

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, faithfulness, wisdom and trust.

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our values of *love, joy, kindness, peace, self – control, faithfulness, wisdom and trust*, which were developed by the children. It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Aims

Collective worship at St Michael's School will support the school's distinctive vision and Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to encounter God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect in ways that is of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
- to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- to experience silence in a busy world
- to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

We may also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using Anglican sentences and responses at the beginning and end of worship

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, each school must provide a broadly Christian act of collective worship for all pupils every day. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class.

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors (*local Baptist Church*) in consultation with the Collective Worship Leader. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using *plans which are based around our school values and looked at in conjunctions with plans from Canterbury Diocese Collective Worship Planning*, which is adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and enables continuity. Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This includes discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet at 9.15am Monday to Thursday and at 2.40 on Friday.

Our Act of Worship on a Monday is held at St Michael's Church and is lead by the Vicar. Parents are invited to attend and worship with us.

Tuesday is lead by the Head Teacher or Collective Worship Co-ordinator.

Wednesday is lead by the Deputy Head Teacher

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All staff participates in a rota to lead worship on Thursday.

Friday worship is an act of Celebration.

We meet as a whole school, but recognise that at some times during the year it will be necessary to meet in class or key stage groups. Reception Children have an Act of Worship within their class for the first term in School.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

Our worship consists of 4 stages:

- *Gather* –we welcome the community with music , liturgy and the lighting of a candle
- *Engage*– we share a bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message
- *Respond* -- pupils discuss, share , reflect , pray or sing
- *Send* – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle.

Expectations of pupils:

Each class will plan and lead at least one Act of Worship where parents are invited to participate during each school year.

We are working with pupils, to encourage them to plan and participate in delivering aspects of worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the Collect Worship Leader during to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The Collective Worship Leader attends regular professional development with Canterbury Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and

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governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Canterbury.

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none and is in no way intended to evangelise or proselytise.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship on grounds of conscience. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents. Children, who are withdrawn by parents from Acts of Worship, will be supervised by another member of staff.

Date of validation..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....

Chair of Governors