

St. Michael's Church School

SECTION 3: Character Development, Hope, Aspirations and Courageous Advocacy

Introduction

'I can do all things through God who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13

At St Michael's Church School, we aim to give children aspirations for themselves and hope for a better future in the local and the global community. We support our children to recognise the world is moving and how to embrace and action change when needed. We support our children to develop perseverance and resilience (two of our school values) to overcome barriers to their learning, lifestyles and choices. We help our children to be courageous and ask big questions, developing an understanding that not all questions can be answered, whilst supporting them to continue to ask more.

At St Michael's, we believe it is important to support the community and participate in charitable activities to promote our school values of friendship, compassion, faith and responsibility. Over the years, we have raised £693 for Children in Need, £264 for Age UK and £83 for MacMillan Cancer Care. Amazingly, we also managed to raise £290 for United World Schools Charity by 'Walking a mile in someone else's shoes'. The children at home learning and in school walked a mile every day in order to raise money for a charity who supports children that walk a mile or even longer every day to get an education. In 2022, our Year 1 and Year 4 children learnt about the importance of giving to charities through their RE work. This resulted in our school donating almost £300 to the Samaritans Charity after raising money for running a marathon between the classes.

At St Michael's, we aspire for the children to be the best they can be by making positive changes and choices about the way we live. As an example, during science week we focused our whole school project on Saving Planet Earth. We examined how the world has become damaged and what we need to do to make changes. We looked at our school, developing an Eco Council to develop changes in our school, from the amount of electricity we use to reducing the amount of plastic at lunchtimes.

At St Michael's, we have learnt about the poverty and struggles of the people in our community and town. For several years we have donated to Peterborough Food Bank to provide food and basics to those in our community who cannot afford to eat. The children were surprised to learn how many people use the service. Since then, as a school, we have become a distributor of Food Bank vouchers for those parents and children who need to use the service.

For our Harvest Festival and at Easter, we have given food and monetary donations to 'Mary's Child' charity which is connected to our church - St Michael's. The charity supports and helps people local to our school such as Cardea, Stanground, Farcet, Fletton and the wider community to provide food and toiletry packages for those who struggle in times of need. The children learnt about the importance of 'those who have, should share with those who have not'.

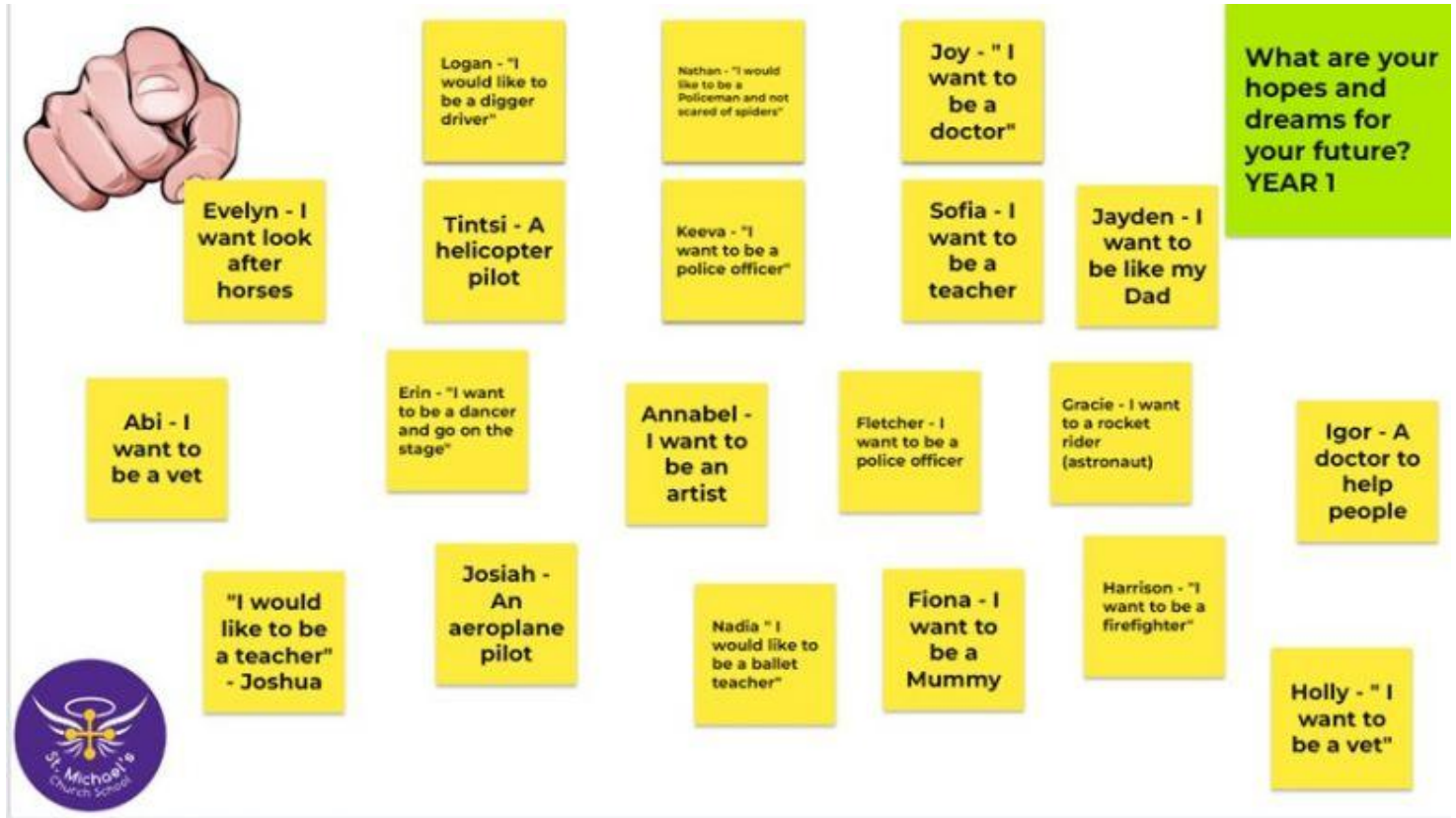


Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge 2021, focussed on 'Hope for the Future'. At the time this was launched many of our children were learning at home with a small amount in school. We 'hoped' all of our Church School family be reunited and this time stay in school. We wanted to live and learn together to 'be the best we can be' in order to 'work with all out heart, as though working for the Lord' (Colossians 3:23). Our response to the challenge was a video entry, where children in school learnt BSL signing, a dance and sung together as a choir to a song called 'Hope' by AllStars. Please enjoy and embrace the wonderfully beautiful, uniquely made and incredibly talented children of St Michael's Church School.

In 2022, we completed Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge again. This time we learnt how to be brave and having high hopes for the future. The children talked to each other about their fears, hopes and dreams and found out about real inspirational people such as Malala, Rashford and Mother Teresa.

We used a jamboard to allow children to contribute to the Collective Worship time together and teachers could share with their classes other children's responses.

Year One children shared their hopes and dreams for their future.



Key Stage 1 also shared their experiences of being brave in their lives.



Lower Key Stage 2 also shared their experiences of being brave with each other. It was a lovely time for the children and teachers to share their experiences in life.



Bishop Bertin

Bishop Bertin visited our school all the way from his home in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He came to our school to find out how amazing we are and how church schools in England operate.

Bishop Bertin joined us in Collective Worship and taught us all about his hometown and how it has changed over the years. He also told us about how he is trying to help his community to have easier access to running water and Christianity. We felt very honoured to have Bishop Bertin visit our school. We hope God helps you and your community.



Charity Certificates

"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices." Hebrews 13:16

At St Michael's Church School, we think it is important to help others especially those who do not have what we have or those who are poor.

Over the years, we have raised lots of money to help others and think about the importance of sharing and caring.

In the academic year 2020-21, we were so pleased to raise £290 for United Worlds Schools despite being partially in lock down and completing homeschool learning. The children learnt that no matter how hard it is for us living in a COVID world, some children have it even harder and we wanted to help them in any way we could.

Below you will find our Charity Certificate wall in the Entrance Hall to the school. This is added to frequently. We look forward to continuing our fundraising and generous donations to the different charities we support over the year.



Collective Worship Leaders

'Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do'. Philippians 3:17

At St Michael's Church School, we value our children and believe it is important to prepare them for their future. This means offering them opportunities to have important roles and responsibilities throughout their time with us.

In 2020 the Year 5 children still took part as Leaders through our Collective Worship Zoom dressing the altar in the classroom, leading the Trinity, leading the welcome and the Greeting/Response.

In September 2021, we decided we needed to hold 2 Collective Worship sessions to allow for social distancing between classes and to make sure all the children and adults could be as safe as they could be. This means for the first time we will be having Year 2 and 5 children Collective Worship Leaders. These children play an integral part of our time together thinking about God. They help to establish a welcoming environment, remind us of why we are together, model signs for choral worship and lead our prayer time.

Eco School Council

**The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.
Genesis 2:15**

At St Michael's Church School, we believe it is important to look after God's wonderful world and make sure it is here for the future generations. In order to do this, the children can be part of our Eco School Council. This is a special group of children, nominated by their class friends to think of ways to preserve and protect the planet and our school.

Our Deputy Head Boy, Josh and Deputy Head Girl, Chloe lead these meetings with support from Mr Copeland and Miss McMullon.

Our focus this term is: Being Greener

The Eco Warriors have decided that the target for making our school 'Greener' will be focusing on litter on and around the school site. With this, our Eco Warriors will be encouraging their peers to pick up litter from around the school, provide a variety of bins to encourage recycling and take part in regular sessions of picking up litter.

Here are the wonderful 2021-22 Eco School Council members.



Food Banks

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. Matthew 25:35

At St Michael's Church School, we pride ourselves on our community support and remembering the phrase 'those who have, share with those who have not'.

For many years, at Harvest we shared our festival donations with the Peterborough Food Bank. Volunteers from the Food Bank came into school and spoke to the children about the difference our donations can make to those in the community.

For the last two years, at Harvest and other key times in the year such as Easter, we have shared our festival donations with Mary's Child. This is a charity linked to our church, St Michael's and our Reverends share the food, toiletries and monetary donations with people more local to our school, including Cardea, Stanground, Farcet and Fletton, extending out into Peterborough if needed too. The children in our school are always very generous and they help to organise the food ready for collection. Our year 6 children this year (2021) said they were amazed by the amount of food we had collected but were shocked to learn that 3 trollies of food would probably last about 3 weeks of food parcels for those who needed it. At Easter, we donated Easter Eggs for Reverend Andrew and Carol to share with the community, especially for the children who may not receive one otherwise.



As a school, we hope that our donations help to make a big difference in someone's life.

Future Leaders

Each class are invited to nominate a pupil to represent them at our Future Leaders meetings. This group of very important children will help to share their classes ideas, feelings and help to be part of big decisions in school. We have a Head Boy and a Head Girl from Year 6 and these children hold the biggest responsibility in school. These children have to write a letter of application to our Headteacher in order to be offered this important role. The job of a Future Leader is more than just a title. The children chosen have to embody all of our school values, be a role model to others and follow the school rule of 'Being the best we can be'.

We would like to share our Future Leaders with you:

Year 1: Squirrels - Jasper Hedgehogs – Eve

Year 2: Badgers – Arthur Foxes – Desiree

Year 3: Puffins – Teddy Kingfishers – Sami

Year 4: Ravens – Evan Swallows – Navsaaz

Year 5: Kites – Leyla Kestrels – Olivia

Year 6: Eagles – Head Girl – Anisha Owls – Head Boy – Liam

You will be able to spot our wonderful Future Leaders in the classrooms as they will be wearing their badge with pride!

Here are the wonderful Future Leaders of 2021-22



House Captains

Our House Captains are responsible for being role models to other children in their team and for encouraging their members to receive merits by being 'Being the best they can be' and demonstrating our school vision of 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart'.

These children also have to collect the weekly merits and report to the Headteacher the results which will be shared in Celebration Collective Worship on a Friday.

Here are our House Captains for 2021-22:



Librarians

These children help to organise, support children, log books in and out on our system and make sure the library is a clean, tidy and inviting environment.

If you are looking for a specific book, these children will be able to help you find what you are looking for.



Maths Ambassadors

Every September, after delivering some fabulously persuasive speeches, each class will choose one child to undertake the role of a Maths Ambassadors.

Our Maths Ambassadors are enthusiastic and passionate about Mathematics. They will work closely with staff to help others to improve their own Maths skills, knowledge and understanding.

As part of their role they:

- Celebrate maths' achievements across the school.
 - Introduce competitions and new ideas
 - Raise the profile of maths in school
 - Engage others in mathematical discussion and inspire number FUN
 - Lead activities relating to maths
 - Give other pupils a voice and help them to share their ideas.
 - Support other members of our school community in maths.
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Planet Earth

During Science Week, we challenged the children to come to school and help us to create the Earth using human bodies, here is the evidence below.

During the week, the children learnt all about how humans are Preserving, Protecting and Damaging our Planet Earth.

The children learnt about renewable resources, reducing the use of one time plastics and the need to reduce the amount of electricity in our school.

This was an amazing week and the children felt inspired to make a difference. The biggest thing the children felt we needed to improve was the use of one time plastic in our Pick and Mix menu at school. After many discussions in our Eco Council and Future Leader meetings, letters and emails to the food providers in school and conversations with the Head Chef, we now use paper bags or bowls which can be washed instead of plastic packaging for the sandwiches, cakes and snacks with the Pick and Mix menu. Well done children, this will definitely make a difference to the world.



Philippians 3:17

'Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do'.

At St Michael's Church School, we value our children and believe it is important to prepare them for their future. This means offering them opportunities to have important roles and responsibilities throughout their time with us.

Our Year 6 have several very important roles in our school. We have a Head Boy, Liam and Girl, Anisha who hold the most prestigious roles. They will lead and support our Future Leaders Committee. Liam and Anisha are role models to all of the children in school, showing other children how living by the school values and rules help you to become great people.

Our Deputy Head Boy, Joshua and Head Girl, Freya also have an important role leading our Eco Council. They help to ensure that our school is making better choices in terms of making sure our world has a future. They will be leading the members of the council, nominated by their classes to ensure our school is a happy, environmentally friendly place to be.

The Year 6 children also have a variety of other roles and responsibilities in our school. See below for the additional jobs our wonderful children help to support and lead.

Meet our House Captains. These children lead the House Teams, support their members and encourage their team to achieve as many merits as possible. The children are responsible for collecting the weekly merit tokens and sharing the good news of the totals and weekly winners in Collective Worship on a Friday.

Meet our Play Mediators. These children help to ensure Lunchtime and Playtimes run smoothly, giving the children ideas for games and providing resources for the children to play with. These children are always happy and will support children to enjoy their time together outside during the good weather days and inside during the bad weather days. Due to COVID-19 restrictions at the moment the children are currently limited to the ways in which they can help, but they are responsible for making sure the equipment is ready to be used throughout the school and resources are safe for the meantime.

Meet our Lunchtime Helpers Team. The children in this team make a big difference to the lunchtime hall. They help the children to carry their trays, pour drinks, open packets, clear the tables and guide our younger children to where they should be. A valuable addition to our lunchtimes.

Meet our Tech Team. These children help to ensure everything technical is back where it should be, search for missing items and ensure the equipment is charged ready for the next classes in the afternoon. They massively support our Computing Lead teachers.

Meet our Librarians. These children help to organise, support children, log books in and out on our system and make sure the library is a clean, tidy and inviting environment. If you are looking for a specific book, these children will be able to help you find what you are looking for.

The Year 2 and 5 children are asked if they would like to be Collective Worship Leaders. These children play an integral part of our time together thinking about God. They help to establish a welcoming environment, remind us of why we are together, model signs for choral worship and lead our prayer time.

Each class are invited to nominate a Future Leader, Eco School Councillor and Maths Ambassador. The children have to tell their class why they should be voted for and how they can make a difference to the school. A vote system is put into place and then the child who wins is invited to then take on this important role. You will be able to spot our children leaders in school because they will be wearing a badge with their role title on.

School Representative

'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above' James 1:17

At St Michael's Church School, we think it is important for the children to shine in all different ways not just in the classroom. We hold several after school clubs to embrace and support our children's gifts and talents.

Over the years, we have enjoyed encouraging our children to participate in competitions and celebrations within the Peterborough Community. This has included Football Tournaments (boys, girls and mixed teams), Netball Tournaments and our Dance Troop have joined other schools at the Cresset for an evening of dance.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, competitions with local schools has been difficult to support and organise. However, we have high hopes for 2021-22 so watch this space for the 'Future Teams' of St Michael's Church School.

School Residential

At St Michael's Church School, we believe it is important to help develop our children educationally, physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and personally.

We offer the children the opportunity to take part in a variety of different types of Residential Visits which help to develop the children outside of the school environment, incorporating our ethos, school values and vision.

In 2020, we took our Year 3 to Burwell House for a 3 day residential. They had a magical time, learning about themselves and the environment we live in. They spent time team building, making natural sculptures and jewellery, being Nature Detectives and toasting marshmallows over an open fire.

In 2021, we have taken our Year 6 children to Caythorpe for a 5 day residential. The children experienced sleeping in tents, archery, wall climbing, zip lining, raft building and canoeing. The children arrived home with smiles on their faces albeit a little tired and smelly.

[Please click on this link to see the photos of our incredibly brave Year 6 children.](#)

In 2021, we have also taken our Year 5 children to Boughton Woods, Bushcraft for a 3 day residential. The children experienced sleeping in tents, building fires, creating dens, saving our Head Teacher from an imaginary plane crash, story telling and eating stone baked pizzas. The children also arrived home with smiles on their faces albeit a little tired and smelly too!

[Please click on this link to see the photos of our incredibly talented Year 5 children.](#)

Watch this space for future Residentials and Days Out.
