challenged the climate of hostility towards migrants and have demonstrated an alternative of welcome and support. The recognition of our efforts to make Lewisham a Borough of Sanctuary, not only in the council but in our schools and across the borough, is evidence of that and we hope that you will be the first of many schools in Lewisham to receive Sanctuary status.

We will continue to work with the community and our partners, including St Mary's Primary, to ensure Lewisham is a true Borough of Sanctuary, and we are both looking forward to visiting your school in the future.

Yours sincerely

Damien Egan
Mayor of Lewisham

Cllr Kevin Bonavia
Cabinet Member for
Democracy, Refugees and
Accountability