

St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School

The Arts Policy



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

St Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a Catholic family of faith following the teachings of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community respect the values of: Church, Independence, Resilience, Caring, Learning and Enjoyment for all. Belief in these values will nurture all as individuals and instil in them the confidence to meet their full potential, providing them with the best grounding for their future place in an ever-changing world.

Policy Date	September 2026
Signed by Head Teacher	Mrs N Collins
Review Date	September 2027

Our St Michael's Arts Vision

At St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we believe that providing our pupils with a rich, engaging and creative curriculum supports the holistic development of every child.

The Arts play a vital role in enabling pupils to explore their creativity, develop confidence, express themselves and celebrate their individuality. Through Art and Design, Design Technology and Music, pupils develop technical skills, cultural awareness, creativity, resilience and problem-solving abilities.

We believe that every child deserves access to high-quality artistic and creative experiences which inspire imagination, curiosity and personal growth.

Through the Arts, pupils are provided with rich opportunities to develop oracy skills, communicate ideas confidently, perform, discuss, evaluate and present creative work. We recognise the importance of spoken language in supporting creativity, self-expression and confidence.

We also recognise that participation in the Arts supports emotional wellbeing, resilience and personal development. Through creative experiences, pupils are encouraged to reflect, collaborate, create and communicate in meaningful ways.

We aim to ensure that pupils gain access to cultural richness and diversity through promoting their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

National Curriculum Aims: Art and Design

The National Curriculum for Art and Design aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences.
- Become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques.
- Evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design.
- Know about great artists, craft makers and designers and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

National Curriculum Aims: Design Technology

The National Curriculum for Design and Technology aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and participate successfully in an increasingly technological world.
- Build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality products for a wide range of users.
- Critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.
- Understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

National Curriculum Aims: Music

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.
- Learn to sing and use their voices effectively.
- Create and compose music independently and collaboratively.
- Learn to play musical instruments.
- Use technology appropriately to support musical learning.
- Understand how music is created, produced and communicated through pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and musical notation.

Curriculum Planning and Delivery at St Michael's

St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School is dedicated to providing children with high-quality learning experiences that are carefully designed to meet the needs of our pupils.

The local area is utilised to celebrate the culture, history and heritage on our doorstep. We celebrate diversity within our school community through the Arts and recognise the importance of representation within the curriculum.

Pupils study a diverse range of artists, designers, architects, engineers and musicians from different cultures, backgrounds, traditions and historical periods. This supports pupils in developing an appreciation of the richness and diversity of artistic expression throughout the world.

Art and Design and Music are taught weekly to ensure pupils develop key skills progressively throughout their school journey.

Design Technology is taught through carefully planned projects which enable pupils to research, design, make and evaluate products for a range of purposes and users. Pupils learn to apply scientific, mathematical and technological understanding in practical and meaningful contexts whilst developing creativity, resilience and innovation.

The Arts are currently taught by specialist staff across all year groups, supporting progression, consistency and secure subject knowledge.

To support Music planning and delivery, we use Kapow as a curriculum resource. This is enhanced through pupil interests and wider enrichment opportunities to keep the curriculum meaningful and relevant.

The Arts are an integral part of our school ethos and are reflected through:

- Catholic displays and celebrations
- Hymn practice and liturgy
- Musical performances
- Choral festivals
- Creative exhibitions
- Design projects
- Enrichment opportunities

We actively seek opportunities to work within our school partnership and wider community, including:

- Gifted and talented workshops
- Poetry events
- Drama activities
- Art exhibitions
- Collaborative performance opportunities
- Community projects

Arts subjects are taught as discrete subjects in their own right whilst also making meaningful links across the wider curriculum.

Across the Arts, pupils progressively develop technical skills, creativity, evaluation skills and knowledge of artists, designers, architects, engineers and musicians, enabling them to make connections between creativity, culture and innovation.

Pupils develop ideas through:

- Individual activities
- Collaborative learning
- Practical experiences
- Discussion and evaluation
- Teacher modelling
- Creative exploration

The Arts provide opportunities for pupils to reflect and increasingly develop the ability to make informed and critical responses to:

- Their own work
- The work of others
- Artists
- Designers
- Engineers
- Architects
- Makers
- Composers

Teachers use a range of assessment strategies including:

- Observation
- Discussions
- Self-assessment

- Peer assessment
- Skill progression
- Creativity
- Resilience
- Problem solving
- Knowledge acquisition

Digital technologies are used where appropriate to support creativity. Pupils are provided with opportunities to create, record, refine and present artistic work through digital platforms and tools whilst learning to use technology safely, responsibly and creatively.

Pupils are encouraged to understand the real-world value and cultural significance of the Arts.

Children are introduced to the broad range of careers linked to the creative industries, including:

- Design
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Product Design
- Food Technology
- Construction
- Music
- Theatre
- Dance
- Media
- Animation
- Film
- Digital Arts

Visitors and specialists may be invited into school to enrich learning experiences and broaden aspirations.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Incorporating Catholic Social Teaching into every facet of our Arts curriculum is central to fostering a holistic education that aligns with our deeply rooted values.

Catholic Social Teaching provides a moral compass that transcends individual subjects and guides pupils towards a deeper understanding of compassion, justice and the dignity of every person.

Through the Arts, pupils are encouraged to view the world through a lens of solidarity, reflecting on the experiences and needs of others whilst developing empathy and understanding.

This integrated approach ensures that pupils not only develop artistic knowledge and skills but also become thoughtful, reflective and compassionate individuals who contribute positively to society.

Lightbulb Questions

At St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Lightbulb Questions provide opportunities for deeper thinking, reflection and discussion.

These questions encourage pupils to:

- Think critically.
- Explain their ideas.
- Justify creative choices.
- Reflect on their learning.
- Connect learning to Catholic Social Teaching.
- Consider different viewpoints.

Through these questions, pupils develop a deeper understanding of the Arts whilst strengthening their moral, spiritual and personal development.

Monitoring

Children in EYFS are given opportunities to explore and develop creative ideas through carefully planned experiences and provision. Evidence is collected through observations and learning records.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, pupils maintain sketchbooks and subject books which demonstrate progression in knowledge, skills and creativity.

Monitoring includes:

- Lesson visits
- Planning reviews
- Sketchbook scrutiny
- Pupil voice
- Assessment information
- Curriculum reviews
- Discussion with staff and pupils

These activities help ensure:

- High-quality provision
- Curriculum progression
- Consistency between year groups
- Secure subject knowledge
- Positive outcomes for pupils

The Arts Coordinator and Senior Leadership Team monitor standards, evaluate curriculum provision and audit resources in order to ensure continuous improvement across all Arts subjects.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if significant changes occur to curriculum requirements, school priorities or educational guidance.

Through the Arts, St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School seeks to inspire creativity, confidence and cultural understanding, enabling every child to flourish and experience life in all its fullness.