



St. Michael's Church School

SECTION 2: Wisdom, Knowledge & Skills

Introduction

'For the Lord grants wisdom, from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding'
Proverbs 2:6

At St Michael's Church School, we use our vision to drive us forward to meet the needs of our children's academic and spiritual needs. When the school opened in 2012 our core expectation from the children was 'To be the best you can be' and this meant giving the children the best education and establishing a school that allowed children to thrive. Since then we have looked at the Bible and the teachings of Jesus to support our Christian ethos. In 2019 we chose Colossians 3:23 to enhance our vision 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you are working for Lord'. This is now part of our daily lives and enhanced through our teaching, worship and play.

At St Michaels, we take such joy in watching our children seeking wisdom, knowledge, understanding and developing their talents in all areas of life. We praise this through our celebration collective worship on a weekly basis focusing on Lead Learners (applauding academic achievement) and Super Citizens (applauding personal achievements).

The children are encouraged to look at human values and qualities, thinking about what it means to be a human and how we can make a difference. We allow the children to explore ethical issues such as world disasters, scientific discoveries, inviting children to ask questions for example, 'If the Big Bang really happened, what does this make us question about Genesis?' and spiritual issues such as 'If there is a God, why does He let us suffer pain?'.

We invite, value, listen and respond to children with their questions in a range of subjects, making cross-curricular links as appropriate. Curiosity is certainly promoted and valued at St Michaels.



Big Questions

At St Michael's Church School, we embrace and encourage our children to ask BIG questions. The children love that BIG questions often lead to BIGGER questions and sometimes they are questions that teachers cannot answer! We want our children to become individual thinkers who respect and listen to others points of views. This means allowing time in the day to encourage thinking, questioning and puzzling moments.

Please find below some links that will open up documents to share with you some of the BIG questions our children have asked. Luckily, we have some incredible and knowledgeable people around who will help to answer the children's questions, however we have since learnt that sometimes our questions have been so big they have been sent to the Archdeacon to answer!

[Big Questions PowerPoint for Enrichment Day](#)

[Big Questions about Creation](#)

[Big Questions about God](#)

[Reverend Email about our Big Questions](#)

[Big Questions about The Holy Trinity](#)

[Questions and Wonders about Easter Story](#)

[More Big Questions about The Holy Trinity](#)

[More Big Questions about God](#)

[Letter to Reverends about God](#)

My Big Questions...

If everyone loved everyone would the world be a better place?

What different kinds of love are there?

Most people are fans of love as a positive force in the world - it's good to remember to tell those we love that we love them and why. Who do you love and why?

What do you mean when you say you love someone or something and how it makes you feel?

Would loving your enemy, as hard as that is, make them your friend?

If everyone did that, what would happen?



Types of love

Friends—Philia

Family—Storge

God—Agape

Self love—Philautia

Romantic—Eros

Year 2

Big Question: What is love?

I love my sister,
she helps me.

I love my Mum,
she helps me.

I love my cats
and gecko.

I love my family,
they are mine.

I love my family, they
respect me for being me.

I love my family,
we love each other.

I love my big
brother, he teaches
me.

I love my Dad, he
makes and keeps
his promises.

Love makes me feel
embarrassed.

I love my friend, we
may argue but we
always make up as
we are BFFs.

I love my friends,
they help me to
learn.

I love my family,
they always help
me.

Love makes me feel
shaky.

Love makes me feel
full to the top.

Love makes me
joyful.

Love makes me feel
like I want to
dance.

Love makes me feel
happy.

Love makes me feel
my heart beating.

Love makes me feel
emotional.

Love makes me feel
relaxed.

Love makes me feel
sweaty.

Love makes me feel
enjoyable.

Love makes me feel
like hugging.

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John's Gospel

As part of our Enrichment Day looking at 'Festivals of Light' our Year 4 children were asked to look at John 1: 1-5

Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were made through him. Nothing was made without him. 4 In him there was life. That life was light for the people of the world. 5 The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overpowered the Light.

They examined this piece of scripture for the keywords and then were asked to create a piece of artwork in response to it. The children made some truly inspirational and fantastic pieces of work. The children were so proud of their work we displayed it on the wall in the main corridors so the whole school could see their fabulous work. It has now become part of the Y4 Incarnation unit of work.



Lead Learner of the Year Award

The Governing Body presents an award each year to the Year 6 child who is the lead learner in terms of their achievement, effort and dedication to their learning.

Every fortnight, each individual class teacher will nominate one child in their class to be celebrated for their learning over the 2 weeks. This award however is given to the Year 6 pupil at the end of the year for being the ultimate learner during their time at our school.

The children who have received this honour are:

2021: Leah

'No matter the subject, Leah always strives to be the best she can be and is a shining example to all of her peers. her outstanding attitude towards learning has resulted in her outstanding achievements this year. It has been a pleasure to see Leah blossom, The future is most definitely bright for Leah'



Science Week

And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:26-28

At St Michael's Church School, we know it is massively important to preserve and protect God's world. We know it important to make a difference in our school, in order to make a difference in the world. We know that small changes can make a big difference for our community and so we can continue living well together.

In order to do this, we hold special themed weeks to focus on different aspects of God's wonderful world. This includes a 'Science Week' and we have looked in more detail at different themes including Global Warming, Plastic Pollution, Renewable Energy and Ice Pole collapses.

Our children have protested, written debates and shared ideas about how we can improve the school community and thereby preserve and protect the world.

Here is a link to our Science Week page for evidence of our children sharing their voice.

[St. Michael's Church School - Science Week](#)

Spirited Art

Spirited Arts is a competition held by NATRE which invites children to express their ideas in relation to a given question. The children can respond through the 'Arts' including

- Art (painting, drawing, sketching etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture

Our children had the stimulus question of 'Where is God?'. We sent 10 entries (the maximum) and the children all received 'Highly Commendable' Certificates. Unfortunately we did not win a prize but the children were so proud of their work this was the prize in itself.

Where is God?



Super Citizen of the Year Award

The Stanground Churches present an award each year to the Year 6 child who is the model pupil in terms of their behaviour, attitude and relationship with others.

The child who receives the award is a glowing example of being 'Uniquely and wonderfully made'. They are the child who other children should look up to.

Every fortnight, each individual class teacher will nominate one child in their class to be celebrated for their citizenship over the 2 weeks. This award however is given to the Year 6 pupil at the end of the year for being the ultimate citizen during their time at our school.

The children who have received this honour are:

2021: Szymon

Szymon is a wonderful role model who can be relied upon to make the right choices and set an example to his peer group. His mature attitude towards learning and the wider school day as benefited some of his peer group and in turn, has helped them to make the right choices. We are sure that if he continues with this brilliant attitude to school, the world will be his oyster.



Watoto

The Watoto Children's Choir chose to come to our school to host one of their amazing evenings of song and celebration. We were so happy to have this wonderfully group of people visit our school and put on a mini concert for us in the school hall. We listen and sing Watoto songs in our Collective Worship so it was a true honour to meet some of the adults and children in real life. 'Webale' for coming to our school and showing how we can raise our voices for the Lord to hear. God bless.

