

An Overview of Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is driven by the intention of providing all children with the skills and knowledge needed to:

- understand the World around them and be a valuable and productive part of that World
- have an appreciation of the creative arts and develop their own creativity
- have the ability to use the skills and knowledge of mathematics in context
- lead healthy lifestyles and be able to promote and safeguard their own wellbeing and that of those around them.

Alongside the driving factors behind our curriculum we seek to promote and celebrate a core set of Christian values. Challenge, Kindness, Perseverance, Respect and Forgiveness are central to all we do at St. Michael's and are celebrated in every aspect of school life, including in the classroom, on the playground and through our daily Collective Worship.

The curriculum we have designed for St. Michael's is set within the parameters of the National Curriculum yet is always evolving in order to best meet the needs of our pupils. We actively plan visits, visitors and hooks for learning to provide a variety of first-hand experiences and bring learning to life.

From Year 2 all children receive swimming lessons until they are competent swimmers. We work alongside a variety of sport coaches and professionals to enhance our PE provision and take an active part in local sporting events and competitions.

Our Food Technology program provides all of our Junior children with the opportunity to develop cooking skills and a knowledge of nutrition, diet and food preparation. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 have weekly Modern Foreign Language Lessons where they learn to speak French. This is further supported by our links with a local secondary, as is our music curriculum, giving the children the opportunity to enjoy listening to and taking part in a variety of performances.

Year 6 children attend an outdoor, adventure residential where social, organisational and physical skills are focussed upon. We will be further developing our provision for residential experience for other groups in the future. All classes in school have the opportunity to experience outdoor learning and Forest Schools through links with a local forest school centre. This is another area that we will further develop over the next few years as we continue to create our own Forest School area.

We develop life skills using Business Enterprise initiatives such as The Bright Star project and our annual Summer Fair.

A range of extra-curricular opportunities are available for our pupils to enable them to further develop skills taught in the classroom, pursue a passion or simply try something new.

We believe our carefully designed, creative and evolving curriculum provides St. Michael's pupils with engaging, quality learning experiences that give them the best possible preparation for life beyond our school gates.

Each area of the curriculum has a statement of intent – that is what we intend our children to gain from studying that subject and St. Michael's and also "3 Big Ideas". These big ideas are common threads which run through every topic in that subject throughout the school and provide the basis for children to build on their previous learning. Further information about each subject can be found by clicking on the name of the subject.