

Our Values

'Each child, uniquely made in God's image, merits the best that we can give'.

Our raison d'être begins with this statement rooted in the highest possible notion of young people. All that we do flows from this including our core values of Aspiration, Belief and Creativity: St Michael's **ABC**. All these values are underpinned by core Biblical texts but, as with all creation, make sense to people with or without a faith background.

Aspiration

'...don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best.'

Colossians chapter 3 verse 22 The Message

The pursuit of academic excellence is at the heart of everything we do.

We have high expectations and to enable every child to reach their full potential we:

- Provide a broad and exciting curriculum supported by specialist facilities
- Identify and provide additional support and challenge as required
- Celebrate talents and successes including those outside of school
- Encourage new challenges
- Inspire a love of learning

We also support every pupil to aspire to the highest standards of personal development through character development. We value this so highly that our reward system is built around celebrating the values and qualities that will enable young people to thrive in whatever path their life takes.

Belief

'If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light'.

Matthew Chapter 6 verse 22 The Message

We are built on Christian foundations, where everyone is valued and respected regardless of their faith position. Our desire is to build resilience in young people whether from without or within.

We achieve this through:

- Strong pastoral care and specialist support including nurture and self-esteem raising programmes
- Daily collective worship and regular visits to church to build a positive image of faith
- A comprehensive reward system that celebrates character
- Providing a safe and secure environment including peer mentors, called 'Year 8 Buddies', for all new Year 5's
- Weekly visiting speakers from the local community
- An active School council
- Sports leadership program
- Residential trips which stretch young peoples' boundaries and sense of self

Creativity

'For we are God's poetry*, created in Christ Jesus to do good works'

(*Original Greek word is poiema which is where we get our word poetry from. In modern translations they have used 'handiwork' but we love the creative implications of the original text!)

Ephesians Chapter 2 verse 10 NIV

At St Michael's we encourage excellence and innovation within the classroom and beyond. Creativity is not an optional extra in the modern world it is a quality which enables us to thrive and adapt in any environment. Not only does creativity enhance academic achievement but also St Michael's pupils thrive on the extensive range of opportunities to participate in creative and sporting activities. We develop creativity in the following ways:

- Explicit references to creativity with every curriculum area
- A growth mindset philosophy that encourages bravery in learning and a willingness to make mistakes
- Outstanding musical drama productions
- Music concerts, Orchestra, Djembe Drummers, Ukulele Orchestra and a large number of peripatetic music teachers
- A vast range of sporting events and fixtures
- Regular visiting artists and theatre companies
- Wide range of extra-curricular clubs beyond sports including: Computing clubs such as Raspberry Pi; Life Saving in the Pool; Textiles; and Advanced Art.