

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'



October 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Remote Learning

We are fully committed to providing all our pupils the very best learning experience at St Michael's, despite the uncertain times in which we all live. The staff have been working hard to try to ensure that whatever situation we find ourselves in both individually and collectively as a school community that children can continue to learn.

Our response is in line with the four different scenarios (or 'tiers') outlined by the government, details of which are shown below (please note that this is the situation for secondary schools, expectations for primary schools are different).

Tier 1

Secondary schools **open to all pupils**, face coverings on corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot take place.

Tier 2

Secondary schools will move to a **rota model**, combining "**on-site provision with remote education**". Priority pupils in school. Face coverings requirement will also be in place

Tier 3

Secondary schools will allow **full-time on-site provision to priority pupils** and **selected year groups, which** will be identified by the DfE. All other pupils will stay at home and be provided with **remote education**. The face coverings requirement will also be in place

Tier 4

Priority pupils only in school, with all other pupils staying home and receiving **remote education**. The face coverings requirement will also be in place in secondary schools and colleges.

As part of our ongoing school improvement and in response to feedback from pupils, parents/ carers and staff you may already be aware of the changes that we have made to our remote learning provision from that during lockdown. Since September, any pupil who is not in school and needs to access work should do so as outlined in the attached remote learning policy booklet for parents, carers, and pupils. Your child will also have received a hard copy of this today.

In the event your child must self-isolate and is well enough to access learning, all learning is to be accessed through the **School Synergy platform**. This will enable parents/ carers, and pupils to easily view and access all online learning set from any device. Pupils are expected to follow their timetable at the times they would normally complete their lessons (synchronous learning). The work currently outlines what pupils are covering in class since this is where the majority of pupils are learning. Pupils working individually at home may need to make some adjustments, particularly in practical subjects but lessons nevertheless give an outline of the subject matter for pupils. Microsoft Teams may also be utilised to provide some live video lessons and it is anticipated that the number of such lessons will increase following more training for staff and pupils and should there be a change in situation such as a move to Tiers 2, 3 or 4.

Pupils have been taught how to access both School Synergy and Microsoft Teams (through Office 365) in school and further instructions on how to access them and other platforms utilised by individual subjects can be found inside the booklet.

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



Please ensure you have read the expectations of parents/ carers and pupils in relation to remote learning but particularly that concerning accessing and taking part in live lessons. Where a member of the teaching staff has been required to self-isolate we have already successfully trialled the teaching of their classes remotely and will continue to develop this further where possible. Self-isolating staff and pupils are only expected to work remotely if they are well enough to do so.

If your child does not have access to the ICT resources required to access their learning, e.g. tablet, mobile phone, laptop etc. please do liaise with the relevant pupil manager. Whilst we may not necessarily have the resources to provide a device to the pupil, it will enable us to better understand their situation and plan accordingly.

We hope that we have responded to any queries that you may have in the attached guide. However, should you require further support please do not hesitate to contact us in school using the contact information in the booklet. Mr Kellett is the member of the Senior Leadership Team who oversees School Synergy and Mr Tierney, the use of Microsoft Teams and other platforms to support remote learning.

SIMS Parent

You will also receive a letter outlining our new 'SIMs Parent' system. Please can I ask if you would be kind enough to respond to this letter as soon as possible as it contains your acknowledgements and acceptance of our remote learning policies and associated policy addendums.

Staffing

Mrs Vivash commences her maternity leave today and our thoughts and prayers are with her and husband Dan, as they await the arrival of their baby girl. We are delighted that Mrs Michelle Beattie is returning to St Michael's to cover this maternity leave.

Open Day and Admissions for 2021

Following our successful virtual Open Evening and open days, there will be a final chance for prospective parents, carers and pupils to join us again on Thursday 8 October. A member of the admissions team and/or senior leadership team is available to respond to queries between 9.30 and 12.00am and there will be an opportunity to speak to our pupils between 3.45 and 5.30pm. Please see the school website for details www.saint-michaels.com

Please may we remind any parents/ carers who are applying for a place for their child in 2021 that the deadline for applications is **31 October**. Please apply online using the county application form and additionally complete the St Michael's supplementary form, which is also available on line this year.

Consultation Evenings

Year 11 consultation evening will be held remotely on Thursday 19 November commencing at 5.00pm. (This has been moved from the original date of 14 October as we acquire new software and train staff to facilitate running this evening remotely.) Year 7 tutor based consultation evening will take place remotely on Thursday 5 November commencing at 5.00pm and further details will be provided to parents / carers for both of these evenings in due course.

Diocesan Conference

The Diocesan Home Grown Conference is taking place on line on 13-14 October for encouragement and thankfulness of 'harvest' with a theme of 'Hearts on Fire with love for you.' We are hoping that this will include a small contribution from St Michael's.

<https://blackburn.anglican.org/events/589/home-grown-diocesan-conference>

Hello Yellow and Charitable Giving

On Friday 9 October we will once again be supporting the 'Hello Yellow' campaign to raise awareness of young people's mental health on World Mental Health day. In addition this being an assembly theme throughout the week, pupils are encouraged to wear a yellow accessory (e.g. socks or bobble) on Friday.

For parents who are new to 'Team St Michael's' you may not be familiar with our approach to Charity Work. Each year group supports a particular charity each academic year. The charities this year are as follows.

Year 7- LEPRO

Year 8 - Young Minds

Year 9 – CRY School, Zambia (*Mission Direct*)

Year 10 – 'Yohaley' – Sponsored child in El Salvador

Year 11 – Help the Homeless

Additionally we have two non-uniform days for Children in Need and Comic/ Sports Relief. Our charities committee, comprising pupils in all year groups and led by our Christian Youth Worker Simon and our Leaders in Learning for Student Leadership Mrs Rackstraw and Mr Kohler consider other opportunities for charitable giving. This important aspect of our school life is a focus in assemblies and Worship.

St Michael's Day

Although we were unable to hold our usual Christian Values Enrichment Day and Staff/ Governors Eucharist Service for St Michael's Day, all our pupils had the opportunity to reflect on St Michael and the fight of 'Good v Evil' in our world through Collective Worship this week which was led by Mr Tierney.

World Smile Day

Thank you to all pupils and staff who brightened our day on Friday by sharing a smile!

Year 7 Streetwise Performance

On Wednesday 14 October Year 7 pupils will be watching a live streamed performance called 'streetwise' which will focus on pedestrian road safety.

The following two messages were included in my letter last week, but are areas that we mention again in anticipation of your support.

Uniform and Appearance

Please may we remind parents/ carers again about the need for pupils to bring a regulation black school coat. They will need to continue to be outside at break and lunchtimes (except in extreme weather conditions). Hoodies are not part of school uniform and should not be worn by pupils at school or when travelling to and from school. If they are seen in school, they will be confiscated.

Visiting School

Please can we respectfully remind all parents/ carers not to come on to the school premises in line with our Covid 19 Risk Assessment and measures to keep pupils and staff safe. The drop in clinic on Tuesdays is still running from 3.30 - 5.00pm (virtually) if you wish to speak to a senior member of staff. Please do telephone if you wish to make an appointment. As usual, if there is anything that we can support you with or anything that you are concerned about please do get in touch with your child's tutor or Pupil Manager.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Yours sincerely



Jayne Jenks
Headteacher