80th Anniversary

1946 - 2026

St. Michael's International School

ST. MICHAEL'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY BALL

7 November 2026

Lasse Hall, Kobe

Celebrating 80 years

1946 - 2026



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the St. Michael's International School 80th Anniversary Celebration Book. We have tried to tell the story of the school in a way that captures its essence and ethos. There are contributions from students past and present; from the school teachers and staff, and from the wider community that appreciates the contribution that St. Michael's has made to life in Kobe for eighty years. We even take a little peek into possible futures of the school.

I first discovered the magic of St. Michael's nearly 25 years ago. I was searching for a primary school that could accommodate the special needs of our son. While other schools were willing to be adaptive and helpful, only St. Michael's was enthusiastic and excited about the benefits our son could bring to the learning environment. I immediately fell in love with the school.

My experience is far from unique. In my roles as a parent, a past Chair, and current Council member of St. Michael's, I have heard from numerous parents, teachers, staff and students how the school has touched their lives. Local government, business and academia appreciate St. Michael's as a shining jewel in the region that attracts talent and supports Kobe and Hyogo's economic prosperity.

This book records how the school has embodied its values for the past eight decades. I hope that you enjoy reliving the timeline and celebrating all that has been achieved by the whole St. Michael's community.

Paul Lynch (Chair) on behalf of the 80th Anniversary Committee:
John Aspinall, Nicolas Foster, Nick Green, Satoru Hamada,
Tazu Makino, Masako Okada, and Cindy Taru

With Our Sincere Thanks
A heartfelt thank you to the Yakura Family for their beautiful 80th Anniversary banner design,
Ms Genie Lynch for her creativity and dedication in completing this commemorative programme,
and J-SKY-PLUS for providing the music that brings the Gala Dinner celebration to life.

HISTORY OF BRITISH EDUCATIONAL TRADITION IN WESTERN JAPAN

English Mission School

Started in the mid-Meiji period, and moved to Tor Road, Kobe in 1890, the English Mission School was originally a small facility established by the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG).

In the early twentieth century, as Kobe grew in size and wealth the school grew too, preparing its pupils for entry into top British universities. The EMS building was destroyed during World War II.

St. Michael's School was established on the same site in 1946 by Miss Leonora Lea, a USPG missionary, and Bishop Michael Yashiro of Kobe's St. Michael's Diocese.

End of WWII
1945

1951
Opening of Kobe Oji Zoo

End of Allied powers' rule of Japan
1952

1955
Opening of the Rokko Cable Car's modernised service

Sputnik 1, world's first artificial satellite, launched
1957

1958
World's first conveyer belt sushi restaurant opens in Osaka

St. Michael's International School

Phase One: Foundation

1945
Temporary classes in Miss Lea's house.

1946
Official opening of St. Michael's School. (10 March)

1952
PTA established.

1954
New wing added; a more substantial building but still a rickety wooden structure.

1955
Library opened.

1958
Alumni organised.

Phase Two: Building

1962
Infant School started for five-year olds.

1969
Miss Lea receives awards from National and Prefectural Governments: Order of the Sacred Treasure and International Culture Award.

School Council formed and St. Michael's registered as a shukyo hojin.

1970
Inauguration of concrete-built west wing to contain the main part of the international school.

Passing of Bishop Yashiro (10 October).

1971
Passing of Miss Lea.

1972
Miss Ruth Crawford-Brown appointed as principal.

1976
Miss Hiromi Akasaki appointed Head of ELS.

1978
Tape Library for the Blind established by Michael and Michiko Bhagwandas.

Instant ramen invented in Osaka
1958

1964
Tokyo Olympics / First Shinkansen departs

Port Island Development Begins
1966

1970
Osaka Expo

Nissin releases first Cup Noodles
1971

1975
First Lawson store opened in Osaka

Phase Three: Consolidation

1980
Mr George Gibbons appointed Headmaster.

1984
School's outstanding loans settled and school free of debt.

1985
Educational camping programme for senior students started. Computer Science and IT added to curriculum.

1989
Exchange programme started with Kumobe Primary School, Sasayama.

1993
Mrs Tazu Makino appointed Head of ELS.

1995
St. Michael's organises and participates in community relief work following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

School reopens. (7 February)

Repairs completed and enrolment numbers restored by end of year.

1996
Mr Gibbons awarded OBE.

School awarded Certificate of Appreciation from the International Committee of the Kansai for its earthquake relief work and provision of high-quality education in Kobe.

1998
Ms Sandra McGinly appointed Head of School.

1999
Ms Aileen Pardon appointed Head of School.

Tokyo Disneyland opens
1983

1989
Fall of Berlin Wall

World Wide Web opened to the public
1993

1995
Kobe earthquake (17 Jan)

Completion of Akashi Kaikyo Bridge
1998

2001
USJ opens in Osaka

Phase Four: Into the 21st Century

2002
Mr Paul Rogers appointed Head of School.

2005
Mr Hugh Mawby appointed Head of School.

2006
Mr Roger Lenk appointed Head of School.

2007
Joint WASC & CIS Accreditation awarded.

SMIS the first school in Western Japan to receive dual recognition from these two major international certification bodies.

2008
Gakko Hojin status awarded to both International and ELS day schools.

2009
Mr Paul Grisewood appointed Head of School.

2012
Ms Gill Tyrer appointed Head of School.

2013
Mr Steven Moinester appointed ELS Coordinator.

2014
ELS Saturday School started.

2015
Anti-seismic retrofitting of main building.

Mr Jonathan Bunch appointed ELS Coordinator.

2017
Redevelopment of Main Hall and stage.

2018
Rebuild of School playground.

2021
Refurbishing of the roof playground.

2026
Mr Nicolas Foster appointed SMIS-English Manager.

Kobe Children's Museum (Anpanman) opens
2013

2007
Apple launches the first iPhone

Abdication of Emperor Akihito. Start of Reiwa Era
2019

2020
Covid outbreak

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
2021

2025
Osaka Expo

Message from Gill Tyrer

Head of School



Eighty years is a remarkable milestone in the life of any school. In a city shaped by resilience, renewal and international friendship, St. Michael's International School has proudly remained part of Kobe's educational landscape since 1946. What began as a small school created to serve the needs of a post-war international community has grown into a vibrant, values-led learning environment preparing children for an ever-changing world.

Much has changed over those eight decades. The small wooden buildings of the early years have evolved into modern learning spaces filled with creativity, curiosity and opportunity. Generations of students, families and staff have each left their mark on the school's story. Yet despite the changes in education, technology and society, the spirit of St. Michael's has remained remarkably constant. At its heart, this is still a school built on human connection, kindness, community and a belief that every child matters.

When I first joined St. Michael's in 2012, I was immediately struck by the warmth of the school community. There was a genuine sense of belonging and togetherness that continues to define the school today. Our motto, Growing, Working, Learning Together, is far more than a slogan. It reflects the way our students learn, the way our staff collaborate and the way our families support one another across cultures, languages and generations.

One of the great strengths of St. Michael's has always been its ability to remain proudly traditional in its values whilst continuing to evolve in its practice. As a British international school, we honour the foundations on which the school was built whilst embracing innovation, diversity and global mindedness. Our students benefit from high quality teaching, a broad and engaging curriculum and rich opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Just as importantly, they are encouraged to develop compassion, integrity, responsibility and respect for others.

Schools are often remembered not simply for academic success, but for how they make people feel. Former students frequently speak of St. Michael's as a place where they felt safe, known and encouraged to be themselves. In a world which can sometimes feel increasingly complex and uncertain, those qualities matter deeply. The strong sense of community which has sustained the school for eighty years remains one of its defining characteristics and one of its greatest strengths.

Anniversaries provide an important opportunity not only to celebrate the past, but also to look ahead. As we honour the vision and dedication of our founders, we also recognise the responsibility we hold for the future. Each generation of staff, governors, parents and students contributes something new to the continuing story of St. Michael's. Our role is not simply to preserve the school's legacy, but to ensure it continues to grow and thrive for the generations still to come.

This special anniversary booklet celebrates the memories, friendships and experiences which connect so many people to St. Michael's International School across the world. Whether you are a current family, alumnus, former staff member or friend of the school, thank you for being part of this extraordinary community and this enduring story.

Happy 80th Anniversary, St. Michael's. It remains a privilege to serve as Head of School and to play a small part in the continuing journey of this very special learning community.

Message from Buckingham Palace

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Private and Confidential

28th May, 2026

Dear Mr. Tolhurst,

The King has asked me to thank you for your kind letter, in which you told His Majesty that St. Michael's International School is to celebrate its eightieth anniversary on 7th November.

It was so thoughtful of you to take the trouble to write as you did. I can tell you that The King greatly appreciates that you should have shared with him the news of this special occasion, and His Majesty was deeply touched to hear a little of the plans afoot to mark this significant milestone.

I am to convey The King's hope that you enjoy a most memorable gathering, and I am to pass on His Majesty's warmest good wishes to you, and to all the students and staff at St. Michael's International School.

Yours sincerely,

James Dawson
Head of Royal Correspondence

The Reverend Paul Tolhurst

Message from the Chairs of the School Board and Council



Rev. Paul Tolhurst
Chair of the School Board



Anita Aden
Chair of the School Council

Eighty years is a long time by anybody's standards. In 1946, when St. Michael's first opened its doors, the world was a very different place. Kobe was rebuilding, international travel was something of an adventure, and nobody had heard of Wi-Fi, smartphones or online learning. Thankfully, some things have changed rather less!

For 80 years, St. Michael's International School has been bringing children, families and teachers from around the world together in Kobe. Generations of students have walked through the school gates, learned together, made friends, played, argued, laughed, discovered new things and, eventually, headed out into the wider world. Some stayed in Kobe; many travelled much further. But all became part of the St. Michael's story.

On behalf of the school's governors, it is a great pleasure to celebrate that story with the whole St. Michael's community - past and present. We owe a great deal to those who started the school in 1946, particularly Bishop Michael Yashiro and Miss Leonora Lea, whose vision created something that has lasted far beyond their own time. But an anniversary like this is not really about one person, or even one generation. It is about all the people who have contributed along the way: the teachers and staff who have inspired and encouraged, the families who have supported the school, and, of course, the thousands of children who have filled its classrooms, playgrounds and corridors with energy, curiosity and undoubtedly lots of noise!

What makes St. Michael's special is not just what happens in the classroom. It is the sense of community that has grown around the school, a community that crosses cultures, languages and generations. It is a place where children are encouraged to ask questions, try things out, make mistakes, have another go, and discover that learning can be both serious and great fun.

So, as we celebrate 80 years, let's do what St. Michael's has always done: remember where we have come from, enjoy where we are, and look forward to whatever comes next. Eighty years is an impressive achievement.

But perhaps the most exciting thing is that the story isn't finished yet.

Happy 80th Anniversary, St. Michael's — and here's to the next chapter!

Message from the Most Reverend David Eisho Uehara

Primate, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Church in Japan)



Congratulations on the 80th anniversary of St. Michael's International School.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on this wonderful occasion. St. Michael's International School was founded in 1946 during the difficult post-war period by the British missionary society USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). For 80 long years, the school has provided a place of learning for many international children in Kobe and has devoted itself to Christian education.

I would like to express my deepest respect and appreciation for these efforts. As an international school founded on the spirit of the Anglican Church, the school has served as a "bridge" connecting Japan and the wider world through its students and families.

Today, the world faces crises of division and conflict. Nations increasingly prioritise their own interests, wars and disputes continue without end, and we are living in challenging times. Precisely because of this, the love and forgiveness of Christ's cross, which leads the world toward reconciliation and peace, are needed more than ever. Equally important are the connections between people who have received an education grounded in God's love.

Under the educational philosophy of "growing, working and learning together," St. Michael's International School nurtures children who will lead the next generation and contribute to the realisation of world peace. I firmly believe that the role of the school will continue to grow in importance in the years ahead.

In closing, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the precious work that St. Michael's International School has carried out over the years. I pray that God's abundant blessings and guidance will be upon all staff, parents, and students, and I offer these words in celebration of this milestone anniversary.

"You are precious and honoured in my sight, and I love you." (Isaiah 43:4)

Message from the Right Reverend, Basil Yashiro

Bishop of the Diocese of Kobe, Nippon Sei Ko Kai



I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the 80th anniversary of St. Michael's International School.

I was consecrated as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of Kobe last September, and since then have been welcomed into the St. Michael's International School family as a member of the School Board. This is a true honour for me, and I am deeply grateful.

St. Michael's International School was founded by the late Michael Hinsuke Yashiro – who was my grandfather and served as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Kobe and also the Primate Bishop of the Anglican Church in Japan – and by Miss Leonora Edith Lea, my Godmother, who cherished me dearly when I was a child. Consequently, I feel a deep connection to the school.

Miss Lea, who did not return to her home country even during the War, together with Hinsuke Yashiro, continued to support foreign nationals who were similarly unable to return, and opened the school in 1946 – the year following the end of the war – to help and protect foreigners, particularly children, who were forced to endure a difficult life in the ruins of post-war Kobe. I cannot help but be astounded even now by this remarkable drive and humanitarian aid rooted in the love of Christ.

Established against this historical backdrop, St. Michael's International School has, for 80 years since the end of the war, provided an international education grounded in the love of Christ and British spiritual and cultural traditions, becoming an international school trusted by many. It has been nearly 160 years since the Port of Kobe was opened, and the city of Kobe has a history of intercultural exchange, with people from various nations living together in harmony.

It is not just a matter of cultural exchange; in Kitano-cho, stretching eastwards from St. Michael's International School, a diverse array of religious institutions coexist, including a Hindu temple, the Kobe Mosque, a Jewish synagogue, Kobe Catholic Central Church, a Baptist church, the Orthodox Church of Christ, and Ichinomiya Shrine. In this way, the city of Kobe has a long history of warmly embracing diverse ethnicities and religions, and St. Michael's International School stands as a symbol of this.

It is my sincere hope that St. Michael's International School will continue for many years to come to embrace the traditions and cultures of various nations with open arms, and to provide an education that instils in children—who hold the future in their hands—not conflict but harmony, not exclusion but acceptance, and not hatred but the love of Christ.

I pray that God's blessings may be abundantly bestowed upon all those gathered at St. Michael's International School as it celebrates its 80th anniversary.

Message from the Anglican Communion

ANGLICAN COMMUNION
IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES

The Rev'd Paul Tolhurst
Chaplain & Chair of the Board of Trustees
St. Michael's International School, Kobe
By email

May 2026

On behalf of the Anglican Communion Office, I send my congratulations to St. Michael's international school on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

Founded in 1946 through the partnership of missionary Leonora Lea and Bishop Michael Yashiro, who went on to become Primate of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, St Michael's was born out of a vision of education rooted in Christian faith, reconciliation and hope. For eight decades, St. Michael's has embodied the Anglican commitment to forming your people intellectually, spiritually, and morally. I commend this expression of education shaped by faith and marked by care, excellence and hope.

I give thanks for the rich history of St. Michael's as well as rejoicing with you as you celebrate its present life and community. I pray or continued flourishing in the years ahead as St. Michael's continues to contribute to the life of future generations.

Be assured of my prayers and best wishes.

Yours in Christ,



The Rt Revd Anthony Poggo
Secretary General of the Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion Office St Andrew's House, 16 Tavistock Crescent, London, W11 1AP, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (0)20 7313 3900
Email: aco@anglicancommunion.org www.anglicancommunion.org

Message from the United Society Partners in the Gospel

USPG PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MISSION

Warm greetings from USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel).

It gives me immense pleasure to congratulate St. Michael's International School in Kobe on its 80th anniversary. A wonderful moment to give thanks and celebrate all the wonderful achievements of St Michael's over the past decades.

We are honoured at USPG, as the successor organisation to SPG, to be associated with St Michael's foundation and history through the extraordinary service and vision of our missionary Leonora Lea.

May I take this opportunity to pass on heartfelt congratulations from all at USPG, our Trustees and staff, and wish you every blessing for the next 80 years.

Grace and peace,

The Revd Canon Dr Duncan Dormor
General Secretary,
United Society Partners in the Gospel.





Message from Motohiko Saito

Governor of Hyogo



I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the 80th anniversary of St. Michael's International School.

Since its establishment in 1946, your school has overcome many challenges, including changing social and economic conditions, natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks, while consistently providing a high quality education to children of many nationalities.

Through this remarkable journey, the school has nurtured many talented individuals and has made a significant contribution to the development of Hyogo Prefecture through the creation and strengthening of its international community. I offer my deepest respect and gratitude for your many years of dedicated service.

Today, the number of foreign residents living in Hyogo has increased by approximately 50,000 over the past ten years, reaching around 140,000 people from approximately 160 countries and regions. Since the opening of Kobe Port some 150 years ago, Hyogo Prefecture has fostered international exchange and cultivated a multicultural society founded on mutual respect for different cultures and values.

The Prefectural Government is committed to creating an environment in which the next generation can learn and pursue new challenges with confidence. We are working to reduce the financial burden of education, enhance educational opportunities, and build a society in which all residents, including foreign nationals, can live together comfortably.

Against this background, St. Michael's International School has contributed not only as a place of learning for children but also by putting the principles of multicultural coexistence into practice through its engagement with the local community. The school is an irreplaceable cornerstone supporting Hyogo's international character. I hope that, building on its proud history and traditions, it will continue to expand opportunities for learning and international exchange as a leading centre for education and global engagement.

In closing, I sincerely wish St. Michael's International School and everyone associated with it continued success, prosperity and achievement in the years ahead.

Message from Kizo Hisamoto

Mayor of Kobe



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 80th anniversary of St. Michael's International School.

Your school was founded in 1946, during the difficult and uncertain years following the Second World War, through the vision and dedication of Bishop Michael Hinsuke Yashiro and Ms Leonora Edith Lea. I express my deepest respect for your long history of providing educational opportunities for children and promoting an education that fosters mutual understanding and respect across differences in nationality and culture.

Kobe has long developed as an international port city, embracing a rich diversity of cultures and values from around the world. Within this setting, your school has played a pioneering role in international education, providing a high quality education to children from many countries and serving as an important bridge between the local community and the international community.

Your school has also remained true to its educational philosophy while overcoming many changes and challenges, including the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the school's success over the years, including former Board Chairs, Headteachers, staff, alumni and parents.

Today, as globalisation continues to advance, there is an increasing need to nurture people who can thrive in a world of diverse values. In this context, the education provided by your school, which develops internationally minded young people with rich character who can think and act independently, has become more important than ever.

Building on the proud traditions and achievements established over the past 80 years, I sincerely hope that St. Michael's International School will continue to nurture the dreams and potential of its students, while producing future generations who will contribute to the development of Kobe as an international city and to peace throughout the world.

Message from Michael Blyth

His Britannic Majesty's Consul General



It is a great pleasure to congratulate everyone at St. Michael's International School on the school's 80th anniversary.

For eight decades, St. Michael's has played a unique role in Kobe and Kansai. Through its British education and international outlook, the school has helped build understanding, friendship and lasting connections between the United Kingdom and Japan over generations.

What stood out instantly to me was the kindness, acceptance and sense of belonging at the heart of everything the school does. I have seen how these values enable young people from diverse backgrounds to learn, grow and thrive together at St. Michael's.

In my current role, I regularly have the pleasure of meeting former St. Michael's students across Kansai. Their achievements, international outlook and continuing affection for the school speak volumes about just how special the place is. It is an absolute honour to be able to be a small part of that history in my role on the School Council.

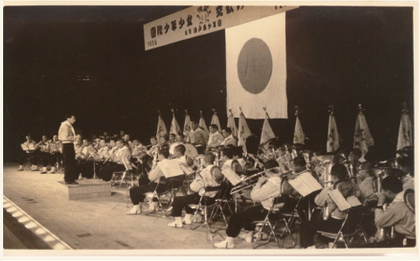
My warmest congratulations to everyone who has contributed to the school's success over the past eighty years and my very best wishes for the future.



Our history through pictures





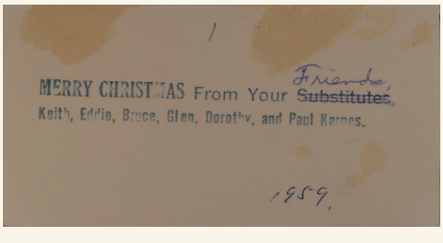












MERRY CHRISTMAS From Your Friends,
Keith, Eddie, Bruce, Glen, Dorothy, and Paul Karnes.
1959.





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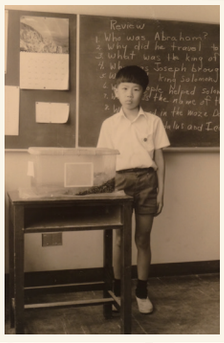

Revised
1 Who was Abraham?
2 Why did he travel
3 Whilst was the king
Joseph
Prof Solomon
Helped
the above
the more

























































NOISY NORA
Big Bird's Big Book
Counting
Colors
Country
City
Opposites
Playing

















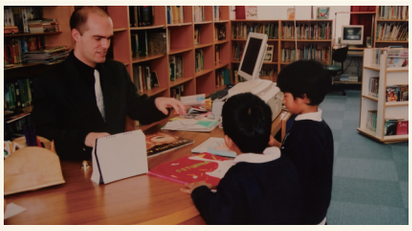






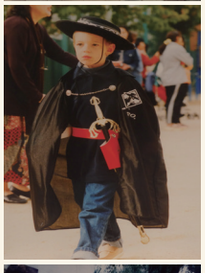


























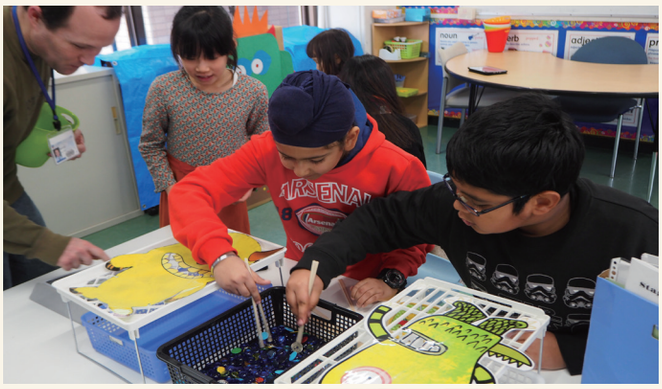


NORTH
AMERICA




HONESTY
Brightly
Champion


ST.
MICHAEL'S
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL












KOBAN


School Song by K. Shepherd
St. Michael was an angel
Who bore a shining sword
He fought against the devil




Thank you



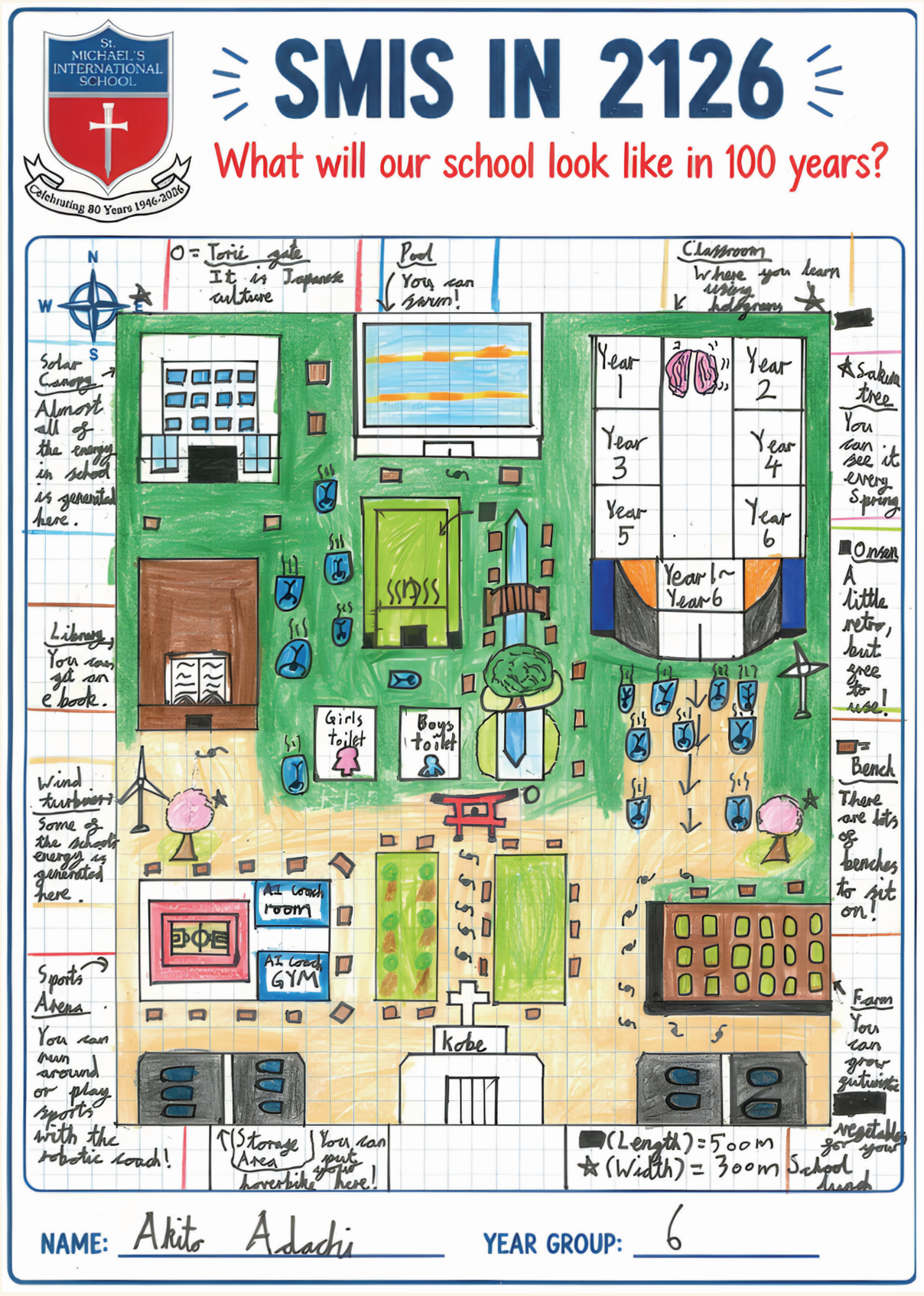



No man's land
The deadly distance where I will meet my enemy
Deadly, dark, gloomy path of despair








St. MICHAEL'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
Celebrating 80 Years 1946-2026
SMIS IN 2126
What will our school look like in 100 years?
N
W
E
S
O = Torii gate It is Japanese culture
Pool (You can swim!
Classroom Where you learn using hologram
Solar Canopy Almost all of the energy in school is generated here.
Sakura tree You can see it every Spring.
Year 1
Year 2
Year 3
Year 4
Year 5
Year 6
Year 1~ Year 6
Onsen A little retro, but free to use!
Library You can get an e book.
Girls toilet
Boys toilet
Wind turbines Some of the school energy is generated here.
Bench There are lots of benches to sit on!
AI coach room
AI coach GYM
Sports Area You can run around or play sports with the robotic coach!
Kobe
Farm You can grow your own vegetables for school lunch
Storage Area You can put your hoverbike here!
(Length) = 500m
(Width) = 300m
NAME: Akito Adachi
YEAR GROUP: 6

International School Today

Eighty years after St. Michael's first opened its doors, much remains reassuringly familiar: a strong sense of community, warm, positive relationships, our connection with St. Michael's Cathedral and the belief that every child should be known, valued and supported to achieve their best. At the same time, the school has continued to evolve, ensuring that today's learners are prepared for a rapidly changing world. At the heart of that evolution is a sharper, more purposeful focus on learning.

Over the past decade, St. Michael's has strengthened classroom practice through high impact teaching strategies and increasingly responsive, research-informed approaches to learning. This is matched by an international curriculum that balances academic achievement with personal, social and international learning. Strong foundations in literacy, mathematics and the wider curriculum are reflected in consistently strong results in the International Schools' Assessment (ISA). Alongside this, learners are given opportunities to think critically, collaborate, communicate, create and consider different perspectives. Children are encouraged to become knowledgeable and curious learners, but also confident, thoughtful and responsible members of an international community. Technology has developed alongside this work. One to one Chromebooks give learners greater access to research, collaboration and creative tools, while remaining firmly in service of good teaching. Our focus is on using technology thoughtfully and responsibly, giving children the skills they need while preserving the discussion, enquiry, practical experience, handwriting and human connection that remain central to excellent primary education.

St. Michael's has also strengthened the support that surrounds learning. The introduction of a school counsellor and the continued development of our health and wellbeing curriculum reflect our understanding that children learn best when they feel safe, confident and connected. Wellbeing, inclusion and belonging are therefore not additional programmes around the edges of school life; they are part of the conditions that enable children to thrive.

The school's progress continues to be recognised externally. Since 2016, St. Michael's has been reaccredited by the Council of International Schools and the International Curriculum Association, while also achieving accreditation with the Council of British International Schools. These partnerships provide independent scrutiny, encourage reflection and help ensure that the school remains outward looking and committed to a culture of continuous improvement. Some developments also connect today's learners directly with our past. Michi, our school mascot, was developed with the support of alumni and has quickly become a much loved symbol of school spirit and belonging. It is a fitting reminder that St. Michael's continues to grow while remaining connected to the generations who have shaped it.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary, we do so with pride in where we have come from and confidence in where we are going. The world has changed enormously since 1946, and so has education. What has not changed is the school's commitment to helping children learn, grow and thrive. Growing, Working, Learning Together remains not simply our motto, but our promise to the generations still to come.





St. Michael's School in the Community

For generations, St. Michael's has been an active part of the Kobe community, encouraging students to understand the importance of service, responsibility and caring for others.

Our community activities have included neighbourhood clean-ups, Suma Beach clean-ups, clothing donations through CO-OP, bottle-cap collection projects, Christmas donations to the Mikage orphanage, Poppy sales for Remembrance, and support for local food banks. Students have also learned about sustainability and responsible living through visits to local farms and activities connected to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our commitment to Kobe has also been demonstrated in times of hardship, including helping the local community following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake.

Through these experiences, students learn that education extends beyond the classroom. By taking part in practical acts of service, they develop empathy, environmental awareness, social responsibility and a stronger connection to the community around them.





















English Language School Today

The English Language Section began in 1946, when Bishop Yashiro and Miss Lea created opportunities for people of all ages to connect through English. Today, under a new name — **SMIS-English** — the vision remains the same: making high-quality English education accessible to the wider Kobe community. **A new name, the same vision, eighty years of learning together.**



AC - Adult Classes has been at the heart of the original community programme. Adult Class continues our founders' commitment to accessible, high-quality English education in Kobe. Small, interactive classes develop practical communication skills for everyday life, travel, work and personal growth.



ASK - After School Kids was created to extend quality English education beyond the regular school day. The programme provides children with structured English learning in an international school environment. Through engaging, hands-on activities and access to St. Michael's classrooms and library, students develop their literacy, communication skills and confidence.



KSS - Kids Summer School brings the SMIS-English experience to the summer holidays. Children learn through an immersive combination of English literacy, reading, writing, speaking and listening alongside Music, Art, P.E. and experiential activities, creating an engaging summer of learning, friendship and discovery in the heart of Kobe.



M&B - Mummy & Baby is expanding English learning opportunities to the youngest learners of our community. Mummy & Baby introduces English through songs, games and hands-on activities shared by parent and child. It provides a warm and playful first step into English while building curiosity, confidence and positive early learning experiences.



SC - Silver Class was created to offer older members of the Kobe community an enjoyable and welcoming place to gather, connect and learn English together. By making English accessible to beginners, the programme continues to encourage communication, friendship and lifelong learning while helping participants stay connected with the wider world.



SS - Saturday School in 2013, expanded the SMIS-English tradition into a full-day English immersion experience for children. Through academic English, literacy, practical learning and meaningful communication, students develop the confidence and language skills to use English naturally, both inside and beyond the classroom.



SJH - Shoin Junior High School, in partnership with SMIS-English, extends the English learning journey into adolescence. Through an immersive programme combining language development, global themes, presentations, projects and critical thinking, students build the confidence and skills to communicate effectively while developing a broader international perspective.

From its original vision of bringing quality English education to the Kobe community, SMIS-English has grown to serve babies and parents, school-age children, junior high students, adults and seniors.
While our programmes have evolved over eight decades, our purpose remains the same: to create opportunities for the Kobe community to learn, communicate and grow together through English.



SMIS-English

Growing, Working, Learning English Together, Since 1946

Message from St. Michael's Association

How time flies! The writer entered St. Michael's in 1949, and this year is the 80th Anniversary of our beloved School. The cornerstone standing in its place since inauguration reads: "For the Glory of God and the Hope of Youth", expressing our Founders' credo.

I feel so fortunate that I am still part of the St. Michael's community and enjoy working together with other devoted members. We publish the semi-annual newsletter 'THE BREEZE', run three stalls at the Bazaar, sell a variety of merchandise, including T-shirts, and hold an annual SMA party.

Proceeds from all these activities are donated to the school for the Miss Lea Scholarship. We also support the school's fund-raising activities such as the Library Project this year, commemorating the 80th Anniversary.



It's so nice to see many cheerful old boys and girls attending the annual get-together as photographed above and intermingling with attendees young and old. It's surely encouraging to have them participate in our activities for the continued growth of our beloved St. Michael's.

Satoru Hamada
President

POSMs

THANK YOU TO ALL PAST AND PRESENT PARENTS OF ST. MICHAEL'S, WHO...





TAKE CARE OF MOVIE NIGHTS AND DISCO NIGHTS...



HOLD BAKE SALES AND UNIFORM SALES...




DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS AND RUN THE EASTER EGG HUNTS... AND SO MUCH MORE!






OUR POSM MEMBERS OF 2026/27:

Mrs Wood (coordinator), Mrs Shimizu (treasurer), Mrs Fung, Mrs Kamiyoshi, Mrs Jiang, Mrs Takai, Mrs Min, Mrs Bhoowabul, Mrs Kitamura, Mrs Sanapala, Mrs Zhuang, Mrs Yamamoto and Mrs Libow

Friends of St. Michael's

Taichi Makino
Shunpei Makino
Melissa Sasa
Yoko Horio
Hirokazu Henry Takeda
Sayuri Terada
Ayame Makino
Masako Okada
Grace Okazaki Gibbons
Akio Moro
Masayo Iwasaki
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Eikichi Noro
Mickey Hideko Watanabe
Shuichi Kamie
Heart Stories Co.Ltd
Tatsunobu Suzuki
Seiichiro Kaku
Shinyoku Sai
Anita Aiko Kondo

Thank you for your generous support. Your donations directly enable us to deepen our service to the community.

Heartfelt Congratulations on the
80th Anniversary of St. Michael's International School



With our deepest respect and warmest wishes,
we celebrate the many wonderful years of cherished memories,
invaluable experiences, and meaningful connections we have shared
with St. Michael's.

May these memories continue to hold a special place in our family
for many years to come.

Mr Xin Hu & Lidong Mao

Heartfelt Congratulations on the
80th Anniversary of St. Michael's International School



We are deeply grateful for the wonderful education, care, and support. May St. Michael's International School continue to flourish and inspire generations of students for many years to come.

With our deepest respect and warmest wishes,

Mingpeng Min, Yanan Zhao
& Chenyu Min

Congratulations to St. Michael's International School on its 80th Anniversary



SMIS -English

Congratulations to St. Michael's International School on its 80th Anniversary



In Memory of Mieko Kishimoto & Chise Higashitani

Noriko Tomoda

Congratulations to St. Michael's International School on the 80th Anniversary



In Memory of Lynva Davies

Tazu Makino



神戸元町 本高砂屋

Congratulations to St. Michael's International School on its 80th Anniversary



In memory of my father and mother Nobuo and Sayoko Hamada

Satoru Hamada

Congratulations to St. Michael's International School on its 80th Anniversary



Eamon Lynch (2002-2007) and his family

Eamon Lynch

Heartiest Congratulations to St. Michael's International School on its 80th Anniversary



and deepest gratitude to Miss Lea & Miss Brown

Hiromi Akasaki Kishi



Shekhar Shah

Congratulations on St. Michael's International School's 80th Anniversary



Thank you to SMIS-English for contributing to my grandson's educational success!

Suzanne Lacroix

Warmest congratulations to everyone at SMIS



Council Member since 2017

Anita Aden

Congratulations on 80 years St. Michael's!



Best Wishes to Rahmani & Glen Williams!

With love,

The Hikasas

Congratulations to St. Michael's International School on its 80th Anniversary!



St. Michael's Kitano Nursery School

Jewel Donor Recognition Club

Diamond



Mingpeng Min

Bazaar 2026

Rosie, Joe & Charlie Baker

Ruby



Eikichi Noro

Satoru Hamada

in memory of Nobuo & Sayoko Hamada

Emerald



Keita Asato

Takeyuki Takaoka

Sapphire



Tomomi Tsuruta	Yuki Okuda
Rian Takamoto	Thuy Thi Nguyen
Shinyoku Sai	John Hadjar
Eamon Lynch	Zhang Wei
Noriko Ito	Yusuke Masai
Manami Ueshima	Ikue Itoh
SMIS 80s' Disco	

Thank You to our

80TH ANNIVERSARY DONORS

Pearl



Randy Bollig	Pernille Winnar	Chris Toda	Fritz Leonhardt	Katsuyoshi Douchi
Koh Hee Jun	Shigeko Sasa	Qin Xiaojun	Ji Wen Xin	Kaoru Saito
Enwei Zhao	Haku Unryu	Araiya Jhaveri	Kohei Hashimoto	Bradley Worthington