



St. Michael's School

Senior & Sixth Form · Prep & Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep & Prep
Prospectus



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St. Michael's Aims

To develop confident, ambitious and successful students with a sense of place, a lifelong interest in learning, and strong moral values.

"Laying the foundations for the future success ..."

Established in 1985 St. Michael's Preparatory School has gone from strength to strength. Growing steadily from its inception, with the addition of a Pre-Prep department it has evolved into a thriving entity in one of Wales' leading Independent Schools.

Welcome

'Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.'

Aristotle

St. Michael's Preparatory School is a special place where children flourish, learn to love learning and exceed expectations. Small class sizes, highly qualified staff underpinned by an enriching academic and extracurricular curriculum are the pillars of our setting. Here, teachers take the time to get to know every child, as a learner and an individual, to tailor an approach that maximises achievement in all its forms.

The barometer of a successful school is its children -St. Michael's children are well rounded and equipped with a modest confidence that stands them in good stead throughout life. They feel safe and happy in school. Academic excellence is a priority, but so is their wish to be a good person who makes an active contribution to their community. Kindness, resilience, and selflessness combine with exceptional manners and etiquette.

We strive to nurture and forge these positive qualities, so children are firmly at the heart of everything we do, in policy and practice. We reflect on our provision in a continuous cycle of evaluation and improvement planning. To augment this process we value the insights of parents as well as pupils. We firmly believe that when your child attends our school they join a 'family', and this extends to you as parents.

The choice you make for the first steps in your child's education is a critical one. I would urge you to arrange a visit or attend an open day; even those with the smallest inclination will not be disappointed. Our exceptional children and outstanding staff are ready to receive you warmly and eagerly share the school of which they are immensely proud.

We have an enthusiasm here to let others see what we believe is – our outstanding school.

Melony Rees-Davies
Head of Prep





Educational Ethos

Disce ut Vivas

Our school motto, which translates as 'Live to Learn' implores us to shape a curriculum that creates lifelong learners who possess the academic and personal credentials to succeed. We want children to make a habit of doing their best, to be excellent learners, and respectful individuals.

Expectations for attainment are high, and a positive attitude is essential to making progress so we teach children to embrace challenges without fear of failure. There is a bond between teachers and children, pervaded by trust and respect, which ensures we work in unison.

Our curriculum fosters enquiring minds that relish the challenge of discovery in an active learning environment. Passionate, knowledgeable, and motivated teachers ensure that the roots for learning take hold, and positive habits and attitudes abound. Our happy school achieves a high standard of behaviour, with children who possess empathy and resilience. Each child experiences a stimulating and varied education where they are encouraged to do their best, enjoy themselves, and are valued for the part that they play in what is a contented community.

Extracurricular Life

We aim to instil in our pupils a modest confidence and our extracurricular programme supplements skills taught in the classroom.

We firmly believe we have something that will appeal to your child. To see a snapshot of our diverse programme, please refer to our extracurricular timetable as it is subject to change.

Examples of After School Clubs:

- -Art
- -French
- -First Aid
- -Chess

Examples of School time Clubs:

- Fitness
- Football
- Ballet
- LAMDA Speech and Drama



Pre School

Open from 8.00am.

After School

Open from the end of the school day.
Monday to Friday 3.30-5.30pm.

Holiday Club

Open subject to demand, during the holidays.

Out of School Club

We offer before and after school care facilities during the week for the benefit of working parents and we also have a holiday club. Both facilities offer a wide variety of activities to keep the children interested and entertained with full use of school facilities and resources. The staff who run the clubs also work with us during the school day, so know the children well, providing a happy and secure environment to ensure your peace of mind.

Core Values

Strong foundations begin with ABC

Achievement / Belonging / Community

At the heart of our successful school is a clear and aspirational ethos. By engaging children in their learning, they are happy to come to school, and we know that high levels of individual achievement will follow. There are many determining factors of what makes for a successful school, but for us it is the feeling of belonging to something that is greater than the sum of its parts. When you visit our school, you will see children who thrive together as they possess a sound moral compass and a strong sense of community spirit.

Academic rigour

We apply this in our approach to teaching and academic aspirations. All children are challenged to meet their potential in a sensitive and caring manner where a growth mind-set is nurtured to reduce fear of failure. The added benefit of this approach is that participation in learning is high and there is no ceiling applied to progress. Every child is required to give their all in an attempt to achieve the very highest levels of attainment. Whether a child is a more able mathematician or one who has alternative learning needs, the aims are the same - they must fulfill their potential and enjoy the process.

Modest confidence

St. Michael's pupils have a modest confidence that enables them to adapt and flourish in a variety of contexts. Whether it is public speaking, welcoming visitors in an engaging conversation or exchanging pleasantries with fellow pupils or members of staff, all our pupils display exemplary manners and etiquette. We like to remind our pupils of the importance of being kind and often state that it is nice to be important but it is more important to be nice.



A day in the life

Every day is filled with a wide range of academic and extracurricular activities; there really is something for everyone.

- 08.45** Arrive at the school playground by school bus or with parents. Time to settle into class by reading the class novel in readiness for Awards Assembly.
- 09.00** Attend Awards Assembly where we recognise children's outstanding achievements and contributions. Pupils may have the opportunity to perform a piece on their musical instrument, recount an amazing personal experience and listen to a moral story from the Head Teacher.
- 09.30** For most pupils, this is the first lesson of the day, usually Mathematics or English.
- 10.30** Break time may consist of football or maybe a game of chess. Some pupils may be having an instrumental lesson such as piano or guitar.
- 11.00** Back to lessons where it may be PE or Drama taught by a senior school specialist.
- 12.00** Time to eat! Many pupils look forward to lunchtime clubs such as football, netball and ballet.
- 13.00** Time to learn. Maybe we will be learning about the Ancient Egyptians or building a rocket. Some terms we also go swimming one afternoon per week.
- 15.10*** School finishes, but many will remain for extracurricular clubs. Is it time for Art, Book Club or chess?

*Pre-Prep finishes at 15.10, Prep finishes at 15.20



Pre-Prep

(ages 3-6)

'Fostering the natural curiosity of our children...'

The first steps in formal schooling set the tone for future years. Our goal is to ignite a passion for learning that ensures children are actively engaged in their education. A combination of inspiring teaching and guided explorative play fuel the first steps on this journey. Small class sizes facilitate a tailored programme that enhances every child's social development and curiosity.

To enhance the likelihood of future academic achievement, the foundation must be strong. Underpinning the diverse Pre-Prep curriculum is a commitment to the formal teaching of Mathematics and English. Teachers from the Prep department also play a part in provision and this enriches the experience for our youngest children. Synergy between departments has the added benefit of making transition between key development phases as smooth as possible.

Prep

(ages 7-11)

'Forging sound morals, a strong work ethic, and a love of learning...'

In the junior phase, our provision builds on the exceptional foundation established in Pre-Prep, by continuing to recognise the needs of each individual child. We maintain the welcoming community and secure environment that promotes confidence, individuality, resilience, and self-expression.

Our areas of study are diverse, while maintaining a forthright commitment to the development of essential literacy and numeracy skills instigated in Pre-Prep, to unlock a deeper understanding and immersion in the wider curriculum. The skills taught in these areas are delivered both explicitly and through an integrated approach. Teaching features a variety of methods with regular opportunities to use and apply learning in a range of contexts and develop independence through collaboration and teamwork.

The full range of foundation subjects feature prominently in what is a diverse and robust timetable. Citizenship themes are delivered on a variety of platforms to nourish our children's moral growth and build on their world knowledge to support all areas of personal and academic development. As is the case in most established preparatory schools, specialist practitioners share their expertise, taking charge of areas such as Physical Education and the Expressive Arts. Experienced peripatetic teachers ensure children have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument or receive tuition in LAMDA speech and drama.

We equip children with emotional resilience, tolerance, and a predisposition for enquiry. They relish challenge and take ownership of their own learning. Transition to St. Michael's Senior School is a gentle process that ensures continuity and maximises the potential for high levels of attainment and achievement.





The Next Steps

We would be delighted to invite you to come and visit us in person. We run several open days throughout the school year (details of which can be found on our website, stmikes.co.uk) and we are also able to arrange individual tours and visits. For Nursery and Reception age pupils, we also run several parent and child taster sessions. Please contact us for more information.

Once you decide that you would like to apply for a place for your child at the school, you will be invited to complete our application form and start the admissions process.

For more information, please contact our Registrar on the details below:

T: 01554 820325

E: admissions@stmikes.co.uk

To see more about daily life at our school, follow us on social media:

Facebook: [StMichaelsSchoolLlanelli](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSchoolLlanelli)

Twitter: [@Stmikes](https://twitter.com/Stmikes)

Instagram: [stmikeswales](https://www.instagram.com/stmikeswales)



Contact our Admissions Team

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