



St Michael's Junior Church School

Collective Worship Policy 2021

Introduction

At St Michael's our vision is to work with the community and church to ensure our children are spiritually, emotionally and educationally equipped for life now and in the future.

Our daily act of worship is an integral part of our school life. It is a time for prayer, reflection and celebration. Together we share the love of God, learn together from our school Christian Values and celebrate our achievements. We aim to gather together in one place; during Covid 19 this has not been possible but we have 'gathered on -line' at home and school to maintain a sense of family and togetherness. We also have worships outside and pre-record for those at home isolating to access.

St Michael's School welcomes all children from the local neighbourhood (according to the criteria laid down in our admissions policy); we welcome children from families that hold a faith of whatever nature or of no faith at all.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character', we usually base our worships on the teachings of the Bible and contributions from staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are highly valued.

Aims

- 1 To provide a shared experience for staff and children to worship God .
- 2 To develop a sense of enjoyment and celebration of our whole school family.
- 3 To provide a time to share success and failures in a caring and supportive environment.
- 4 To promote our school values.
- 5 To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty of the world.
- 6 To develop qualities of curiosity, questioning, gratitude and an understanding of each other.
- 7 To encourage opportunities to enjoy, participate and respond in worship and explore personal beliefs.



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Organisation of Collective Worship

We aim to provide a variety of worship for all our children through a variety of media (e.g. video clips, story books). We meet together at 12.15pm to end our morning timetable.

Our current schedule is as follows:

Mondays	Whole school worship led by head/deputy head teacher with a focus on our value of the term including a time of reflection and prayer.
Tuesdays	Whole school worship led by the rector/ team from St Michael's church including singing, reflection and prayer.
Wednesdays	Whole school worship with our chaplain working with children from across the school to lead and contribute to worship. They end with a time of reflection and prayer.
Thursdays	Children worship together in their classrooms using a wide variety of prayer/worship activities provided by our chaplain.
Fridays	Whole school celebration of achievements of the week led by our head teacher.

Staff are encouraged to take part in worship and we value the special times we are able to share together as a whole school in St Michael's Church. During Covid this has been difficult but we continue to maintain a close link with the church and visit the church building in small/class bubbles adhering to Covid regulations. Staff can join worship in classrooms or via the device in the hall.

We aim to create an atmosphere which encourages participation and reflection. We start with the adult leading saying, 'Peace be with you St Michael's.' The response is, 'And also with you.' A candle is lit at the beginning of each worship – in the hall, classroom, outdoors or on-line and children share in some simple liturgy at the beginning and conclusion of our time together, thanking God for being here with us and asking that God 'Go with us as we enjoy the rest of our day'. We celebrate the seasons of the church year and celebrate the Christian festivals.

Our chaplain plans and resources our termly collective worship in consultation with the head teacher and rector of St Michael's, who is also one of our Governors. Each term is based on one of our school Christian Values, chosen by parents, children and staff: Friendship, Trust, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Compassion and Wisdom.



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Right of withdrawal

Whilst we expect all children to attend collective worship, the right to withdrawal exists and parents can request permission for their child/children to be excused from attending. Children who do withdraw for whatever reason are given activities to reflect on linked to the value/theme of the worship.

Special Educational Needs

At St Michael's we are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will be able to benefit from collective worship regardless of need. Every attempt is made to ensure that resources we use are accessible and beneficial to all children. Technology is used to support pupils who find a whole school gathering stressful or causes dysregulation.

Equal Opportunities

We recognise our six Christian Values are values that anyone irrespective of faith, religion or ethnicity can engage with to make the world a better place. In our worships we share significant events in the life of our school, community and the world. We affirm the equality of each individual in God's sight whatever a child or adult's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We use a variety of strategies to assess our collective worships:

- Children are encouraged to feedback either verbally or in writing
- Occasional direct questioning of children and staff to gauge their views
- Online survey/ padlet/ wordle
- Weekly reflection and review by the chaplain and rector
- Observation of the children's general engagement and participation
- Termly reflection by the head, deputy head and RE lead
- Review of social media posts

May 2021