



Foundation Stage Prospectus 2014-15

Part of the Bishop Cleary Catholic Multi Academy

Bishop Cleary Catholic Multi Academy Company, a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (company number 08578428) whose registered office address is Compton Park, Wolverhampton, WV3 9DU



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY & NURSERY

FOUNDATION KEY STAGE UNIT

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Principal: Mrs C Williams

Chair of Academy Committee: Mrs R Watkins

Mission Statement

Praise the Lord in Work, Play and Prayer

St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy is established to support Catholic parents in their responsibility for the academic, physical, spiritual, moral and religious education of their children in accordance with the teachings of the Church.

This means that members of the Academy Committee, staff, parents and pupils are committed to:

Being part of the Church's mission, to place Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church at the centre of people's lives.

Upholding the uniqueness of the individual in which each person is seen as made in God's image and loved by Him.

Promoting the search for truth and excellence in which each pupil is given every opportunity to develop individual talents to the full.

Forming pupils' consciences, nurturing their relationship with God through prayer and fostering a sense of social responsibility.

Mission Statement revised by governors annually, after consultation with staff, parents and pupils.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Academy Committee, staff and children of St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy welcome you as the parents of one of our nursery pupils.

As the Principal of St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy I am pleased that you have entrusted your child to our care. Should you have any queries or concerns regarding your child and his/her education please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always happy to meet with parents to discuss any matters pertaining to the children's education and welfare. I extend a warm welcome to you and your child.

Aims and Policy

The Foundation Key Stage Unit is an integral part of our Catholic Academy and caters for the education and welfare of pupils from the age of 3 to the end of the Reception year of their education. Please note that separate admission criteria apply for entry to the Reception year. See information on later page about transfer to full time schooling.

In accordance with our Academy's Mission Statement, staff working in the Foundation Key Stage recognise that each child is special and unique and in recognising the needs of the individual will aim to provide the best possible care and education for each one of the children.

In the recognition that each child is special and unique staff understand:

that each child needs

- * to know that he/she is valued
- * an environment that enriches and nurtures their development
- * opportunities to explore and investigate and make mistakes without experiencing a sense of failure

that each child deserves

- * sensitive, skilled and qualified adults who value them
- * good quality resourcing
- * time to share experiences with other adults and children
- * space to be themselves

that each child will thrive

- * when activities are exciting, purposeful and relevant
- * when involved physically and mentally in first hand experiences
- * when encouraged to become independent and confident individuals
- * when encouraged to play together
- * when home and school work in partnership.

The Foundation Stage staff are keen to establish excellent relationships between home and school. It is important that the children see the staff and parents interacting in a supportive and positive way. At St Michael's Academy we see good relationships as building the strong foundations of our ethos.

The principles and policy on which our early years curriculum is based are in common with those identified in Wolverhampton's document 'Early Excellence - 'A curriculum for early years', and Department of Education curriculum guidance for the foundation stage.

These principles being that:

Within the Foundation Stage we recognise that:

- all children have a vast capacity to learn
- what the child can do is the starting point of the child's learning
- childhood is seen as valid in itself as part of life and not simply as a preparation for adulthood

- the development of the whole child is essential. The emotional, physical and spiritual, as well as cognitive aspects of development are important
- learning is holistic and not compartmentalised
- the child's education is seen as a total experience of and interaction within a rich learning environment, enabling children to develop independence and understanding
- expectations should be high and realistic with learning matched to individual needs
- children need to be encouraged to develop positive attitudes to self and others and develop confidence and self esteem
- the curriculum needs to be accessible to all pupils regardless of gender, race, religion, social needs, disability and ethnic background
- parents/carers are acknowledged as the first educators of their child
- partnership with parents/carers enhances learning and achievement.

The activities children follow are considered under 7 main areas of learning:-

Prime Areas -

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Specific Areas –

- Literacy (phonics, reading and writing)
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

School Routine

The Nursery class operates two daily sessions the first from 8.45am to 11.45am and the other from 12.30pm to 3.30pm

Parents/carers are invited to bring the children into the unit and remain with them until they are settled.

Children should be collected at the end of the session. Please ensure that the teacher is informed if any different person will be arriving to collect your child. Children are never allowed to leave the Foundation Stage unit until they can be handed into the care of a known parent/carer.

Please do ensure that you are punctual in your arrival at both the beginning and end of the session. It is important that our young children conform to the daily routine. Children may worry or become upset if they either arrive late or are not collected on time.

The Settling in Period

If you have a younger child it may be advisable to leave him or her with someone during the settling in period when your child first starts school. As part of the Health and Safety policy that the school has adopted it has been determined that at no time will prams or pushchairs be allowed in the Foundation Stage unit as they would create a danger and would hinder evacuation procedures in the event of fire or other hazards. We very much appreciate your understanding and your co-operation regarding this matter.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Clothing

Each child should have a drawstring bag containing shorts and t-shirt. A pair of pants and socks in case of an accident would also be useful. Please mark the bag and all clothing with your child's name. We recommend that your child has a pair of wellies that can stay at Nursery. The children will enjoy taking part in 'Welly Wednesday' as part of their weekly routine.

Children should also come to school with clothing and shoes that are suitable for outside use as the children will use the Foundation Stage outdoor area regularly. As part of our Health and Safety Policy we advise that your child does not wear any jewellery.

Cooking and Craft

The children will take part in cookery and sensory sessions on a regular basis. Each Monday one of the members of staff will collect a voluntary contribution of 20p which will be used towards the cost of the ingredients and resources needed for these sessions. When the children celebrate a birthday we provide a small gift.

Illness

When your child is absent from the Academy we would ask that you telephone on the first day of absence to inform us of the nature of the illness.

Should your child suffer from any medical condition e.g. asthma, please ensure that the Academy is fully informed about medication etc. that your child may need to take. It is important that we know if your child has any allergies.

Only medicines prescribed for long term illnesses such as asthma, epilepsy, heart and kidney conditions are allowed in school. These should be given to the Principal who must be aware of all medicines that need to be administered.

If a child is sick overnight or first thing in the morning we ask that he/she is not brought into the Academy.

Parent Teachers Association

St Michael's Academy boast a very active and supportive Parent Teachers Association. All parents of children attending St Michael's Academy are automatically members of the association. We ask that as parents you do become actively involved in the life of the school. You are cordially invited to attend any PTA meeting or event. We welcome the opportunity to listen to your ideas as to how we can do still more work for the good of the children who attend our Academy.

The aims of the Association are:

1. To enable parents and teachers to co-operate together in making a real contribution to the educational, social and spiritual development of the children currently attending our Academy without, in any way, interfering with the discipline of the school or the work of the Principal and staff.
2. To promote and foster social contacts between parents and staff.
3. To provide additional resources to enhance the education that our children receive.

Transfer to full-time schooling

The Local Authority has determined that there will be a single admission date when children will transfer to full time schooling. Children whose 5th birthday is between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 will begin full time education in September 2014.

The Academy Committee of the school would wish me to stress that acceptance of a place within the nursery class base of the Foundation Stage unit in no way guarantees that a place will be provided in the main school when your child reaches statutory school age.

The information contained in this booklet is correct at the time of printing but is subject to alteration should circumstances change.

Children within the early years of their education (from the age of 3 to the end of Reception class year group) will be positioned and taught within a specially created unit within the school. The unit has been developed to address the educational and social needs of the young children who are entrusted to our care. The curriculum that is offered is in line with the recommendations and the guidelines laid down by Government in their Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage.

Once again my staff and I extend a warm welcome to you and your family.

Welcome to St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy



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