



## **Inclusion Policy**

### **Introduction**

St Michael's Middle School is an inclusive school. Every pupil in the school, including those with special educational needs and/or a disability, has an entitlement to fulfil his/her optimum potential. This is achieved by ensuring pupils are healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve social and economic well-being.

These well-being outcomes are embraced in every aspect of the school life; personalised teaching and learning approaches; access to ICT across the curriculum; flexible learning pathways and out-of-hours learning activities; support for emotional well-being; flexible timetables and assessment for learning which engages pupils in setting and reviewing their own personal learning targets.

St Michael's School values individual worth and celebrates personal achievement. The staff and Governors of the school work in partnership with pupils, parents and support agencies to enable each pupil to achieve his/her full potential.

### ***Aims and objectives***

Our school aims to be an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our school:

- girls and boys;
- minority ethnic and faith groups;
- children who need support to learn English as an additional language;
- children with special educational needs;
- children with physical disabilities;
- gifted and talented children;

- children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion;
- travellers and asylum seekers;
- looked after children.

The National Curriculum is our starting point for planning a curriculum that meets the specific needs of individuals or groups of children. We meet these needs through:

- setting suitable learning challenges and targets for learning;
- responding to children's diverse learning needs;
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils;
- providing other curricular opportunities outside the National Curriculum to meet the needs of individuals or groups of children. (This includes speech and language therapy and programmes to develop gross and fine motor skills.)

We achieve educational inclusion by continually reviewing what we do, through asking ourselves these key, questions:

- do all our children achieve their best?
- are there differences in the achievement of different groups of children?
- what are we doing for those children who we know are not achieving their best?
- are our actions effective?
- are we successful in promoting racial harmony and preparing pupils to live in a diverse society?

### ***Teaching and learning style***

We aim to give all our children the opportunity to succeed and reach the highest level of personal achievement. We analyse the attainment of different groups of pupils to ensure that all pupils are achieving as much as they can. We also make ongoing assessments of each child's progress. Teachers use this information when planning their lessons. It enables them to take into account the abilities of all their children. For some children, we use the programmes of study from earlier key stages. This enables some of our children to make more progress in their own lessons, perhaps after significant amounts of time spent away from school.

When the attainment of a child falls significantly below the expected level, teachers enable the child to succeed by planning work that is in line with that child's individual needs . Where the attainment of a child significantly exceeds the expected level of attainment. teachers use materials from a later key stage, or extend the breadth of work within the area or areas for which the child shows particular aptitude.

Teachers are familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering race, gender and disability.

Teachers ensure children:

- feel secure and know that their contributions are valued;
- appreciate and value the differences they see in others;
- take responsibility for their own actions;
- participate safely, in clothing that is appropriate to their religious beliefs;
- are taught in groupings that allow them all to experience success;
- use materials that reflect a range of social and cultural backgrounds, without stereotyping;
- have a common curriculum experience that allows for a range of different learning styles;
- have challenging targets that enable them to succeed;
- are encouraged to participate fully, regardless of disabilities or medical needs.

### ***Children with disabilities***

Some children in our school may have disabilities and consequently need additional resources. The school is committed to providing an environment that allows these children full access to all areas of learning. Most of our classroom entrances are wide enough for wheelchair access, and the designated points of entry for our school also allow wheelchair access. Disabled toilet and showering facility is available in the Changing Rooms.

Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for these children. For example, they may give additional time to children with disabilities to complete certain activities. In their planning teachers ensure that they give children with disabilities the opportunity to develop skills in practical aspects of the curriculum.

In response to the Disability Act 2001, teachers ensure that the work for these children:

- takes account of their pace of learning and the equipment they use;

- takes account of the effort and concentration needed in oral work, or when using, for example, vision aids;
- is adapted or offers alternative activities in those subjects where children are unable to manipulate tools or equipment, or use certain types of materials;
- allows opportunities for them to take part in educational visits and other activities linked to their studies;
- includes approaches that allow hearing-impaired children to learn about sound in science and music, and visually-impaired children to learn about light in science, and to use visual resources and images both in art and design and in design and technology;
- uses assessment techniques that reflect their individual needs and abilities.

### ***Disapplication and modification***

The school can, where necessary, modify or disapply the National Curriculum and its assessment arrangements. Our school policy is to do this only in exceptional circumstances. The school makes every effort to meet the learning needs of all its children, without recourse to disapplication or modification. We achieve this through greater differentiation of the child's work, or through the provision of additional learning resources. When necessary, we also support learning through appropriate external specialists. In such cases, teachers work closely with these agencies to support the child.

In exceptional circumstances we may decide that modification or disapplication is the correct procedure to follow. We would only do this after detailed consultation with parents and the Local Education Authority. The school's governor with responsibility for special educational needs would also be closely involved in this process. We would ensure that every effort had been made to provide the necessary support from within the school's resources before considering such action.

Should we go ahead with modification or disapplication, we would do so through:

- Section 364 of the Education Act 1996. This allows modification or disapplication of the National Curriculum, or elements of it, through a statement of special educational needs;
- Section 365 of the Education Act 1996. This allows the temporary modification or disapplication of the National Curriculum, or elements of it.

### ***Racism and inclusion***

The school has implemented the recommendations of *The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry: MacPherson Report (1999)*. The diversity of our society is addressed through our schemes of work, which reflect the programmes of study of the National Curriculum. Teachers are flexible in their planning and offer appropriate challenges to all pupils, regardless of ethnic or social background. All racist incidents are now recorded and reported to the governing body by the headteacher. The school contacts parents of those pupils involved in racist incidents. Further details are to be found in the school's Racial Equality Policy.

## **Summary**

At St Michael's Middle School the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and wellbeing of every child are important. We follow the necessary regulations to ensure that we take the experiences and needs of all our children into account when planning for learning.

Signed:

Date: December

2007

(This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following school policies: Equal Opportunities, Gifted and Talented Children, Racial Equality, Special Educational Needs)