



# St Michael's

Curriculum offer

# RE



At St Michael's we intend to offer high quality and rounded religious education for all of our students. We want our students to develop their understanding of faith, how to practice their faith and how to live their faith. We want children to understand that the Gospel values are at the heart of everything that we do. We teach children to know that our Mission Statement *'In the footsteps of Jesus, we strive to achieve excellence in everything we do'* permeates through our school community, through our RE curriculum, Come and See.

Using planned class lessons, liturgies, assemblies, focus themed weeks and questioning which promote awe and wonder, children are being offered the opportunity to develop their knowledge of Christ and the skills to answer challenging questions while exploring beliefs, values and traditions predominantly in the Catholic Church, Judaism and Islam.

Religious Education must allow our children to become religiously literate so that they can think about and discuss spirituality, ethics and theology.

It is intended that the children are provided with an environment which supports their progression and understanding of faith and that they are aware that their developing religious literacy underpins their actions and learning in all subjects and topics. This is supported through prayer tables in each classroom; these can be adorned by the children in keeping with their current RE topic or season in the Liturgical year. RE displays in school's communal areas and classrooms are used to support and promote our faith and beliefs.

# English



Our English curriculum intends to provide our children with a rich and varied language that supports them throughout their years in education and beyond. We provide our children with many opportunities to develop fluency and explore vocabulary with the intention that their language acquisition can both be written and spoken to a high standard regardless of the child's starting point in life. Where possible links will be made to other areas of the Curriculum so as to ensure reading material is varied both in style and genre.

Writing is made meaningful to our pupils by ensuring that they experience writing in different contexts for different purposes. Pupils will be immersed in a vocabulary rich environment using teaching strategies that provide excellent models of language which continue to highlight the importance of English in St Michael's.

We strive to achieve this through providing a range of pictures, story and non-fiction books and by using The Power of Reading Scheme of Work provided by CLPE. Aspects of 'Talk for Writing' and 'Tales Toolkit' are used and adapted across Key Stage one as a vehicle for teaching creative writing. Enjoyment of writing is fostered through creating exciting hooks which are starting points for our Big Writing Cycle in Key Stage Two.

Confidence in language is of the greatest importance to us and it is our intention for all pupils to leave the school with a passion for reading and a drive that encourages them to explore their imagination.

# Maths



At St Michael's we ensure our children have access to a high quality maths curriculum with a mastery approach. The curriculum is both challenging and enjoyable and will enable them to become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics. We provide our children with a variety of mathematical opportunities to ensure our children are confident mathematicians who are not afraid to take risks. We fully develop independent learners with inquisitive minds who have secure mathematical foundations and an interest in self-improvement. We are committed to ensuring that children are able to recognise the importance of Maths in the wider world and that they are also able to use their mathematical skills and knowledge confidently in their lives in a range of different contexts.

# Science



At St. Michael's we believe the teaching of Science enables our learners to begin to understand and make sense of the world in which we live.

Our curriculum has been developed to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum and to develop a sense of curiosity and excitement about the natural world. We encourage the development and use of working scientifically skills including questioning, researching and observation.

As we want our children to develop a broad vocabulary, scientific language is taught and built upon as topics are revisited in different year groups and across key stages.

St Michael's children will gain an understanding of the impact of human activity and our responsibility as stewards to protect the planet.

# PE



At St. Michael's, we aim to provide a PE curriculum that pupils from Reception to Year 6 not only enjoy but also allows them to experience a range of activities that help them to develop their health, fitness and wellbeing. We intend to offer a physical education curriculum that inspires all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically-demanding activities. It provides opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

## EYFS

Physical development - involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their coordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

## Key stage 1

Pupils develop fundamental movement skills, become increasingly competent and confident and access a broad range of opportunities to extend their agility, balance and coordination, individually and with others. They are able to engage in competitive (both against self and against others) and co-operative physical activities, in a range of increasingly challenging situations. Pupils are taught to:

- master basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching, as well as developing balance, agility and coordination, and begin to apply these in a range of activities
- participate in team games, developing simple tactics for attacking and defending
- perform dances using simple movement patterns.

## Key stage 2

Pupils continue to apply and develop a broader range of skills, learning how to use them in different ways and to link them to make actions and sequences of movement. They enjoy communicating, collaborating and competing with each other. They develop an understanding of how to improve in different physical activities and sports and learn how to evaluate and recognise their own success. Pupils are taught to:

- use running, jumping, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination
- play competitive games, modified where appropriate (for example, badminton, basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders and tennis), and apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending
- develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance (for example, through athletics and gymnastics)
- perform dances using a range of movement patterns
- take part in outdoor and adventurous activity challenges both individually and within a team
- compare their performances with previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best.

## Swimming

Each year group in Key Stage 2 will attend swimming lessons for one term.

# History



The History curriculum at St Michael's enables children to develop a deep understanding of the rich history of our locality as well as the history of people and place from further afield. The curriculum has been carefully tailored to encourage creativity and teach the students about significant people and civilisations that have influenced the world. In line with the National Curriculum 2019, the curriculum at St Michael's aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world which helps to stimulate pupils' curiosity to learn more about their past;
- Are encouraged to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement;
- Begin to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.
- Celebrate the diversity of early activists and pioneers from Africa and Asia and understand their influence on the western world.

# Computing



At our school we want pupils to be MASTERS of technology. Technology is everywhere and will play a pivotal part in students' lives. Therefore, we want to model and educate our pupils on how to use technology positively, responsibly and safely. We want our pupils to be creators not consumers and our broad curriculum encompassing computer science, information technology and digital literacy reflects this. We want our pupils to understand that there is always a choice with using technology and as a school we utilise technology to model positive use.

- We recognise that the best prevention for a lot of issues we currently see with technology/social media is through education.
- We know that in our current climate technology is more essential than ever, and students need to be able access their learning using the tools and software they've learnt in school.
- We recognise that technology can allow pupils to share their learning in creative ways.
- We also understand the accessibility opportunities technology can provide for our pupils. Our knowledge rich curriculum has to be balanced with the opportunity for pupils to apply their knowledge creatively which will in turn help our pupils become skilful computer scientists.
- We want our pupils to be fluent with a range of tools to best express their understanding and we hope by Upper Key Stage 2, children have the independence and confidence to choose the best tool to fulfil the task and challenge set by teachers.

# French



At St Michael's, the intention of the MFL curriculum is to develop an interest for other languages and cultures. We aim to teach French in Years: 1 - 6 in enjoyable and stimulating ways. We hope to embed the essential skills of speaking and listening, reading and writing in our French lessons. We are aware of the huge benefits learning a foreign language can bring such as learning about the similarities and differences of other cultures. As French is spoken in many countries throughout the world, it is considered a valuable language to learn. We hope to lay the foundations for future language learning.

At St Michael's, we aim for French to be taught in a weekly discreet lesson in Years: 1 – 6. In ks2, French lessons are taught for 30 mins per week. In Ks1, French lessons are taught for 15 minutes. Our MFL curriculum has been designed to progressively develop skills in French. We are currently using the 'Language Angels' website to deliver our French lessons. The teaching units are organised around topics. They ensure development is progressive as they build on previous knowledge from units already studied. In Years 1&2, French is taught mostly orally as children are introduced to the basics of French such as learning simple greetings and songs. We encourage French songs to be learnt in both key stages, as this helps with both language acquisition and making French lessons fun and enjoyable too.

# Art



At St. Michael's, children have a chance to develop their artistic creativity and skills in a range of activities, allowing our children to express themselves, their thoughts and their emotions. Our Art curriculum is designed to help children understand the history and traditions of the world around them. It allows children to explore, build on and record their own imaginative ideas, which is all part of creativity. It is truly inclusive; a child does not have to create a masterpiece to have a meaningful artistic experience.

Our Art Curriculum is involved in different ways throughout the school year:

- Through annual 'special' areas of study such as Black History Month and St Michael's Day
- By creating individual and collaborative art work during Art Week.
- Through the creation of costumes and props for assemblies and Easter/Christmas productions
- By creating Easter/Christmas decorations
- By creating art that's linked to a subject to further develop their understanding of the topic being taught and making it cross-curricular

Through the different activities, we believe that it is vitally important to develop children's creativity, imagination and improve their focus and self-esteem. We do this through:

- Exploring famous artists
- Exploring traditional techniques from around the world
- By developing skills in painting, drawing and sculpture
- By providing opportunities for the children to use a wide variety of media
- Working with professional artists and understanding its importance

# Music



At St Michael's, music plays an important part in the life of the school in a variety of ways. We aim for all the children in the school to have access to a high quality music curriculum so that they can develop the skills and knowledge required in every key stage. Key life skills taught/gained through musical activities such as collaboration, discipline, problem-solving, concentration and creativity can be transferred into other areas of their learning and development. High quality music education can improve self-confidence, behaviour and social skills as well as improve academic achievement across the curriculum.

At St Michael's, music is a key component of our school's liturgies and church services involving the local parish and community. A variety of school plays and concerts take place throughout the year and the school's choir performs within the local community on a regular basis.

We strive to cover all the objectives of the music national curriculum by teaching a variety of music lessons. This includes singing, instrumental/composition lessons, music appreciation and music history lessons.

Music is currently timetabled to be taught as a weekly discreet lesson in all year groups and teachers are encouraged to include cross-curricular links to music in other core and foundation subjects too.

Years 4, 5 & 6 receive a 45 minute whole – class Ukulele lesson once a week which covers all of the music national curriculum objectives. These lessons are funded by a music enrichment grant scheme.

Singing assemblies take place once a week in which liturgical hymns and songs are taught and practised for whole – school and individual class masses.

The St Michael's school choir performs regularly in the local community and in various concerts and events throughout the year. The choir includes pupils from year 3 – 6.

# DT



At St Michael's we aim to develop the children's skills and knowledge in design, structures, mechanisms, electrical controls and a range of materials, including food so that they can participate successfully in an increasingly technological world.

Design and Technology allows the children to link their learning across the curriculum. We encourage children's creativity and prompt them to think about the skills and knowledge they have in order to make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users. We encourage them to critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others. We believe that it is vital to nurture creativity and innovation through design and by exploring the designed and made world in which we all live and work.

# Geography



At St Michael's Catholic Primary School, we have designed our Geography curriculum with the intent that it will inspire our children with a curiosity, fascination and appreciation of the world around them. It will equip them with a diverse knowledge and understanding of people, places, natural, human and physical geography. The curriculum progression will expand outwards from the immediate locality to the global, but with a comparison and contrast to their local area through each key stage.

Our curriculum is tailored to provide our children with the subject specific language they need to describe, question and discuss the world, as well as their place in it-both inside and outside of the classroom. This is in line with the expectations in the National Curriculum 2014.

Our pupils are encouraged to recognise that they have a voice and to use it confidently to debate topics that they feel passionate about, for example, within the Energy and Sustainability topic.

We endeavour to provide a geography curriculum which ignites every child's passion for learning as they journey through St Michael's.