



International Policy

School Mission Statement

St. Michael & St. Martin school follows the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, in its daily life through celebration of the Liturgy and through following the values taught in the Gospel of Jesus, by:

- Learning our faith.
- Living our faith.
- Loving our faith.

Thus the school recognises the dignity of every human person because s/he is a child of God, while fostering awareness of the world's poor. Equality of opportunity for every person is therefore paramount and precludes all forms of discrimination on grounds of colour, gender, race, social class or ability.

The school aims to nurture the spiritual, intellectual and physical growth of each pupil through a holistic approach, which takes due note of the needs of every child while, at the same time, striving for excellence in all aspects of education in a secure environment.

Introduction

This policy reflects the values and ethos of St Michael and St Martin Catholic Primary School, a multi-lingual school, where currently over 35 different languages are spoken by the pupils. The policy aims to celebrate this diversity through a range of international experiences to raise awareness and respects different cultures, languages and religions. By including an international dimension to our curriculum, we aim to help our pupils become true global citizens of the future with a healthy respect for diversity.

We aim to :

- Provide an informed awareness of different countries, cultures and languages
- Celebrate the rich and diverse heritage represented in our school, local and national communities
- Encourage greater involvement in environmental issues
- Develop curiosity about other cultures
- Promote the use of ICT in meaningful contexts for the development of communication skills
- Enjoy regular contact with people living in different countries
- Provide an added opportunity for the promotion of equal opportunities, racial equality and citizenship

In order to achieve these aims we will:

- Develop links with schools in other countries in Europe and other parts of the world
- Welcome to our school visitors from other countries
- Raise awareness of environment issues other than those in our locality through joint projects
- Promote communication through writing letters and e-mails to friends abroad
- Raise awareness and appreciation of other environments and what is happening in the world
- Develop cross-curricular activities with an international theme for all children
- Provide an hour of dedicated foreign language teaching for all our KS2 pupils
- Organise regular celebrations of our rich and diverse heritage

As part of our Modern Foreign Language curriculum, pupils will be given opportunities to learn about similarities and differences in Italian speaking countries. Pupils in KS2 will be encouraged to communicate in English and Italian to make meaningful contact with children in our partner school. They will have the opportunity to use a range of communication methods such as writing letters,

videos, booklets about the school, posters, newsletters and e-mails to compare local environments, hobbies and interests and various aspects of their culture.

Pupil groups such as School Council and the JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) will also, from time to time, communicate with partner schools (in Italy and India) to report on their work to compare aims and activities. We aim to compare ideas and concerns about current issues such as recycling, reduction of carbon emissions and how to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

Staff will work with the International Co-Ordinator to identify and seek our opportunities to maximise the international aspects of curricular topics.

The Role of the International Co-Ordinator

- To provide stimulus and inspiration
- Develop good practice to share with the whole school
- Raise awareness of the international dimension throughout the school
- Co-ordinate and order resources that will prompt the internal dimension and manage the budget
- Monitor and evaluate resources
- Monitor and audit planning and work with colleagues to identify curricular opportunities to explore the international dimension throughout the school
- Liaise with and support visitors from other countries
- Monitor and support existing links
- Liaise with staff and support displays that promote and celebrate the international dimension
- Ensure policy documents remain useful and current
- Organise and support in service training when required
- Offer advice and support in professional development
- Carry out an annual audit and prepare an action plan
- Have overall responsibility for applying for and maintaining the International Schools Award