

# St Michael's Church of England, VA, Primary and Nursery School

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## Dream, Believe, Achieve

We are a school, rooted and inspired by Christian values, which nurtures children to achieve infinitely more than we might ask or they may dream; empowering them so they can flourish as confident citizens now and in the future.

– Ephesians 3:20 "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."



28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring an exciting opportunity for St Michael's School.

Norfolk County Council have asked us to consider an official partnership with Blue Sky Federation, which includes Erpingham VC Church of England Primary School and Northrepps Primary School. I would become the executive headteacher across all three schools.

Similar offers have been turned down in the past but this time your Governors have decided the timing is right to take a closer look, believing there is potential to bring great benefits to our children and families. The Diocese Board of Education are also supportive of the partnership proposal.

To explore this, we have been having conversations with the Governors and Leaders of Erpingham and Northrepps in order to understand what the role of St Michael's would be and what positives it would bring to children at all three schools.

It is important to note that Erpingham and St Michael's already have a very close working relationship as church schools belonging to the Aylsham Community Trust. I have also been the Diocesan appointed mentor for the current Headteacher, Mrs Emily Sacre. During my time working within the Cromer Cluster, I also had the pleasure of working with Northrepps School.

If we decide to move forward with the partnership, it would bring with it a number of positive opportunities:

- there would be the option for us to use the Erpingham and Northrepps School sites for Forest School and Outdoor Explorer sessions.
- Potential use of a school minibuses.
- Opportunities to mix schools for sporting events, year group competitions, residentials etc.
- A larger Senior Leadership Team to share ideas and expertise.
- More special educational needs experience and pastoral support across the schools.
- Collaboration for subject leaders, moderation of assessment and analysis of results.



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- Cross-school training opportunities.
- Three pre-school settings to support each other and provide networking opportunities.
- Collaboration between two Governing Boards.
- Fundraising opportunities.

While exploring the proposal, myself, our Senior Leadership Team, and our Governors will be putting the needs of all the children at the forefront in our discussions; we will ensure that the potential partnership will in no way be detrimental to St Michael's School or to Erpingham and Northrepps. Throughout the process and in the event that a partnership is formed, I will ensure that I continue to be available to our families and children.

Our next step is for our Governing Board to look more deeply into the partnership. From this we will gain a greater understanding of how the arrangement could work and if it is viable and positive for all schools and their communities. The outcome must be something which works for all three schools and enables them to grow and flourish.

Please be assured we will keep you up to date with developments whichever way it goes.

In the meantime, we can celebrate the recognition of the strong leadership team and staff body we have here at St Michael's and how proud we are of the children that are part of our school family.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Neenan

