

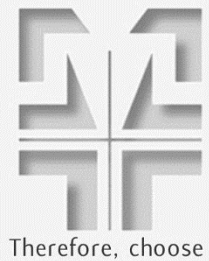
St Michael's Church of England High School

A Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Mrs J Jenks BSocSci Hons PGCE

Deputy Headteachers: Mr J Chadwick B Ed Hons, Mrs C Hooley BA Hons PGCE

'Growing in Body, Mind and Spirit'



Dear Parent / Carer of Year 7

At St Michael's we place great emphasis on the growth of a child, not just academically, but in body, mind and spirit and we are excited to inform you about some upcoming events and activities which will involve pupils in Year 7.

We have four Christian Values Enrichment Days at St Michael's. Your child has already taken part in the first in September where they looked at the story of St Michael and explored 'good and evil.'

The next Enrichment Day will take place on Monday 17 June, two weeks after half term. On this day pupils will visit Blackburn Cathedral, Blackburn Mosque and take part in activities related to Spirited Arts.

RE is a compulsory subject for GCSE and visits to places of worship are highly recommended as part of the RE curriculum. In our troubled world, we believe we should follow the example of Jesus in building bridges with different members of our community. We see this opportunity as part of our response to Jesus' command to 'Love your neighbour.'

Pupils will be transported by coach to the two places of worship; the Cathedral and Mosque in Blackburn. Four teaching groups will start at each place of worship, then be transported to the other, thus visiting both on the same day.

Cathedral: Pupils will find out about the modern worshipping life of the Cathedral and pupils will consider the important symbols and features of the building and key beliefs such as forgiveness and the uniqueness of each individual. The visit to Blackburn Cathedral will conclude with a short act of worship where pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on the activities they have completed.

Mosque: The visit to Blackburn Mosque forms a vital part of the RE course on Islam which pupils will study in Year 8. It also makes an important contribution to Living Education. The visit will include an opportunity for discussion with members of the Muslim community. Our visit will be organised by Sian Howell at Blackburn Cathedral.

Members of the RE department, supported by other staff and members of the learning support team will conduct the visits.

We will be leaving school at approximately 9.10am and returning at approximately 1.30pm, travelling to and from Blackburn by coach. If your son/daughter is unable to attend on this day it is vital that they contact Mrs Palfrey in writing as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made. On return to school pupils will then spend the remaining time taking part in Spirited Arts activities with members of the English department. This will involve writing poems and prose.

Equipment – the following equipment will be needed:

- Packed lunch including a drink (pupils who have free school meals will receive a packed lunch if they book this in advance).
- Pupils will require pens, pencils, notebook, a clipboard or file.

Astley Road, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1RS Telephone: (01257) 264740 Fax: (01257) 224767 email: admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk



- Pupils will wear school uniform and are advised to take a waterproof coat and sun cream (weather dependant).

Conduct

The need for sensible and mature behaviour at all times on the visit will be stressed to pupils. The school is often complimented on the behaviour of its pupils on educational visits and we clearly expect all pupils to help maintain the good reputation we have within the local community. All pupils are expected to work in groups and must not work individually. It is imperative that pupils follow the instructions given by staff immediately, both for their own safety and that of other pupils. Pupils are expected to remain seated and wear their seat belts throughout the coach journey. It is important to note that pupils will be required to behave in a way that is appropriate for a place of worship.

Consent/Medical Form

Please will you complete the consent form (link below) no later than Wednesday 8 May.

[Year 7 Mosque & Cathedral visit Consent Form](#)

Cost

Having considered the total cost of the visit we have concluded that a reasonable contribution on behalf of each pupil concerned is £13. This covers the costs of the cathedral for resources and coach fees. We must make it clear that no pupil will be excluded from the visit on the grounds that no contribution has been made on his/her behalf. However, sufficient contributions are necessary for the visit to go ahead.

Please could this be paid using school gateway www.schoolgateway.com (If parents / carers require further information regarding online payments please contact the school office on 01257 264740.)

Christian Values Enrichment Days in July

Pupils will also take part in two further Christian Values Enrichment Days on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 July. On these days pupils will be involved in preparation for the end of year service and teambuilding activities, with further information to follow.

Thank you for your support of our enrichment activities.

Yours sincerely



C J Hooley
(Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum)