



**St Michael's**  
C.E. Primary School

# **The Nest Curriculum**

**2024-2025**

## Our Theologically Rooted Christian Vision

### *Courage to Flourish in the Love of God*

**'I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10)**



**[Therefore],**

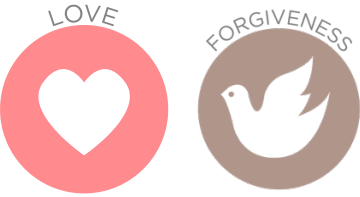



**'Be strong and courageous... the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'** (Joshua 1:9)

These biblical texts underpin our vision summary, 'Courage to flourish in the love of God'. Jesus' words from the New Testament describe his desire for everyone to be a full and flourishing version of their created selves, experiencing life in all its vibrant fullness, individually and in community. Our ambition is for everyone to encounter this fullness through the life and work of the school, whatever their background, beliefs or circumstances. God's words to Joshua from the Old Testament illustrate how life, and learning, can be challenging, bringing setbacks and discouragement. These words inspire us to keep on going in those circumstances, confident that God watches over us and walks beside us.

The joining of these biblical texts is meaningful for the particular circumstances of our school community. It gives coherence to our aspirational vision that will grow courage and resilience as enablers of 'life in all its fullness' for everyone. To support our vision, we have seven overarching Christian values.

## Our Core Christian Values

| <u>Value</u>  | <u>Biblical texts that underpin our values</u>  |
|---|---|
|  | Philippians 4:13<br>'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'             |
|  | John 1:5<br>'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' |

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|--|--|
|   | <p>1 Corinthians 13:4-8<br/>‘Love is patient and kind... it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.’</p> <p>1 John 1:9<br/>‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us’</p> |
|   | <p>Proverbs 3:5-6<br/>‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.’</p>  |
|   | <p>Hebrews 10:24<br/>‘Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.’</p>   |
|  | <p>1 Thessalonians 5:18<br/>‘Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you’</p>   |

## The Nest Curriculum Intent

The SEND Code of Practice (DfE, 2014) states:

“All children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential. This should enable them to; achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training.”

At St. Michael's, we believe that equality and inclusion are fundamental principles that underpin our educational philosophy. Our commitment to these values ensures that every child is given the opportunity to achieve their full potential. We are dedicated to fostering an environment where everyone is accepted for who they are and where differences are respected and celebrated.

We are passionate about including everyone in our school community. This passion drives us to create an inclusive environment where all students feel valued and supported. Respecting differences is at the core of our values. We believe that diversity enriches our community, and we strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. Being committed to identifying and removing

barriers to learning as early as possible. By doing so, we ensure that every student has the support they need to succeed.

Our dedication to equality and inclusion is unwavering. We continuously strive to create a learning environment where all students are empowered to achieve their best and where every individual is respected and valued.

At St. Michael's, we recognise that all children and young people are entitled to an education that is tailored to their unique needs, as outlined in the SEND Code of Practice (DfE, 2014). Our curriculum in The Nest is designed not only to promote high standards and fulfil potential but also to enable every pupil to flourish as confident individuals who lead fulfilling lives.

### **Flourishing Through Equality and Inclusion**

Our school vision underpins our approach in The Nest. We believe that every pupil is created in the image of God and has the inherent potential to thrive. We believe that equality and inclusion are foundational principles that underpin our educational philosophy. Our unwavering commitment to these values ensures that every child is provided with the opportunity to succeed. In The Nest, we cultivate an environment where every pupil is accepted for who they are, and where differences are not only respected but celebrated.

### **Creating an Inclusive Community**

Our passion for inclusion drives us to establish a supportive atmosphere where all students feel valued. We understand that diversity enriches our community, and we actively promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. By identifying and removing barriers to learning as early as possible, we ensure that every pupil receives the tailored support they need to thrive.

### **Empowering Every Individual**

In The Nest, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of empowerment. We continuously strive to create a learning environment where all pupils can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. Our approach is rooted in the belief that every individual deserves to be respected and valued, and we work diligently to provide the necessary resources and support to help each pupil achieve their best.

### **Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

We are committed to ongoing reflection and improvement in our practises to ensure that our provision remains responsive to the needs of our pupils. By embracing a mindset of growth, we aim to enhance the learning experiences of all students in The Nest, enabling them to flourish and realise their aspirations.

## Key Principles and Purpose

- To help students develop essential life skills for effective communication, healthy relationships, personal health, and independence.
- To adapt in addressing each student's unique needs, interests, and strengths, while fulfilling their EHCP and SSPP outcomes.
- To concentrate on enhancing key skills in communication, cognition, physical development, health and wellbeing, and understanding of the world, preparing students for life beyond school.
- To foster positive wellbeing, enriching experiences, and enjoyment in learning for all students.
- Our goal is for all our students to reach their full potential and hold high aspirations for themselves.
- The Nest is committed to providing tailored support for children with individual needs. Each child accessing The Nest will have an EHCP or a SSPP, along with other identified communication and interaction requirements. We prioritise careful consideration of these individual needs to ensure an inclusive and supportive environment for all children.

The 'Nest Curriculum' overview for each half-term theme includes learning outcomes and suggested learning opportunities, detailing how learning can be scaffolded to help children achieve these outcomes. Throughout each theme and the Nest Curriculum as a whole, students are provided with frequent opportunities to repeat, retrieve, and generalise knowledge and skills in various contexts to build learning schemas. Additionally, each theme offers opportunities for students to practice the real-life application of knowledge and skills, preparing them for increased independence.

Pupil's individual learning priorities (as identified in pupils' EHCP and SSPP Outcomes) are embedded in daily learning activities. Individual learning targets may be explored in small group activities, independent learning, embedded in daily routines or delivered through specialised interventions. Schemas that will be support children's learning with the Nest is the following:

- APF (Autism Progression Framework)
- Little Wandle
- Birmingham Continuum
- PE Hub

At St Michael's, our commitment to the vision of "Courage to Flourish in the Love of God" is deeply embedded in the Nest Curriculum. This curriculum is designed not only to meet the educational needs of our pupils but also to align with our overarching aim of fostering an environment where every pupil can thrive spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. Below are key principles and enhancements to the Nest Curriculum that reflect our vision:

1. Holistic Development
  - Our curriculum aims to help pupils develop essential life skills for effective communication, healthy relationships, personal health, and independence. This aligns

with our vision of nurturing every individual as "fearfully and wonderfully made," ensuring that each pupil flourishes in all aspects of their life.

2. Individualised Approach
  - We adapt our teaching to address each pupil's unique needs, interests, and strengths, fulfilling their EHCP and SSPP outcomes. This individualised approach embodies our Christian value of love, ensuring that every pupil is treated with dignity and respect.
3. Focus on Key Skills
  - The Nest Curriculum concentrates on enhancing key skills in communication, cognition, physical development, health and wellbeing, and understanding of the world. This prepares pupils for life beyond school, echoing our commitment to Jesus' promise of life in all its fullness (John 10:10).
4. Promoting Wellbeing and Enjoyment
  - We foster positive wellbeing, enriching experiences, and enjoyment in learning for all pupils. This resonates with our vision of community and trust, creating a supportive environment where pupils feel safe to explore and grow.
5. High Aspirations
  - Our goal is for all pupils to reach their full potential and hold high aspirations for themselves. This ambition is rooted in our belief that, with courage and faith, every pupil can overcome challenges and flourish.

## Nest Curriculum Overview

The Nest Curriculum is structured around half-termly themes that include clear learning outcomes and suggested learning opportunities. Each theme is designed to scaffold learning effectively, ensuring that pupils can achieve these outcomes through:

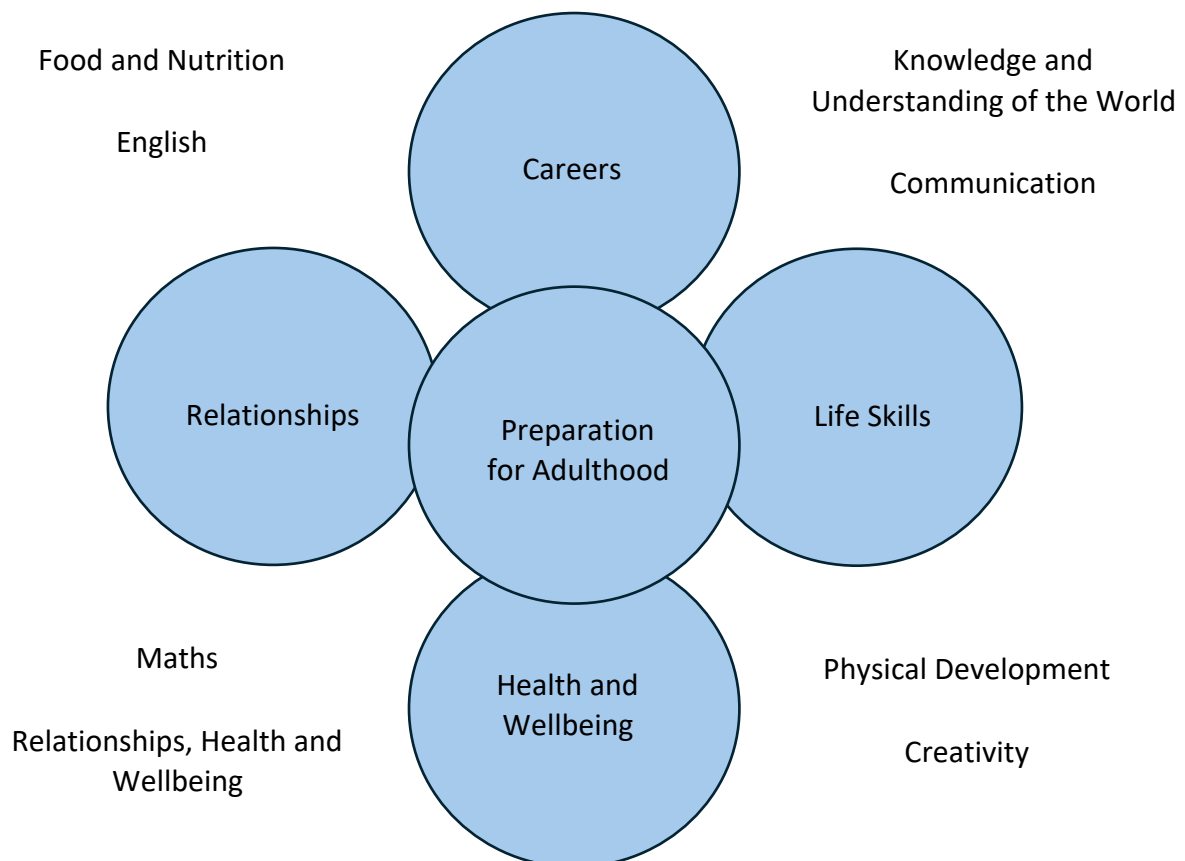
- **Repetition and Retrieval**
  - Frequent opportunities for pupils to repeat, retrieve, and generalise knowledge and skills in various contexts help build robust learning schemas. This practice aligns with our vision of resilience and courage, encouraging pupils to embrace challenges as they learn.
- **Real-Life Application**
  - Each theme offers opportunities for pupils to practice the real-life application of knowledge and skills, preparing them for increased independence. This practical focus supports our vision of enabling pupils to navigate the world confidently and competently.
- **Integration of Individual Learning Priorities**
  - Pupil's individual learning priorities, as identified in their EHCP and SSPP outcomes, are embedded in daily learning activities. These targets may be explored through small group activities, independent learning, or specialised interventions, ensuring that every pupil's journey is personalised and meaningful.







## Supporting Schemas

To further enhance the Nest Curriculum, we incorporate various frameworks that support children's learning:

- Autism Progression Framework (APF)
  - This framework provides structured support for pupils on the autism spectrum, ensuring that their unique learning needs are met.
  - Show Progress is an online platform that tracks progress within the APF's eight areas of development. Show Progress allows staff to baseline children, identify next steps and produce reports.
- Little Wandle
  - This phonics programme supports early reading and literacy development, crucial for building communication skills.
- Birmingham Continuum
  - This resource helps track and support the progress of pupils with SEND, ensuring that their educational journey is appropriately tailored.
- PE Hub
  - This platform enhances physical development and wellbeing through engaging physical education activities, promoting a healthy lifestyle.

## Curriculum Map



|       | Autumn 1   | Autumn 2   | Spring 1   | Spring 2  | Summer 1  | Summer 2  |
|-------|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| Theme | <br><b>Me and My Body</b> | <br><b>Celebrations</b> | <br><b>Fantastic Food</b> | <br><b>The World Around Me</b> | <br><b>My Hopes and Dreams</b> | <br><b>We are all Unique</b> |

| Monitoring and Assessment  | Evidence of Outcomes  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individualised EHCP and SSPP Outcomes</li> <li>• Nest Curriculum Outcomes</li> <li>• Engagement Model</li> <li>• AET Autism Progression Framework</li> <li>• Show Progress online platform</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Maths and Phonics Books</li> <li>• Individual Learning Journals – Children’s work, pictures and observations</li> <li>• Individual Task Book – Observations relating to individual plans</li> </ul> |

## Teaching

At St Michael’s we believe that all teachers are teachers of SEND. Although some of our children access the provision of The Nest as enhanced provision and low-sensory space, the class teacher is responsible for all planning and assessment for pupils that are in their class. The teacher will discuss outcomes and progression of this environment and to plan next steps. Teachers and 1:1 learning support assistants are supported in the planning and delivery of the Nest Curriculum from the Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator. Planning, assessment, and delivery is overseen by the Special Needs Co-ordinator and monitored frequently.

The Nest implements attention and engagement in learning activities, as recommended by external professionals. Pupils are taught through short burst, engaging activities to develop attention skills. Over-learning, repeated practice and fluency are key teaching strategies used in the Nest and built in throughout the curriculum to support our SEND pupils to make progress.

Schemes and strategies used to support the planning and implementation of the bespoke Nest Curriculum.

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Maths | White Rose<br>Continuums<br>Learning and Engagement (AET APF)<br>Individual EHCP and SSPP Outcomes |
|-------|--|



|  |   |
|--|---|
| English                                  | Little Wandle<br>Learning and Engagement (AET APF)<br>Individual EHCP and SSPP Outcomes   |
| Physical Development                     | Fine Motor Skills<br>Gross Motor Skills<br>Sensory Processes (AET APF)<br>Individual EHCP and SSPP Outcomes<br>PE Hub   |
| Communication                            | Learning and Engagement (AET APF)<br>Individual EHCP and SSPP Outcomes  |
| Relationships, Health and Wellbeing      | Social Understanding and Relationships (AET APF)<br>Emotional Understanding and Self-Awareness (AET APF)<br>Healthy Living (AET APF)<br>Individual EHCP and SSPP Outcomes Jigsaw Framework                                      |
| Knowledge and Understanding of the World | Social Understanding and Relationships (AET APF)<br>Learning and Engagement (AET APF)<br>Outcomes for Science, History, Geography RE from The Nest Curriculum<br>School Curriculum Drivers<br>Individual EHCP and SSPP Outcomes |
| Creativity                               | Learning and Engagement (AET APF)<br>Sensory Processes (AET APF)<br>Kapow Art, Music and DT Progression<br>Individual EHCP and SSPP Outcomes  |
| Food and Nutrition                       | Healthy Living (AET APF)<br>Learning and Engagement (AET APF)   |

## Impact

The Nest Curriculum allows our children to access a calm and purposeful learning environment that is adapted to meet their individual needs. It supports these individual children in developing life skills that will prepare them for adulthood and being valued members of society and emphasises the value of developing relationships, communication and social skills. Our 'Nest Curriculum' teaches our children how to express their feelings effectively and accessing activities to support emotional regulation. Our 'Nest Curriculum' also develops the necessary skills to support our pupils in confidently accessing school life. Our pupils that access the Nest curriculum make the small individual steps of progress, developing self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities.

The Nest Curriculum at St Michael's has a significant impact on our pupils with SEND. It is designed to meet the individual needs of each child, fostering both academic growth and essential life skills. This personalised approach creates a supportive environment that prepares pupils for adulthood and encourages them to become valued members of society.

A key focus of the Nest Curriculum is emotional regulation. By teaching pupils how to express their feelings and manage their emotions, the curriculum empowers them to navigate school life with confidence. This aligns with our vision of encouraging pupils to embrace their unique identities and feel valued within the school community.

Additionally, the curriculum promotes the development of self-esteem and confidence through incremental progress. Pupils are encouraged to take small, manageable steps in their learning, which cultivates a growth mindset and reinforces their belief in their abilities. This nurturing approach resonates with the biblical encouragement found in Joshua 1:9, urging pupils to be strong and courageous in the face of challenges.

Overall, the Nest Curriculum ensures that pupils are equipped with both academic knowledge and social-emotional skills, preparing them for future success. By fostering resilience and providing a supportive framework, it creates an environment where pupils can thrive.