

Prospectus

2023/24



"Act Justly, Love Tenderly and Walk Humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

WELCOME

Message from the Headteacher

“Act justly. Love tenderly. Walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

Welcome to St. Michael’s Catholic Academy.

As a Catholic School we are rooted in our Christian values and see these values as the cornerstone of both our academic and pastoral mission.

In our recent Ofsted inspection, our commitment to the value of strong and positive relationships within our community was noted. We were delighted when inspectors said:

‘There are harmonious relationships between staff and pupils. As a result, pupils feel safe and looked after. They know who to turn to if they need help and support.’ Ofsted 2022

As a school we have worked hard on establishing a focused learning environment for all students. This is based on delivering excellence in teaching and learning where expectations are high in every subject; offering a broad curriculum of academic and vocational qualifications and the opportunity for students to regulate their own learning behaviours. Again, Ofsted noted the strength we have in teaching and learning:

‘Pupils are well behaved around the school. Lessons are calm and orderly. This creates a positive environment in the school. Staff demonstrate a consistent approach to managing routines.’ Ofsted 2022

At St. Michael’s we believe that school life is more than just achieving excellent exam results. School days help to form character and St. Michael’s offers our students opportunities to thrive through extra- curricular activities, sports and trips that broaden their horizons and open their eyes to possibilities. Most importantly we teach our young people to have values that support them throughout their lives to make a positive contribution to society.

Mrs. Clare M Humble
Headteacher





CONTENTS

02 Message from Mrs Humble

05 Mission Statement

05 Objectives

06 Our History

07 Virtues

08 Catholic Life

11 The Curriculum

12 Literacy

15 Our Learning Journey

16 Learning Provisions

19 Enrichment

20 Careers

23 Pastoral Care

24 Admissions



MISSION STATEMENT

As a Roman Catholic academy, St. Michael's is a community that seeks to live by the gospel taught by Jesus Christ and to learn from his example.

In our experience of prayer, liturgy, and pastoral care, we aim to value and respect all students and staff as unique individuals that all may grow and strive for excellence.

Throughout our organisation, relationships, and decisions, we aim to promote forgiveness, encourage charity and build faith.

The aims of St. Michael's Catholic Academy are set out in the Mission Statement. They are intended to generate the distinctive Catholic ethos of a caring community guided by the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, to enable personal fulfilment and the development of those attributes, which help people to value and celebrate each other's uniqueness.

Objectives

To achieve these aims, all members of St. Michael's community have opportunities:

- To receive the message of the Gospels, which instil a knowledge and understanding of the teachings of the Catholic church and encourage an appreciation of other religions and different ways of life.
- To celebrate their own achievements and aspirations, as well as those of others.
- For support and a level of care which is appropriate to their needs, through personal guidance, counselling, and consolation.
- To acquire knowledge and skills which improve their intellectual, social, physical, creative, and aesthetic, cultural, moral, and spiritual capabilities.
- To make a full contribution to the community, which helps them to understand its interdependent nature.
- Which ensure continuity and coherence through all stages of their education and encourage a partnership among students, parents, teachers, parishes, employers and the wider community.
- To have access to a forum in which they can express their views and ideas, relating to the organisation and long-term planning of St. Michael's.

OUR HISTORY

St Michael's prides itself upon being a family- we have a strong community of staff, students, parents and friends that all work and learn together as well as having strong family ties within the academy.

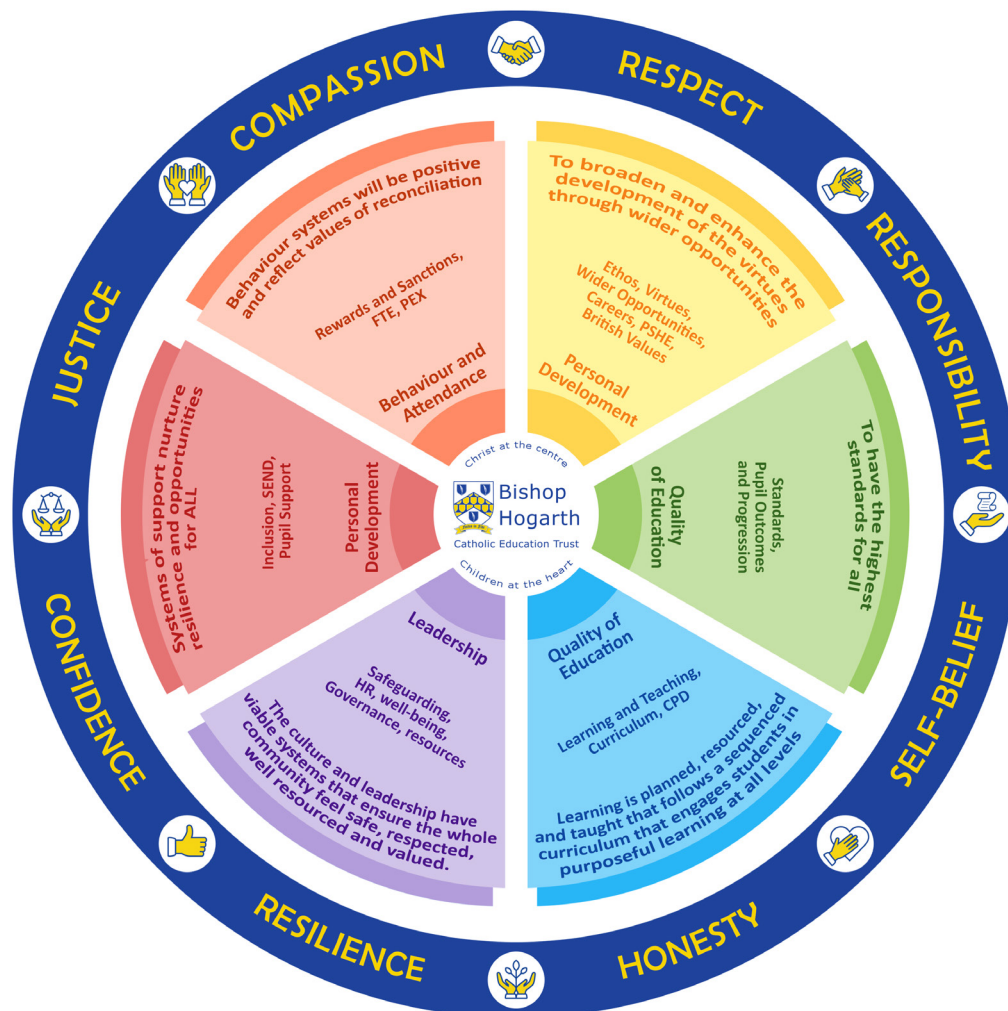
St Michael's Roman Catholic School was created in 1964 as a secondary modern school with head teacher Mr Eddie Payne. By 1972, the school became a comprehensive, with the establishment of the St Michael's School houseblocks- named after British cardinals- Hinsley, Griffin, Wiseman, Heenan and Vaughan.

The amalgamation with the Carmel Education Trust in 2013 created the new St Michael's Catholic Academy. In 2016, we moved into our new building, which was constructed in front of the existing building, on Beamish Road, that had been there for over 50 years.

Now, St Michael's Catholic Academy is a member of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust.



OUR VIRTUES



All our actions and decisions are based on the belief that every person is precious in the eyes of God. We all treat each other how we would like to be treated; with respect, courtesy, and kindness. Each child that attends our academy is nurtured to give them the opportunities to grow and develop academically, socially, and morally.

To this end we explicitly teach our students the virtues that we encourage them to develop. We do this through our virtues curriculum which is shared throughout the academy on every book and across our walls.

For each of these virtues we also examine role models that exemplify the characteristics inherent to each virtue.

These characters include a range of people, young and old, with and without disabilities, of different ethnic origins and of different religious beliefs.

They all bring stories of confidence, resilience, justice, compassion, respect, responsibility, honesty and self-belief.

We work with our students to embed these virtues and encourage them to emulate these role models in their own lives.

CATHOLIC LIFE

“Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly.”

Micah 6:8

Our Chaplaincy aims to bring all members of our school community together, regardless of where they are on their own personal faith journey.

The Chapel is at the heart of our building. Many initiatives are run through the Chapel that support people within our own community and around the world. We respond to a wide variety of charitable causes such as local food banks and support for Third World Development.

There are three opportunities across students' time at St Michael's to go to the Emmaus Youth Village for spiritual retreats. Students will be given the opportunity to make a pilgrimage in Lourdes.

There are also opportunities to get involved with our Chaplaincy groups. These include the Chaplaincy choir, fundraising for charities, Youth SVP group, CAFOD 'Live Simply' leadership group and Faith in Action awards. Students have also taken the opportunity to attend the CYMFED Flame conference at Wembley, which allows pupils to meet with other young Catholics and experience Church in a fun and vibrant way.

Each day is started in prayer to provide everyone with a moment of reflection, ready for a day of learning and growing together. As a year group, students will gather in worship in assemblies once a week.

During the academic year, students are given the chance to take part in at least one form Mass which they will help prepare and deliver along with our priests from the partnership. Mass is held weekly on a Friday at 12:30pm. In addition to weekly Mass, particular feast days such as the feast of St Michael are marked.

We are proud to have been invited by the Diocese to host a Holocaust Memorial Event where we welcomed representatives from many faiths in a demonstration of unity and remembrance.







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INTERNATIONAL OVERSOLD COPIES

THE CURRICULUM

We have an aspirational and inclusive curriculum offer to meet the needs of all students within our community.

At St Michael's, we recognise a 'Culture of Excellence' meaning we celebrate the success of students and ensure they are proud to achieve. We take opportunities to promote success, resilience and allow students to share their learning and success with the school community.

We have a full three-year KS3 programme that provides a foundation for choices at GCSE. Our curriculum intent is to teach students the best of all that has been thought and said to equip them with the cultural capital needed to be ready for the next stage in their learning. The curriculum is planned and sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before.

Staff have explicit clearly defined end points for every year, and this is shared with students and parents to ensure clarity. This also ensures that the students are fully aware of their own progression through the curriculum and this is illustrated in 'learner journeys' which are used throughout the school.

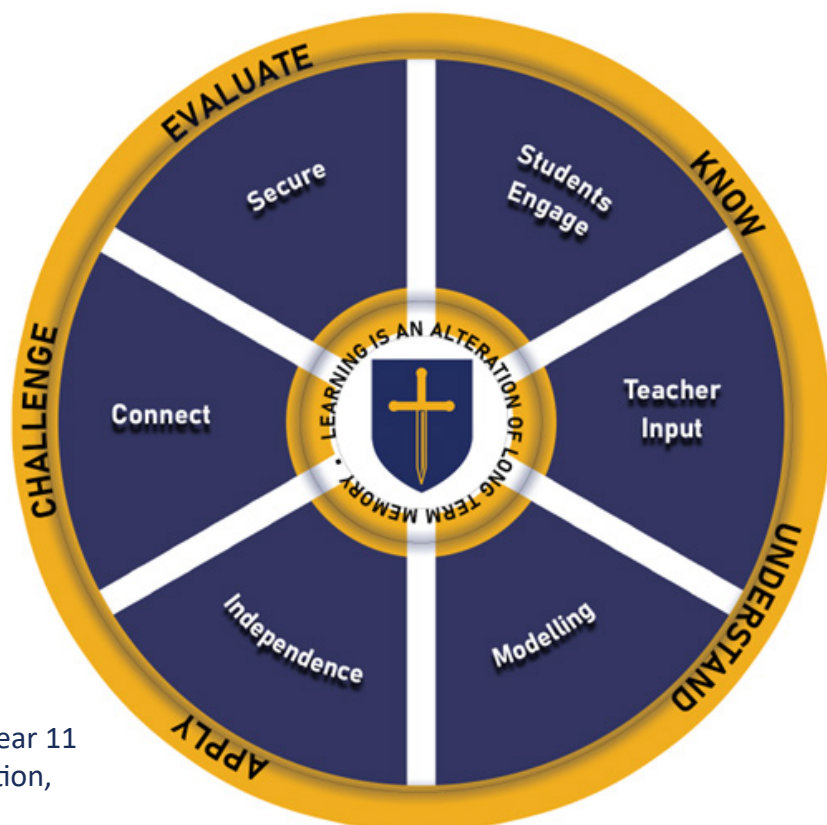
We focus on embedding knowledge into long term memory using recall and retention strategies consistently and we provide meaningful and purposeful homework. We adapt the curriculum to make it both challenging and accessible where appropriate to give every student the best possible opportunity to succeed. Enabling students to experience success and achievement, and build confidence and resilience, underpins the whole purpose of our curriculum.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students experience a broad foundation of subjects to help identify areas of strength and love for subjects they would like to pursue at GCSE level.

These include:

- Religious Education
- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Art
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Music
- Physical Education

In addition, all students from Year 7 through to Year 11 follow a course of Personal, Social, Health Education, which is studied weekly.



This curriculum covers a range of important subjects such as financial education, British values and Relationship and Sexual Education. All aspects of PSHE are delivered through the perspective of the Catholic Values that underpin all areas of curriculum in St. Michael's.

St Michael's Catholic Academy regards preparation for life and keeping safe as a profound priority, and this is reflected in our weekly provision of assemblies and talks from visiting speakers.

During Year 9, students will pick their option subjects for GCSE which incorporate a range of GCSE qualifications and BTEC qualifications.

Reading and Literacy

St Michael's is on its way to becoming a pioneering reading school – where reading is not only part of the curriculum but is also inherent in the body of the school and its culture. No student will be left behind – they will benefit from phonics training, reading comprehension intervention, decoding intervention, book clubs and reading-related enrichment activities.

All Y7 students will be given the opportunity to visit Billingham Library and learn about the different activities the library has to offer.

DEAR

Every fortnight, there will be a Drop Everything And Read session (DEAR). Students and staff all read a book/extract of their choice for a full lesson.

Renaissance Accelerated Reader

All KS3 students will follow the Accelerated Reader Programme. They will have a fortnightly library lesson where they will read, take AR book quizzes and complete reading activities in their library booklets. All students will be aware of their ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) which determines their reading level, and their books will be chosen accordingly.

Students will also be able to borrow books of any level to read for pleasure from our library which holds more than 4000 books of all genres.

Reading Mentors

Students identified as needing further reading intervention will be allocated a reading mentor. Reading mentors will be in school three days a week and will work with those children on a timetabled intervention programme. Daily afternoon reading sessions will also be compulsory for all students.

Disciplinary Reading

Disciplinary reading will be a key focus across all subjects. Students will use a variety of reading strategies across the curriculum and will learn how different subjects use reading in different ways. Students will learn to 'Read like a...' (Historian, geographer etc).

Registration and Read

Every afternoon for 15 minutes from 1:20pm to 1:35pm all students will go to their form room for registration and read. Students will read carefully selected books as a form group every day.



read,
you will
learn,
you'll go."



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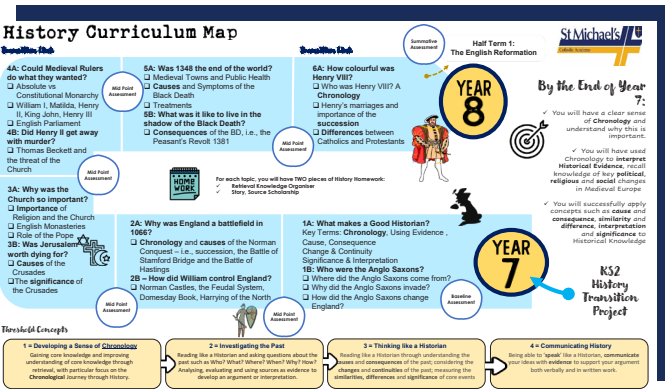
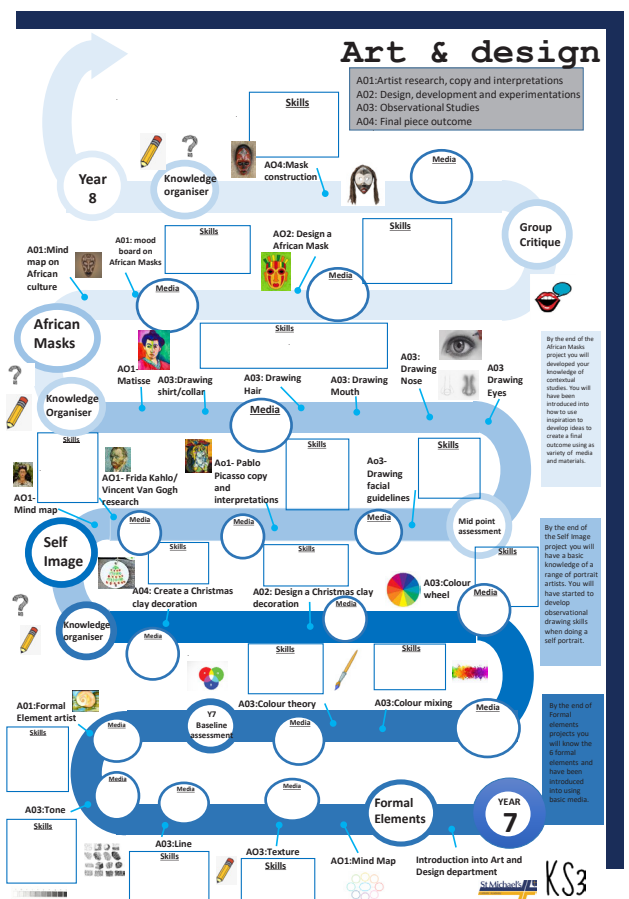
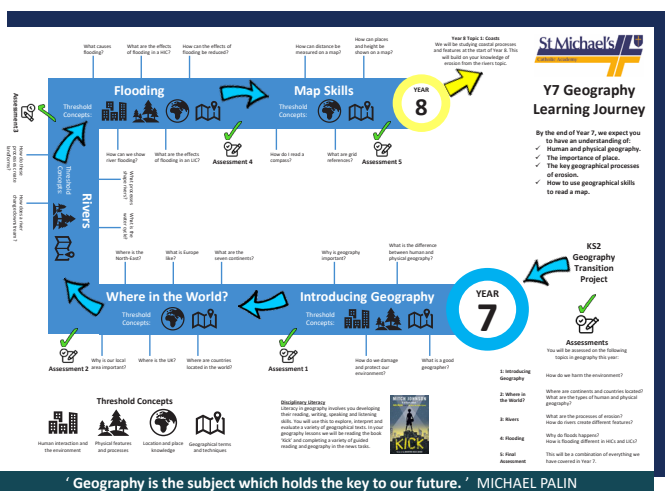


OUR LEARNING JOURNEY

Each subject strategically maps out their journey from starting in Year 7, through to Year 11 and beyond GCSE into careers. This allows our students to picture in their mind the way in which they progress throughout their time in secondary education.

The learner journeys illustrate to students what they will be studying, the skills they will be taught and how their learning builds together to successfully achieve their end points.

All the learner journeys can be found on our website. You can see how each department assesses students, what they study and how much homework the students are given.



LEARNING PROVISIONS

We are a fully inclusive academy. We aim to create a mutually supportive environment in which all students can develop their full potential, without fear of failure. All students who have additional learning needs, including those who have an Educational Health Care Plan, are a valued and integrated part of our community. Their progress is closely monitored by the academy's coordinator for SEND, assisted by Progress Support Assistants and Pastoral Learning Managers. Further information is contained within the academy's SEND policy, available from the academy.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The SENCO and the Progress Support Assistants create a space where students can be supported whenever they need help. The Good Shepherd offers Homework Club four nights a week and a range of clubs and a Chill Club during lunchtimes.

Additionally, the Good Shepherd work closely with external agencies such as Daisy Chain and Eastern Ravens to provide additional support for our students.

PASTORAL SUPPORT BASE

The Pastoral Support Base is a support base, used for reflection, restorative and to provide support for one another. It is an area well-resourced for smaller groups of students to receive additional focused support in subjects, responding to students' needs. The base is sometimes simply a place for students to pause and reflect.

Additionally, it can provide and arrange extra services such as Thrive, mentoring, restorative meetings, group revision and strategies to support pupils through difficult times. The underpinning Virtue for this key area of our academy vision is 'forgiveness and compassion'.





ENRICHMENT

At St Michael's, we are committed to providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities for our pupils. Our enrichment programme offers clubs, competitions, charity events, councils, trips and external opportunities for students to get involved in.

Our mission is to create opportunities for our young people to build knowledge, skills and understanding to aid their personal development.

Through our enrichment programme, we aim to cultivate character, resilience and confidence in our pupils. It develops a compassion for cultural and community issues focusing on teamwork and taking responsibility for the world we live in. The aim of the programme is to:

- Build upon each of the academy's trust virtues: confidence, resilience, justice, compassion, respect, self-belief, responsibility and honesty.
- Extend learning prospects for students.
- Create an enjoyment for school life.

We conduct termly student surveys, monitor engagement and discuss with our student councils to discover what our students want and then meet the needs of our pupils. Consequently, the clubs offered change termly.

At Key Stage 3, we want to allow our students to explore, learn and understand each of the academy trust virtues. Our students should feel safe enough to make mistakes and explore each of their own characters. By Key Stage 4, our students should model and showcase each of the academy trust virtues: taking on leadership roles and leading their own events.

In the next academic year, we have an exciting programme for students: a trip skiing in France, a trip to Iceland, the annual Key Stage Three London Trip, a Year 8 residential to the Lake District and to visit the Bruges Christmas Markets.





CAREERS

We provide students with comprehensive careers information, advice and guidance to enable them to become effective decision makers and to plan for their future careers. We seek to raise their aspirations and make them aware of all the options and opportunities available to them.

All students have an entitlement to careers support and they will receive personal one to one sessions with our onsite dedicated careers advisor, where they will receive impartial and realistic information, advice and guidance. Additionally, we work with Stockton Borough Council to offer advice for students in need of additional support. Students will all follow a career education programme throughout their time at St. Michael's.

We work closely with local employers to make sure that we develop necessary skills for the world of work. All students will take part in a dedicated careers unit within the PSHE programme and careers assemblies to develop their employability skills.

We have had various speakers from businesses such as the BBC, the NHS, Middlesbrough Football Club, BP, the Army and Royal Navy, Johnson and Mathey and Lucite International Ltd speak to all year groups students about the importance of employability skills.

Towards the end of year 10, students get an opportunity to be involved in a discovery week where they spend time visiting local regional businesses, colleges and universities to find out more about the wide range of further education and careers available to them. In 2023, the list of businesses, colleges and universities involved included the following:

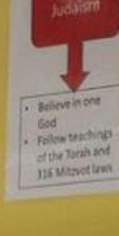
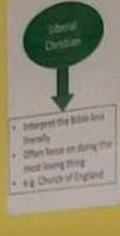
- DWP, Army, Airforce, Keir, MGL Group, The Forum and BL Training
- The English Martyrs Sixth Form College, Stockton Sixth Form College, Askham Bryan, Darlington College, Carmel College, SRC Bede College, Stockton Riverside College, NETA, Skills Academy, Middlesbrough College, Hartlepool Sixth Form and Hartlepool FE.
- Sunderland, Oxford and Durham University

We work closely with all our local colleges to provide taster sessions and information so that the correct option choices are chosen in Year 9 and places are gained in further education in Year 11. In Year 10, all students experience at least three visits to a local college in the summer term. Colleges are also in attendance at Parents' Evenings from Year 9 through until Year 11. Individual guidance from college is also available weekly at lunchtime.

All Year 11 students attend an individual careers guidance session to help prioritise needs and give students ideas on appropriate careers and further education pathways. Guidance is also available from Year 9 to help students with the option choices.



Answers to
GCSE exam
questions



A) Key Term
Give a short, simple definition
2 marks

B) Describe
Belief, source, impact
• Write 2-3 paragraphs
• Give detailed description
• Use key terms or teachings
• Link to practice
5 marks

This is...

This means...

This is important because...

People first started...

Finally...

This impacts beliefs because...

Evaluation

Ensure that agree and say that the arguments are weak
• That disagree and they are strong
• Use quotes from referring back to

Some things
This is a strong because...
Other people
This is a weak because...
The best argument
In Conclusion

10/11/22

...became a...





PASTORAL CARE

Under the direction of Mr M Scott, Deputy Headteacher, the academy has a team dedicated to pastoral support. Each year group has a Pastoral Learning Manager, who with the help of the Assistant Pastoral Learning Manager, support each year group. Additionally, the work of our Family Support Officer is crucial in supporting families throughout their time at the academy.

As a trusted and consistent point of contact for their students, the Pastoral Learning Managers communicate and work with other school staff to support the development of each student through the academy. They closely monitor the progress of each member of their year group through promoting good attendance and positive behaviour.

Each year group is made up of 8 form groups: M I C H A E L and S. Day to day, the form tutor of each group is central in both caring for students and monitoring their progress both academically and socially: encouraging involvement, commitment and high standards of work and behaviour.



ADMISSIONS

Our admissions policy for 2023 to 2024 can be found on our website:

www.stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk/admissions

St Michael's Catholic Academy was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by the Catholic Education Trust as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its trust deed and articles of association, and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. At a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. We therefore hope that all parents will give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of an applicant who is not Catholic to apply for and be admitted to a place at the school in accordance with the admission arrangements.

The admission policy criteria will be dealt with on an equal preference basis.

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust is the admissions authority and is responsible for determining the admission policy. The local authority coordinates the admissions process on behalf of the Trust. The administration and operation of the admission policy is delegated by the Trust to the Local Governing Committee.

The admissions authority has set its published admission number (PAN) at 210 pupils to year seven in the school year which begins in September 2024.

To apply for a place at this school in the normal admission round (not in-year applications), a Common Application Form (CAF) must be completed. This is available from the local authority in which the child lives.

You are also requested to complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) attached to this policy if you wish to apply under faith based oversubscription criteria. The SIF should be returned to Julie Barrett, St Michael's Catholic Academy, Beamish Road, Billingham, Stockton on Tees, TS23 3DX by 31 October 2023.

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time and after the closing date for admissions which is 31 October 2023.





Our admissions policy can be found on our website at:

Admissions: www.stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk/admissions

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