

How we teach at St Michael's

Teaching in all subjects can take a variety of forms with some whole class instruction followed by group work, individual work or groups led by teachers and teaching assistants. Our planning is child led according to the needs of each class.

Religion is also taught daily in accordance with the Diocesan approved scheme "The Way, The Truth and the Life," Lessons take many different formats, with children's work being produced as written work, reading comprehension, presentation in ICT, drama and art.

Phonics and **spelling** sessions are taught in Foundation Stage and Years 1 and 2 each morning. During these sessions, children learn to recognise and say phonemes (sounds) and learn and write graphemes (letters / combinations of letters) through creative games and activities. The skills learnt in Phonics are an essential tool to help children to blend and segment words and therefore develop their reading and writing. In the Junior classes, phonics are taught each week via spelling strategies.

At St Michael's we aim to develop a love of **reading**. A variety of reading schemes are used throughout the school such as Oxford Reading Tree, Ginn, Collins Big Cat, Generation X with a view that children will always be able to find a book that is suitable for them. In the Juniors, there is a wider range of general fiction and non-fiction books available to keep eager readers engaged and satisfied. In addition to set reading books, we have two libraries in school and each classroom has bookshelves set aside for children to choose books from. Teachers read to their classes on a daily basis from a variety of genres. **Comprehension skills** and **written work** are planned around encouraging a love of literature, both printed and online.

Maths is taught daily in all classes in school with a wide range of group work, individual challenges and maths games. For other subjects, teaching methods are different depending on the age of the children. In Foundation and Key Stage 1, Science, History, Geography, Art, PHSCE, Music and Design Technology are taught together under a topic heading. In the Juniors, subjects are taught discretely.

Each class has 2 **PE** lessons each week and we have a range of visiting specialist coaches who teach classes and provide after school clubs on a term by term basis.

Computing is embedded throughout the curriculum at St Michael's where we have laptops, netbooks and iPads available for children's use. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard which enables lessons to be engaging and fun for the children. The school has invested in a number of online resources (Easymail, Purple Mash, Espresso) for the children to use, some of which can also be accessed at home.

Homework is set with activities intended to enhance and extend teaching and learning. Parental support with homework will increase the benefit of these activities for your child.