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# St Michael Catholic Primary School & Nursery celebrates NACE Challenge Award 2nd accreditation

The **National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE)** has named **St Michael Catholic Primary School & Nursery** (Ashford, Middlesex) the 165<sup>th</sup> to be accredited for the second time with the **NACE Challenge Award**. The award is given in recognition of school-wide commitment to high-quality provision for more able learners, within the context of challenge for all.

NACE CEO Rob Lightfoot said: *"St Michael Catholic Primary School & Nursery has worked hard to attain reaccreditation through the NACE Challenge Award. It has displayed a continued commitment to develop an environment in which all learners are challenged and supported to be the best they can be."*

The award is based on the NACE Challenge Framework, which sets out criteria for high-quality provision for more able learners within a wider ethos of challenge for all. The framework is available as part of the NACE Challenge Development Programme – a suite of resources developed by NACE to help schools evaluate and improve their provision for more able learners.

NACE's assessor reported: *"The school's adopted mantra of 'Excellence, Enrichment, Enjoyment' succinctly describes the aspiration and ethos of this highly successful school. School leaders are outward looking and reflective. They have created an ethos of high expectations alongside an enjoyment of learning whilst seeking out and celebrating all pupils' achievements and strengths."*

*"The curriculum is broad, progressive, fun and ambitious for all pupils. High ceiling tasks ensure that challenge is evident in all subjects. The leadership of the school have invested in providing excellent resources which support high quality provision and achievement. Provision for more able pupils is at the heart of the school."*

*"All staff are passionate about ensuring that pupils develop into confident and resilient learners. Every classroom visited was a hive of positive activity. Opportunities to discuss, share and learn together, including leading learning, are embedded in every lesson."*

Improving provision for the more able remains a priority for many schools and has been highlighted by Ofsted as a key focus. The experience and evidence gathered by Challenge Award-accredited schools also shows that effective strategies to improve provision for the more able are likely to

have a positive impact on the achievement of a much wider group of learners.

To attain the Challenge Award, schools must complete a detailed self-evaluation using the NACE Challenge Framework, submit a portfolio of supporting evidence, and undertake assessment by a NACE associate. The assessment process includes examination of school data and key documents; lesson observations; and interviews with school leaders, learners, parents and governors.

CEO Rob Lightfoot said, *"The Challenge Award is presented in recognition of whole-school commitment to and achievement in providing effective challenge and support for all – spanning school leadership, curriculum, teaching and learning, processes for identification and tracking, extracurricular opportunities, strong communication and partnerships, and ongoing evaluation."*

St Michael Catholic Primary School & Nursery will now remain part of the international community of Challenge Award-accredited schools which have demonstrated a sustained and effective commitment to meeting the needs of more able learners, and an interest in sharing expertise for the wider benefit of the education community.

Find out more: [www.nace.co.uk/challenge](http://www.nace.co.uk/challenge)

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## Notes for editors

The National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) is the UK's leading charity dedicated to supporting schools and teachers across every aspect of provision for more able learners, in the context of challenge for all. Drawing on 40 years' experience in the field, NACE is at the forefront of thought leadership and evidence-based policy for the more able, with NACE member schools leading the way in implementing best practice.

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