



# St Michael's Church of England Primary School

# Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to St Michael's Church of England Primary School; a school with a real family feel.

We pride ourselves on being like a 'village school' set in the heart of Sydenham. St Michael's is a happy and friendly school; the perfect environment for our children to learn together and develop long lasting friendships.

We are aspirational for our pupils and want each and every child to live a life of abundance, in all areas of their school life. We seek to provide this through high quality education with rich and varied experiences. The children are encouraged to participate and succeed across the curriculum, to the best of their ability.

Being a one-form entry school, children at St Michael's benefit from our close-knit, supportive and nurturing environment where no child is left out, no child is left behind. We live by the motto, we are *'small enough for everyone to count - but big enough to make a difference!'*.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to be part of our happy family.

Jacqui Gillespie, Headteacher

*"My husband and I cannot thank you and all the St. Michael's staff enough for going above and beyond, not only to educate our child, but to support and nurture his whole well-being. We are very appreciative."*

St Michael's Parent



*"I am so grateful to both the teaching and non-teaching staff for the excellent job! Well done!"*

St Michael's Parent



*"All parents would recommend the school to others. They have lots of opportunities to visit the school during the day, including regular 'Bring a Parent to School' days." Ofsted 2020*

# What is our Ethos?

At St Michael's we have the mantra that *'every child is unique - being different is what we all share in common'*. We value all our children equally and we celebrate their strengths. Our dedicated and committed staff work tirelessly to ensure that each and every child has opportunities to flourish and achieve their very best.

With the wide range of opportunities available, we strive for our children to become resilient and confident learners with a love for learning and a thirst for knowledge about the world around us.

Our aim is to instill a 'growth mindset', where children persevere when they are faced with a challenge. The children at St Michael's are encouraged to go above and beyond and to have a mindset that if they cannot do something, it just means that they cannot do it *'yet'*.

At our school we want our children to feel safe and secure and to enjoy coming here, so every staff member takes responsibility for safeguarding the welfare of the children.

*"Very, very pleased with the standard of education our children receive. Standards and expectations are high and the children are nurtured and the best is brought out of them in a caring, interesting and stimulating environment."*

St Michael's Parent

*"The school's values remind pupils how to treat people with respect, understanding and kindness. The atmosphere during break and lunchtimes is lively and friendly. Parents and carers feel their children are happy and safe. All parents would recommend the school to others." Ofsted 2020*



*“What a lovely school! Our son has been so happy since joining and we have seen him come on leaps and bounds. He is never tired of school and always happy to come in every day.”*

St Michael's Parent

# Achievement & Aspirations

Driven by a clear vision, we are determined to provide our children with excellent opportunities to learn the core subjects of reading, writing, mathematics and science. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and provide meaningful experiences that ignite curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. All the subjects in the primary curriculum, including humanities, the arts, modern foreign languages, ICT and PE are equally embedded into our provision.

The gifted singing at St Michael's provides the children, teachers and parents/carers with immense joy.

To bring their learning to life, our children participate in regular trips, ranging from local museums to theatres in London's west-end.

A residential trip at the beginning of Year 6 enables children to build those important bonds between classmates and encourages self-esteem, independence and teamwork.

Our location also enables the children to regularly visit Mayow Park, only a five-minute walk away, promoting a sense of well-being and an appreciation of nature.

We also use local grounds for forest school activities.



*"Leaders and staff encourage pupils to behave well and to be proud of their achievements. Pupils are happy at this school. They know that their teachers care about them as individuals and want them to do well".*

Ofsted 2020

# Early Years

We know how important the early years are for sowing the seeds of learning.

The activities and experiences offered at St Michael's are designed to enhance the all-round development of the children and support their physical, emotional, intellectual and social development.

In our Nursery and Reception classes, children will learn through active and investigative play, both inside and out. We will provide exciting and stimulating opportunities for children to explore and develop learning experiences, which help them to make sense of the world.

We pride ourselves on being a caring community, reflected beautifully in our successful buddy system. This feature of St Michael's exemplifies the values of kindness, love and compassion.

Every year we hold a buddy service, where each Reception child is paired with a Year 6 student who makes a pledge to look after and take care of them. Throughout the year, time is allocated for the children to spend time together, developing those precious bonds.

*"Love it here, so very happy with our teachers, so caring and kind to my daughter. Very happy with her progress in all areas."*

St Michael's Parent



*“Teachers help children to learn phonics as soon as they join Reception Year. As a result of this strong start, pupils quickly learn the sounds and the words they need to read fluently.”*

Ofsted 2020

# Clubs & Sport

Our aim is to ensure that children also have a wide range of opportunities outside of the classroom, which are safe, fun and healthy and enrich our children's lives. We believe that sport has many benefits for children – it improves fitness, well-being and learning, as well as increases the likelihood that they will become active adults.

We offer a variety of activities, during and after-school, including football, cricket, basketball, athletics, gymnastics and swimming.

We have a range of after-school activity clubs including art and baking clubs – all run by St. Michael's staff.





*“The school’s values remind pupils how to treat people with respect, understanding and kindness. The atmosphere during break-and lunch times is lively and friendly. Many pupils enjoy the breakfast and early morning reading clubs, alongside a wide variety of extra opportunities such as sports clubs.”*

Ofsted 2020

# Wrap-Around Care

## Breakfast Club

We offer a breakfast club, which is a fun, relaxing start to the day for children whose parents need childcare from 7.30am. Supervised by school staff in our school hall, this popular club provides a great chance for children to begin their day in a familiar environment with lots of activities to keep them entertained.

## After School Provision

We also offer an after-school provision on site, again run by school staff. It provides high quality childcare from after school until 6pm. For parents, this means knowing that your child is safe and happy in a club that is reliable and offers a consistent service. For the child, this means an environment that is safe, supportive and encouraging. It is a place to be with friends and make new ones; to be able to try out new activities, to relax, to have fun and enjoy.





*“The school’s values form the bedrock for behaviour, attainment and progress. This means that its Christian distinctiveness makes a very strong contribution to raising aspirations and developing good behaviours and attitudes.”*

SIAMS 2016

# Our Church & Community

In line with the Church of England ethos, we warmly welcome children of all faiths as well as children of no faith at St Michael's. We are committed to instill the value of 'respect', our one school rule, and we expect our children to respect everyone regardless of their faith, ethnicity or background. Everyone is unique and we should all be accepted without prejudice.

In addition to the value of respect, the school has a further six values which we actively teach and promote within our everyday life and school community - love, hope, peace, joy, trust and resilience. We want our children to grow up to do good in this world and we believe that a values education will encourage the children to make a positive contribution to the development of a fair, just and civil society.

We also teach the British Values to nurture our children on their journey through life, encouraging them to be creative and open-minded, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our community and the wider world.

At St Michael's we cherish the involvement of our families and hold events such as celebration collective worship and a family collective worship held in the church each week. We are so pleased to invite family members to join us for these. Our pride and joy are our beautiful, high quality performances which are always noted as one of the highlights by parents and children. These events are always open to all members of our local community enabling them to feel part of our special family and our school part of theirs.



*I want to thank the staff for the wonderful performance today – it was absolutely magical. The children’s singing warmed my heart and it was such an uplifting experience. I feel the school’s performances are just getting better and better every year! Well done!” St Michael’s Parent*



*“I enjoyed when we learnt about creation stories from my religion as well as other religions. It was nice to share my beliefs with the class, as my faith is different to some of the other children.”*

*Siham, Y6 pupil*

# Admissions

We aim to be inclusive and (from the September 2022 intake) no preference is given to children who regularly attend church.

Applications for a Reception place are co-ordinated through Lewisham Local Authority and should be made online.

To apply for a place in Years 1-6 or the existing Reception class (i.e. a transfer from another school) an on-line application is required via the Parent Portal on Lewisham Council's website.

For nursery admissions, please see the school website.

We understand that the application process can feel like a daunting one. If you need any help, please speak to us in the school office, where we will be more than happy to help you.

*"The school's values remind pupils how to treat people with respect, understanding and kindness".*

Ofsted 2020



*“St Michael's is a really nice school and my children have both enjoyed their time here for the past 7 years. Now my youngest is in Reception, is loving it and enjoying time with new friends and teachers. Thank you for all your support over the last 8 years.”*

St Michael's Parent

# Contact Us

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Thank you!