

St Michael's and the Community

St Michael's Catholic School is a focal point in our local community and we are committed to working together towards a harmonious society; where all feel valued, respected and able to participate. We encourage positive relationships and engagement to promote a sense of belonging and well being of all.

Clubs, Societies and Activities

Our pupils enjoy a variety of extra-curricular activities aimed at developing their knowledge, skills and attitudes. A busy programme of after school Study Clubs and Saturday Schools ensure that a wide range of pupils are supported in subject knowledge and study skills. Homework and ICT club remain popular choices. Various after school sporting, cultural and creative opportunities including team sports, film and art club involve our pupils in developing healthy, happy lifestyles that enhance learning and achievement.

Charitable Activities and Christian Service

Throughout the year, pupils and staff at St Michael's are involved in various charitable concerns and service for others. Annually we raise money for Cafod and the Cabrini Society. We also fundraise for national charities for example, Cancer Research on a regular basis. All this involves pupils and staff undertaking cake sales, sponsored football matches, non-uniform days, carol singing and various challenges like abseiling down Guys Hospital.

Our local community are served by St Michael's. Pupils and staff organise an annual party and entertainment for over one hundred local elderly people. We also prepare and deliver parcels for needy local citizens and pupils participate in the Adventure Service Challenge and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Partnerships with Businesses and Other Organisations

Our partnerships with local and City firms continue to thrive, with students involved in work experience, mentoring, and modern foreign language projects. We run a successful two week work experience programme and have gained an excellent reputation with local businesses and branches of industry in South London.

We welcome Youth and Community Police Officers into school as part of our Personal and Social Education Programme and appreciate their involvement in our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Recognising and appreciating diversity continues to be a commitment, with representatives and speakers from various religious and ethnic groups coming into school to broaden pupil's understanding and knowledge. We organize regular World Religion Days and are proud of our vibrant Black History Month programme.

Key Note Speakers, Competitions and Awards

Through the academic year, guest speakers come in to talk to our pupils about issues of concern in our local communities. Recently St Michael's has been honoured to receive visits from the Mizen family and Richard Taylor to talk about the devastating effect of youth violence and crime. Our pupils have entered the Damilola Taylor Trust Logo Competition and have had their art work and views published in a local paper. We are also fortunate to have pupils nominated for London-wide and National achievement awards.

Primary Partnerships

St Michael's works in partnership with local primary schools sharing specialisms and expertise. Our Modern Foreign Languages project involves our language specialist teachers providing support for local primaries developing French teaching and learning. Timetabled into the primary curriculum our teachers offer time, resources and expertise on a weekly basis. Our aims are to raise pupil achievement and smooth transitions from primary to secondary school.

We also share our Business and Enterprise specialism with local primary schools through a series of Business and Enterprise Days and activities. Also, taster lessons are offered to primary schools in various subjects including Maths and Science. This year we are excited to be involved with one of our local primary schools in setting up an international link with a school in India.

Joining together in the interests of professional development, we are engaged in a variety of training events with partner schools, including joint Inset days.

Links with Parishes

St Michael's provides classes for young people from local schools and parishes preparing for Confirmation. This spiritual programme is run by our staff and normal involves around thirty young people. Activities include, formal teaching, prayer, retreats, drama and social events aimed at helping Confirmandi take their place as active, young Catholic adults within their local communities.

Parent and Community Involvement

We are fortunate to have a dedicated Parent Teacher Association at St Michael's. Members work hard to raise extra funds to buy additional items that add to the enjoyment of the school. Our PTA organise social events such as Quiz Nights, Race Nights and Family Discos. They also hold an annual Fun Day which is a fantastic fund raising event where the school and people from the local community get together and have a great time.

Our regular Parent Forum gives parents the opportunity to raise issues, air opinions and influence decision making in our school. Regular and clear channels of communication mean our parent body is well informed and able to make a positive

contribution. The Link, our fortnightly newsletter for parents is well received and allows parents a regular insight into school activities and news.

Evening Classes

As well as providing a wide range of after school clubs for our pupils, we extend this provision to local community members. Our vibrant evening class programme includes classes in TaeKwonDo, English, Maths, Modern Foreign Languages, Dog Training and Karate.