



# St Michael's

V.A. Junior  
School



**Pupils  
behave  
politely  
around  
the school.  
They feel  
very safe  
and enjoy  
coming to  
school.**

Ofsted, 2012







# Welcome.



We hope our brochure will give you a flavour of life at St Michael's, a forward-thinking, values based school, and a very special place for your child to be.

Our vision is to show children what is possible, providing an exciting and enterprising curriculum which will broaden their horizons and prepare them with the skills for their futures. Our approach is to show children what is possible, and then equip them with the skills and confidence to achieve it.

We give our children high quality teaching, combined with a wide range of extra-curricular experiences, so that they become happy, successful learners who

will make a positive contribution to society throughout their lives.

We have high expectations of our children, both for their academic standards and their good behaviour. We work in a restorative way, supporting relationships and school and at home.

We very much encourage you to visit our school and see for yourself what makes St Michael's so special.

**Helen McCarney**  
Executive Headteacher

# Our school

**The physical environment of the school matches the aspirational nature of our vision.**

The physical environment of the school matches the aspirational nature of our vision. There is wireless broadband throughout, as well as iPads, laptops and state-of-the-art technology in every classroom.

Our multi-use hall caters for a wide range of activities, from daily assemblies and lunch, PE, drama and music productions and out of school activities such as sports and dance clubs.

Our Year 6 Centre is a brand new, purpose-built block which is cool, airy and light. Not only has this superb facility helped us achieve consistently higher SATs results, but it also helps our Year 6 students with the transition to high school.

Outside, the school has a large playground, amphitheatre, sensory garden, a field with games pitches, a purpose-built quiet area and a Forest School nature area with pond.


**We have around 400 pupils in the school, with four classes in each year group.**

**At St Michael's, broadening children's horizons is very much an important part of what we do, not just in the classroom, but through a wide range of school trips and extra-curricular activities.**

We have an inclusive approach to meeting each individual child's needs, whatever they may be. Each child's experiences are underpinned by exceptional care, guidance and support.

That support extends to enabling parents to help their child achieve their full potential. Our Pastoral Team has an excellent reputation in supporting families, children's emotional and behavioural development – including support groups for parents and our special Family Room, which is open to all.





**The school  
sustains an  
exemplary and  
inspirational  
learning  
environment.  
This gives  
perspective  
and meaning  
to all learning  
and enables  
all pupils to  
flourish.**

SIAMS report, 2016





**Behaviour in and around school, in lessons and at break and lunchtime, is good. Pupils are polite and well mannered and get on with adults and each other.**

Ofsted, 2012







# Learning for life

**Our curriculum is designed to create happy, successful young people with a love of learning which will stay with them for the rest of their lives, and who will make a worthwhile and positive contribution to the community as children and as adults.**

We aim to make learning compelling and exciting, as well as helping children see how it is relevant to the wider world, and to fulfilling their aspirations and potential in that world. Teaching draws on real life scenarios and problems, with subjects often linked into themes and topics – enabling children to explore a wide range of subject areas in creative and meaningful ways.

As part of the learning process, visitors are brought into school from outside the education world, and children go out on many trips, and are encouraged to be independent in their learning.

## **Behaviour**

We have high expectations of our children for their behaviour, and we have received glowing comments in both our Ofsted and SIAMS inspection reports for the calm and safe atmosphere in the school. We are recognised widely for our successful use of restorative approaches, with children learning conflict resolution skills.

# Broadening horizons

**At St Michaels we aim to help our children understand that there are great opportunities for them beyond the world they already know.**

This broadening of their horizons is an important part of their education, helping to raise their aspirations and give them the confidence to fulfil their potential.

A central part of this is our extensive programme of extra-curricular activities, with a wide variety of clubs ranging from fencing to archery, dance to writing, cricket to rock climbing. Most children enjoy taking part in at least one of these clubs each week.

We also offer our pupils a wide choice of trips, both locally and beyond the county. Every child will have the opportunity to


experience a major London theatre trip as part of this programme.

## **Breakfast and After School Clubs**

With both breakfast and After School Clubs available on the school site, our extended Schools provision means that you can be confident your child is safe, happy and taking part in a wide variety of activities. We also offer holiday clubs during school holidays..








**Pupils' attitudes to learning are excellent. They are keen to improve their work and the school is a happy and friendly place.**

Ofsted, 2012







**Every child  
is cared for in  
the fullness of  
the Christian  
values of  
the school,  
supported  
pastorally,  
inspired  
academically  
and given  
the gift of  
aspiration.**

SIAMS report, 2016





# The Diocese of Norwich Education Family.



**St Michael's V.A. Junior School is an inclusive, supportive school with our own distinctive character.**

St Michael's is part of the All Angels Federation, with Clover Hill V.A. Infant and Nursery School, also situated in Bowthorpe.

Schools in the Diocese of Norwich Education family draw strength from each other and from the Diocese. They develop and nourish strong community links, providing opportunities and experiences across all ages and backgrounds which will allow our young people and those in the wider community to live well together.

Diocese of Norwich schools and academies are open to families of any religion, and of none, and are there to serve their local community. Although our values are deeply-rooted within the Christian faith, our approach is very much one of inclusivity; our schools are open to all and accepting of all, regardless of faith.

The education offered by schools within the Diocesan family is guided by Christian values, but it is not a religious education. It encourages dignity, respect and living well together.

**We are stronger together.**





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