

# St Michael's Church of England Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

At St Michael's Primary School we seek to nurture the whole child and instil a love of learning by inspiring young minds within a happy, caring community based on the Christian values of love; joy; kindness; peace, self-control and faithfulness.

## INTRODUCTION

This document seeks to show how daily acts of worship are organised and planned for all the pupils in St. Michael's Church of England Primary School. Collective worship is used as a time to develop the pupils spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. It is distinct from "assembly" (where notices may be given). It is a special time when worship takes place and there are opportunities for prayer and reflection.

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

**The Education Reform Act (E.R.A.) 1988 requires that all pupils registered in maintained schools attend a daily act of collective worship. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consultation with the Headteacher, to arrange for daily acts of worship to take place. The Education (Schools) Act 1992 requires inspection of the daily act of collective worship to ensure that schools meet the legal requirements.**

**St Michael's school was founded by the Church of England and worship should follow the terms of the trust deed. Trust deeds state that worship will reflect Anglican beliefs, traditions and values. (Material from traditions other than Christian may be used, as long as it does not deprive the worship of its Christian character.)**

**Collective Worship in a voluntary controlled school is denominational.**

## AIMS AND BENEFITS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**There is a value in assembling pupils together regularly to affirm the sense of a caring, purposeful and supportive community, to establish and underline the ethos of the school and to worship and celebrate as a large group. Such times together develop pupils in ways not easily achieved in other areas of the curriculum, particularly in terms of spiritual and moral growth. It provides a focal point in the life of the school for the transmission and development of all that the school stands for in terms of beliefs, values, moral codes and community ethos. Collective worship offers the pupils opportunities to:**

- **explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence;**
- **learn the skills of worship;**
- **consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs to their own lives;**
- **think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community;**
- **appreciate the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them**

**It is an opportunity to reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the values of the school, to explore Christian values and practice in celebration of the festivals and seasons of the Church's year and to become familiar with the variety of Christian and Anglican worship. It also provides a time to celebrate worthwhile achievements of members of the school and wider community.**

**No one act of worship would necessarily meet all the aims, but over the school year careful planning ensures that they will be covered in an appropriate way.**

## RELEVANCE TO THE CHILDREN

Acts of worship are planned with regard to the family background, age and aptitude of the children. Due consideration is also given to their social, racial, cultural, religious and non-religious backgrounds. The organisation of collective worship in this Church of England Controlled Primary School is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. The majority of children come from a Christian or non religious home background. The pupils range in age between 4 and 11 years old. There is also a wide range of aptitudes plus mixed social and cultural backgrounds. In order to make collective worship relevant to the children, careful planning is undertaken by the management team at the beginning of each academic year to review the delivery of collective worship in terms of timetabling, providers, themes and groupings of children.

## ORGANISATION

The act of collective worship usually lasts for ten to fifteen minutes. On four days a week the whole school joins together in the hall from 10.10 - 10.25 am. These acts of worship are led by members of the school staff. On one day each week a church minister leads the worship. At the beginning and ending of each term the children go to the church for an act of worship. Occasionally, other outside speakers are invited. On one day a week, the children from each key stage attend separate acts of worship.

The assemblies broadly follow a weekly theme often drawn from the calendar of Christian religious celebrations and festivals.

When the whole school community gathers together other items may also be covered through which the ethos of the school can be developed and shared values and visions celebrated e.g. highlighting behaviour issues and celebrating pupil achievements through Christian teaching. Such occasions enable the pupils to develop culturally and socially within the school community in the context of the broad traditions of Christian belief.

The theme, subject matter and other details of all acts of collective worship are kept centrally in a folder in the Headteacher's office. This provides an open record to which all staff may contribute and refer.

From time to time a class or group of children may work on a theme in their R.E. lessons which culminates in a presentation to the whole school or Key stage. At Christmas, Harvest, and Easter times there may be a special collective worship during which each class presents a special item.

## PARENTAL RIGHTS

Parents may choose to have their child withdrawn from collective worship. The right of withdrawal may involve the child remaining present but not taking part, or not being present at all. The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn at the request of the parents. Any request for withdrawal should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

## RIGHTS OF STAFF

It is the expectation that teaching staff attend acts of collective worship on a rota basis and for some sessions all staff are present. If a member of staff has a conscientious religious objection to attending, they should discuss it with the Headteacher and may be excused.

## CO-ORDINATION

**It is the role of the School's Co-ordinators for R.E. to also co-ordinate collective worship in consultation with the Headteacher. They should review arrangements for collective worship annually and ensure that the school policy is up to date and being implemented. Currently the coordinators are Sara Williamson and Elaine Stanford.**

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**The Co-ordinator will monitor, evaluate and feedback to staff who conduct collective worship with the whole school or Key stage on a termly basis. The Co-ordinator will be monitored by the senior management team. All governors particularly the Foundation Governors are invited to collective worship to monitor and evaluate on behalf of the Governing Body. Pupils are encouraged to feedback orally to the staff taking collective worship at the end of the session.**

**Signed on Behalf of the Governing Body**

**Date**