



The Intent, Implementation and Impact of our Early Years Foundation Department

School Mission Statement



St Michael's RC Primary School is a Catholic family of faith, following the teaching of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community become caring, independent and resilient individuals who fulfil their potential.

"I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10

Foundation Stage (FS1 and FS2)

At St. Michaels, we believe the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a crucial part in developing the children's curiosity, thinking, exploration, independence, resilience, inquisitiveness, knowledge, understanding and reasoning skills. The EYFS unit is an integral part of the school and we are proud to be St. Michaels.

Intent

At St. Michaels, we intend that our curriculum educates children in the knowledge, skills and independence to be effective learners. We want our children to be curious about the world around them and the learning opportunities they come across, ambitious in their thinking and learning, pro-active learners who are problem solvers. We intend our curriculum to educate children to be open minded thinkers who value being part of a community, children who value each other and are proud to be unique and have a sense of self value. Our curriculum intent is for children to value their education and be positive learners, who apply their knowledge and skills independently and confidently.

Implementation

At St. Michaels we encourage children to demonstrate their attitudes and behaviours for learning through the characteristics of effective learning.

We model the Catholic ethos in our daily practice through daily worship, RE lessons, collective worship and intertwining the catholic values into our every day practice.

Our Curriculum is designed to offer the children exciting opportunities with hook experiences that engage their imagination and curiosity. We strive to provide a nurturing environment that is full of learning opportunities that are play based alongside adult led

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activities. We create learning opportunities that follow the children's interests, utilise our local environment, promote speech and language development and create mystery and suspense. We use our forest school to engage children's learning and build a love of nature, children are encouraged to explore and be independent learners by using the forest school tools to build and create master pieces. These skills are life long and transferable.

Pupils learn through a balance of child initiated and adult-directed activities. The timetable is carefully structured so that children have rigorous directed teaching in Maths, English and phonics every day. These lessons are followed up with group and individual work alongside independent application to ensure that every child is making good progress and achieving to their full potential. Teachers have the opportunity to systematically check understanding, identify areas of misconception and respond quickly to provide verbal feedback, interventions and praise.

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum we recognise it is the foundation to accessing all other areas of the curriculum therefore we ensure that high quality phonics is taught daily in the EYFS unit along with other activities such as role play to encourage and promote a love of reading. In nursery we teach the children to listen to and identify various sounds, sing songs, rhyme and identify initial sounds in words through phase 1 phonics together with giving them opportunities to explore sounds and apply their knowledge of initial sounds through investigative activities. We follow this in FS2 with a whole school approach in the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme, where the children are taught graphemes and phonemes in a fun and exciting way. FS2 children learn a new sound daily, these sounds are sent home in a learning pack each week combined with green (decodable) and red (tricky) words learnt. Parents are encouraged to sign learning journals daily to say they have practiced the sounds and words with their child. A variety of reading books are sent home in term 1 to encourage a love of reading, from term 2 reading books sent home match the phonic ability of the children, children are then encouraged to read these books nightly along side their sounds and tricky words.

We believe that enjoyment of the curriculum promotes a love of learning, confidence, curiosity, great achievement and good behaviour. We provide an environment that is changing, flexible, exciting which in turn encourages independence, teamwork and problem solving in a safe and enriching environment giving the children the opportunity to learn and apply new skills learnt.

At St. Michaels we celebrate the successes of all the children in our celebration assembly, we feel proud of every child and their achievement and strive to ensure they feel proud of themselves and their own achievement's.

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All staff are well trained in the assessment of children and understand the EYFS development matters. We use Target Tracker to track progression where daily observations are added and assessments are made. This allows us to assess the attainment and progress of all children and focus in on different groups of children within the school, thus ensuring we are closing the gaps between vulnerable groups of children within their attainment and progression.

Impact

The impact of our curriculum is the children leave the EYFS unit with life-long skills, our children are critical thinkers, problem solvers, confident, independent, thoughtful, resilient and happy children. Our children learn how to be a part of a community and are proud of who they are and the different communities they belong to, this is evident through our PHSE, collective worship and celebration days. The children are able to show a thirst for learning, perseverance and embrace challenge. We strive to ensure the children leave FS2 having made good or accelerated progress and endeavour to ensure all of our children meet the Early Learning Goal (ELG) which in turn, prepares them for the next stage of their learning journey in year 1. They have an excellent understanding of the world around them and can draw on their personal experiences in and out of school to increase their knowledge and understanding further. Children continue to excel and make outstanding progress long after they have left Reception, but always remember their Early Years education and how it has made them the learner they are today.