



**ST MICHAEL'S**  
Church of England High School

# SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

***ENABLING EVERYONE  
TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL  
POTENTIAL***

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# Welcome

We are proud that the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools judged St Michael's to be an excellent school. At St Michael's, we aim to show love, care and kindness to all in our community. We value what we have and share with others, and we aim to enable everyone to achieve their full potential.



We enjoy working and learning in a beautiful building with state-of-the-art facilities, including three multi-use games areas; sports fields; a sports hall; a gym; a dance studio; a drama theatre; a spacious Learning Resource Centre; design and technology rooms; computer suites; food and textiles facilities and science laboratories.

Classrooms and corridors are light and spacious, and at the heart of the school is our beautiful chapel: a peaceful space for prayer and reflection.

Academic success at St Michael's has gone from strength to strength; we provide a broad, rich and deep curriculum, taught by expert, passionate teachers in a safe, caring and supportive environment. In order for our students to achieve their full potential, we have highest expectations in terms of attendance, punctuality, appearance, behaviour for learning and outcomes. We are relentless in our pursuit of high standards, whilst promoting Christian values of mercy; integrity; care and compassion; humility; achievement; equality; leadership and service. At St Michael's, we reward students who embody the school values through their words, actions, attitudes and being.

The St Michael's 'wing' is awarded to those who embrace and adopt values all bound within a spirit of Christian love and action. Ofsted recognises our outstanding practice in students' personal development and, at St Michael's, we pride ourselves in providing the highest standard of pastoral care and guidance, both within the curriculum and beyond. We are proud to have achieved the gold standard in The Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools award, and our dedicated team of friendly and professional staff is thoroughly committed to the education and welfare of our young people.

We have an award-winning Student Voice programme, which nurtures cooperation, collaboration, independence, responsibility and resilience; enabling our young people to become well-rounded individuals and proactive citizens.

We believe that trips and visits play an important role in our children's academic success and social development. Consequently, there are numerous opportunities for students to extend their learning, for example, attending reward and field trips, visiting universities, colleges, historical and religious venues; attending musical, theatre and dance performances and participating in sporting competitions.

I look forward to working in partnership with parents to ensure that our young people receive an outstanding education, have impressive ambition and enjoy significant success.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Handy-Rivett  
Headteacher





# What makes us distinctive?

As a Church of England school, we follow the doctrine of Jesus Christ, and the ethos of the school is at the heart of our teaching and learning as we encourage and develop both Christian and moral values. The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) judged St Michael's to be an 'excellent' church school because of the transformational impact we have on students, families, staff and our extended community. The school "has a heart like no other school", typifies the comments made by parents.

Driven by our vision, all staff deliver equality of opportunity for all students, in all aspects of school life; this enables each one to flourish. The broad and varied curriculum is planned and delivered with the "St Michael's values" of mercy, integrity, care and compassion, humility, achievement, equality, leadership and service as central.

At St Michael's, we encourage all students to reflect on the things that are most important to us in our school community. Regardless of a religious belief or not, either way, we all have one thing in common, and that is to enjoy a common sense of wellbeing and fulfilment.

Our school prayer, taken from the Bible, Micah 6 verse 8, is a mantra for school life whereby we encourage each student and member of staff to 'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly'.

## OUR SCHOOL PRAYER:

*What does the Lord ask of you?*

*To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6vs.8

The links with the local churches are strong and continue to develop, and we have a school chaplain that supports staff and students alike.



Our excellent facilities, twinned with our hard working staff and outstanding pastoral team, make St Michael's a school that transforms children's lives for the better. The strong ethos of the school is key. It is the tool that aids us to develop good, upstanding, resilient and respectful students, who contribute to brighter future within the local community and beyond.





## Pastoral care and student wellbeing

St Michael's is recognised by Ofsted for our outstanding provision in behaviour, attitudes and personal development. In 2022, we achieved the gold standard Mental Health in Schools Award from The Carnegie Centre of Excellence.

We ensure your child is supported by a dedicated team of highly trained pastoral professionals who will assist your child throughout their school career. We take pride in how inclusive our school is: students are treated as individuals and encouraged to achieve their goals regardless of any barriers they may face.

Our student Wellbeing Champions ensure that effective peer support is available to promote health and wellbeing. The Wellbeing Advisory Board, made up of staff, students, parents and a governor, take a keen interest in the wellbeing provision provided within school. The board strategically influences and shapes the wellbeing support available in school.

Through our strong pastoral care and guidance, we will instill St Michael's core values and support your child's personal growth and social development.

## Benefits of our system

- Our family ethos promotes a supportive environment for every child.
- An effective home and school partnership to develop well rounded, confident individuals.
- A caring, supportive transition year for our new Year 7 students.
- Award winning pastoral care and guidance.
- Support for improving literacy through targeted intervention and reading for pleasure strategies.
- A caring environment that supports the personal and social development of students.
- Continuity of care, guidance and support throughout school career.

***"Pupils develop into confident, mature and articulate young people, very well prepared for life after school."***

***Ofsted***







**Parents said that  
"their children feel safe in school."**

## Partnership with parents

As a school, we believe it is imperative to build close working relationships with parents. This partnership of staff, parents, and students working together ensures our students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

We have a plethora of opportunities for parents to attend our school throughout the year and we encourage parents to attend as many events as possible to support their child on their St Michaels journey. Some of our events that take place on a regular basis are:

- parents' evenings
- year group specific information evenings/
- meetings subject and revision evenings
- concerts and school productions celebration events
- parent focus group information evenings

***"They support and encourage their classmates and at break-time and lunchtime, they behave maturely and show consideration for others."***

***They "behave well in lessons. They listen attentively to their teachers and to each other." (Ofsted)***



## Communication:

We feel that communication between school and home is key in making sure our students flourish and fulfil their potential.

Our communication strategy aims to provide the flow of two-way information, keeping you informed of what is going on in school, as well as parents being able to communicate with us on a regular basis. We ensure parents are kept up to date with latest information through:

- our website
- frequent emails and text messages
- annual school report
- termly interim reports
- letters
- half termly school newsletter
- Go 4 schools app and website social media
- via twitter school/community events parent/community meetings

Every student has a planner to support individuals with their organisation, where parents can monitor their child's homework and maintain contact with school. Homework is set to supplement learning in the classroom and enhance student progress; all students will be expected to record this in their planner, whether their homework is paper based or online.

Form tutors, Heads of Year and the Pastoral Team are there to ensure that each student is happy, safe and thriving in all aspects of their school life. Attendance and high achievement go hand in hand, and we are committed to working alongside parents to ensure any absence is kept to an absolute minimum.

***Pupils are "confident, mature and articulate young people, very well prepared for life after school."***



# Student Voice

At St Michael's, we believe consultation with students is integral to nurturing responsible, collaborative and pro-active young people. Engaging students in sharing their thoughts, ideas and opinions about teaching and learning, pastoral matters and their school experience as a whole, in turn, helps to build their confidence in school structures and procedures.

Student Voice was launched in 2012 and is a non-elite group, consisting of around 100 members. It offers a sense of community and provides a platform for young people to share ideas, work with others and, most importantly, create change. Through this catalyst, we have been able to work with a wide range of community partners to develop award winning projects and initiatives.

Students attend meetings at lunchtime, after school, evenings and during holiday periods to develop initiatives ranging from fundraising and mental health, primary school transition and working with elderly members of the community.



***"Student Voice has shaped me into a more well-rounded person. Student Voice makes me feel safe."***

***Sophie - Year 8***



***"Student Voice has given me opportunities to inspire change. I love the projects in place and everyone is lovely. I love Student Voice."***

***Nathan - Year 8***







***"I love Student Voice because it has opened up so many opportunities and boosted my confidence in ways I can't describe. I have made so many friends and I can't thank Student Voice enough."***

***Lily – Year 8***

Student Voice welcomes students of all ages and abilities to take part, enabling them to develop their confidence, self-esteem, initiative and much more. Our projects vary, based on student ideas and trending issues. Previous initiatives have included: 21st Century Child, Equality & Diversity, Wellbeing Champions, Unmuted Radio, LINKS intergenerational programme, fundraising and #21AOK kindness campaign.

In addition to all of the activities mentioned, Student Voice takes part in numerous consultation activities. Members have regular opportunities to share their ideas with school staff, the Headteacher and the governing board, and our partner agencies such as West Midlands Police and local councillors. The community office is the hub for all Student Voice activities, and we are always looking for new members.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Kerry Whitehouse at [kerry.whitehouse1@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:kerry.whitehouse1@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk).





# Love of learning

Staff at St Michael's are committed to delivering the highest quality of lessons to our students. We know that excellent teaching ensures excellent student outcomes. We have a dedicated team of practitioners who use strategies steeped in educational research within the classroom that result in students making strong progress.

We are incredibly proud of the first class learning experiences students receive at St Michael's. We structure learning to excite our students' curiosity and to inspire them to become successful, lifelong independent learners. Our teachers are extremely enthusiastic and passionate about their subjects, spending considerable time planning high quality learning experiences, communicating their passion for their subjects to the students.

We are fortunate to have a high quality learning environment, including our purpose-built drama studio, music rooms and extensive sport facilities support our varied extracurricular programme.

Our vibrant and welcoming library supports learning throughout the school, catering for a range of reading abilities and includes an impressive range of reading genres. We aim to engender a genuine love for reading and excitement about learning in every child at St Michael's. Our approach to literacy is centred around improving reading ages to enable all students to access the curriculum. All teachers are teachers of literacy within their subject areas, and all students read for pleasure within form time. The plethora of strategies that we deliver helps us with our mission of improving reading ages of the young people of Sandwell.

Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to cater for the needs of all of our students, enabling them to flourish in their future career pathways; our last inspection confirmed this: "The school's curriculum contains an appropriate range of subjects in each year. In key stage 4, a balance of academic and vocational options ensures that pupils study subjects that motivate and interest them. The key stage 3 curriculum has a strong focus on English and mathematics, with a view to strengthening pupils' basic skills." Ofsted.

Careful consideration and meticulous planning by subject leaders has resulted in a well sequenced curriculum that is delivered innovatively through quality pedagogy and practice. A blended curriculum offer will ensure that our students become knowledgeable in their subject areas whilst being able to apply this knowledge to academic scenarios and the wider world.







# An inclusive environment for all



Inclusion is at the heart of St Michael's, and we provide excellent focus provision for students with physical disabilities. The Special Educational Needs (SEN) department is a dynamic team of Learning Support Practitioners (LSPs) who are expertly managed by a senior SEN coordinator and a SEN coordinator. LSPs work with individuals or small groups of students to improve literacy, numeracy, communication, and social skills.

All SEN students, including those in the focus provision, are helped to achieve their full potential through a personalised approach to both the learning process itself and to the support available within and beyond the school community. Co-ordinated multiagency work ensures all students access an appropriate range of support, are fully integrated and have access to all facilities.

Students with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), have a bespoke student profile to support teachers with their planning, teaching and reviewing, to ensure that each student reaches their full potential. EHCP students will be allocated a key worker ensuring communication is clear, and a positive home-school relationship is fostered.

Our highly skilled team enhances the progress of students within lessons using a range of strategies bespoke to student needs.

The SEN team are passionate about student development and are immersed in the day-to-day-care of students with individual needs.





# Opportunities for extended learning

At St Michael's, students are provided with a wide range of extra curricular activities to broaden their educational experience and help build character. As a school, we believe these extended learning opportunities create more well-rounded individuals who are supported socially, emotionally, as well as academically, to succeed.

We offer a variety of clubs and activities before school, during lunchtime and after school. In addition, we run residential trips and trips to other parts of the world. Examples of some of the different opportunities our students enjoy are:

- places of worship visits
- parliamentary visits
- curriculum linked trips
- Intervention
- sporting activities, events and fixtures
- dance shows
- musical groups and brass band
- school productions, plays and concerts
- theatre trips
- art activities and competitions
- poetry competitions
- public speaking events
- university and college visits
- revision weekends
- work experience
- student voice
- rewards trips

On a regular basis, our students participate in sporting competitions at a local and regional level. They are also expected to contribute to a range of year group events and competitions such as Sports Day, Winter Sports Day and house events.

From September 2022, we are introducing the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze and Silver level. This will be a wonderful opportunity for team work and developing resilience and confidence in our young people. Additionally, we work in partnership with West Midlands Police, to facilitate the Police Cadet programme, which endeavors to instill St Michael's core values and builds character, confidence and responsible young citizens.







## Senior Leadership Team



**Mrs Handy-Rivett** Headteacher: Strategy, Finance, Staff and Student Wellbeing

**Mr Brooks** Deputy Headteacher: Whole School Progress and Assessment

**Ms Jeffreys** Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and CPDL

**Mrs Beardsmore** Assistant Headteacher: Behaviour and Welfare/ Designated Safeguarding Lead

**Mr Bending** Assistant Headteacher: KS3 Progress and Director of Pupil Premium

**Mr Hill** Assistant Headteacher: Facilities, Resources and Vocational Education

**Mr Mackinney** Assistant Headteacher: Timetable, Curriculum and SV for Vocational qualifications

**Mrs Hill** Deputy Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour

**Mr Smith** Deputy Assistant Headteacher for Numeracy

**Mr Graham** Associate Assistant Headteacher for Pastoral


**Ms Loucas** Associate Assistant Headteacher for CTLA (students)

**Mr Sargent** Associate Assistant Headteacher for CTLA (staff)



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