

# ST.MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL



*"An outstanding School" Ofsted*

**Voluntary Aided**

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

St. Michael's is a three-form entry Catholic grammar school for girls aged 11-18 with boys in the Sixth Form. It accepts 96 pupils each year; the Sixth Form numbers more than 280 and there are over 760 pupils on roll.

St. Michael's is a selective school and pupils can be offered places only if they show an ability to follow an academic course of studies.

The school was founded in 1908 by the Sisters of the Poor Child of Jesus and continues to provide a Catholic education based on the foundations and traditions which the Sisters established.

## **AIMS AND VALUES**

The primary aim of the school is the formation of responsible and committed Catholic citizens. The highest standards are encouraged in academic achievement, social responsibility and personal development. Formal Religious Education is provided throughout the school but, equally important in fostering a living Christian faith, is the experience of belonging to the school community.

To be truly effective, the school must function in close co-operation with the home and local parishes. Indeed, the school can only build on values established in the home, which is the first and most important educator.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

All pupils follow the RE programme throughout their years at St. Michael's. In Years 10 and 11 their studies prepare them for GCSE and all follow a course of General RE in the Sixth Form. However, the Religious Education in the school is not confined to the RE lessons but is considered to be part of the whole curriculum.

## **THE GENERAL CURRICULUM**

Year 7 pupils follow a general course of studies including, of course, the requirements of the National Curriculum. In Year 8 they begin the study of Latin and a second Modern Language, Spanish or German or Italian. At the end of Year 9, after consultation with parents and pupils, each girl is given the opportunity to follow a course of studies leading to GCSE, for which she has particular aptitude, interest and potential and which is in keeping with the National Curriculum.

Consequently all girls will take GCSE courses in Religious Studies, English, Maths, Science and one Modern Language (French/German/Spanish/Italian). They are then allowed a choice of 4 further subjects from the following - a second Modern Language, Triple Science, Latin, Information and

Communication Technology, Technology, Music, Art, History, Geography, Drama or P.E. (All girls must study either History or Geography and can choose both).

Core PE is followed in accordance with the National Curriculum.

In the Sixth Form, students are prepared for 'A' level and 'AS' examinations, and opportunities are provided for pupils to receive guidance and tuition in preparing for Oxbridge entrance. The normal course is three 'A' level subjects in Year 13 and 4 'AS' Level subjects in Year 12.

We accept about 60 new female and male students into the Sixth Form each year. A collaborative arrangement with Finchley Catholic High School has been in place since 2000 which means female and male students from both schools study certain subjects in the other Sixth Form.

A programme of Education For Living and Careers Education exists at appropriate levels throughout the school. Careers visits and speakers feature prominently as part of the Sixth Form course.

### **TEACHING/LEARNING FACILITIES**

The school is well-equipped with six Laboratories for the teachers of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. There is a Language Laboratory and a suite of rooms for the teaching of Mathematics. There are three dedicated Computer Suites and two well-equipped rooms for the teaching of Art as well as three Technology Laboratories. There is a large Hall with full Stage and Lighting equipment, a Music Centre with separate rooms for individual tuition and practice, a Sports Hall, a Drama Room and a MFL ICT suite. The Library is well-stocked and also has 12 networked computers. There is a separate Study Centre for the Sixth Form with 50 networked computers plus managed wireless access for any 6th formers who want to bring in their own devices. Other specialist rooms are provided. The Sixth Form Centre is a separate building; of great character it offers teaching and leisure facilities, and is fronted by a lawn and gardens. The complex of buildings forms an attractive 'campus'.

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

There is a full range of sporting activities including ski trips. Exchange visits abroad are arranged, as well as British and European Work Experience and field-study courses in several subjects. Duke of Edinburgh Award Courses are in operation also. The Music Department runs junior and senior choirs and orchestras and visiting instrumentalists give tuition in violin, cello and woodwind.

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Within St. Michael's there is a tradition of extra-curricular social and charitable activities. The Sixth Form are given scope and encouragement to foster these in the school. In addition, a Parents' Association is very active in promoting social and fund-raising activities.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

Form teachers take a personal interest in welfare and progress of each student in their form. In this, they are co-ordinated by Heads of Key Stage each of whom has a Deputy. The School Chaplain and the School Welfare Officers are also involved in the personal guidance and welfare of pupils.

During the school year, meetings with the parents are arranged by year groups, but the Headmaster and Deputy Head are always available, by appointment, for consultation with parents. It is the policy of school to work as closely as possible with parents, and each pupil is encouraged to develop her/his potential to the full.

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

### **Child Protection/Safeguarding**

Safeguarding and Child Protection relates to the protection of children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and/or development, protected from extreme radicalisation, ensuring that children grow up in the provision of safe and effective care and optimising children's life chances to enter adulthood successfully.

"All those who come into contact with children and families in their everyday work, including practitioners who do not have a specific role in relation to child protection, have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children"  
(HM Govt 2003)

Safeguarding is 'everybody's responsibility' (Lord Laming). All staff and volunteers must be alert to the signs of abuse (neglect, physical injury, emotional abuse, neglect and sexual abuse) and report any concerns or suspicions to the Designated Senior Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection or her Deputy. All staff and volunteers are responsible for complying with the child protection procedures as detailed in this and other related policies.

Members of staff take care not to promise to keep disclosures of this nature a secret as they may be breaking the law by doing so. Instead, the child is reassured that the School can be trusted to act in her/his best interests.

The details of this safeguarding duty is detailed in the School's Safeguarding Policy.

### **Policy Statement**

The Governors and Staff of St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School fully recognise the responsibility and duty placed upon them to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students at the school and that all staff and volunteers have a full and active part to play in protecting students from harm.

We believe that our school provides a positive, caring, safe and stimulating environment in which pupils can learn and which promotes the social, physical and emotional wellbeing of each individual.

### **Use of Force**

The DCFS guidance of November 2007 (which replaced and supersedes DFES circular 10/98) entitled "The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils" and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 do not authorise the use of corporal punishment in any circumstances and outline that it is always unlawful to use force as punishment, however, they do correct the common misconception that any physical contact with a child is in some way unlawful. Authorised staff may use force to prevent behaviour that prejudices the maintenance of school discipline regardless of whether the behaviour would also constitute a criminal offence. Section 45 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 allows the search of pupils without their consent for weapons. (See relevant section of this policy.)

This should be read and followed in the light of:

- i) The aims and ethos of St. Michael's, published in our mission statement and prospectus
- ii) Our pastoral/behaviour policy
- iii) Our safeguarding/child protection policy
- iv) Our health and safety policy

There are occasions where physical contact may be proper or necessary other than those covered by section 92 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. These include for example:

- The demonstration of techniques in practical subjects such as PE, Technology and Art
- The giving of First Aid
- Congratulating and praising students eg shaking hands
- Assisting students with temporary or longer term disability and/or when distressed.

Teachers will use their own professional judgement when they feel a pupil needs this kind of support.

The Pastoral Curriculum provides opportunities for the girls to learn about personal safety and managing risks. The pupils are encouraged to share concerns with any member of staff with whom they feel comfortable.

Pupils undertaking Work Experience in Year 10 are visited by a member of staff who has a specific brief to monitor the safety of the placement.

Sixth Form students on Work Experience are encouraged to report any concerns to the Deputy Head of Sixth Form.

March 2004 (amended 2009, 2010, 2012, 2016)