

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH SCHOOL
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



St. Michael's
Church School

St. Michael's Church School Collective Worship Policy

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Version	Author	Summary	Review Date	Next Review
1.0	J Coulson	New Policy	Sept 2020	Sept 2022
1.1	J Coulson	Minor Amends to Appendices	Sept 22	Sept 24

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'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord' Colossians, 3:23
'Be the best you can be!'

1 Aims and objectives

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a gathering as a church school family. This time together fully embraces our values of happiness, community and faith and we invite everyone to take an active part in Collective Worship. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We base our collective worship on the teachings of the Bible, Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. We conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. In each and every act of collective worship some of the elements of worship (i.e. of 'giving worth to God') will be present.

At St Michael's Church School we

- provide an opportunity for the children to worship and reflect on God
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable children to explore their own beliefs and discover their place in the world
- encourage participation and response
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- teach children how to worship.
- provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- heighten awareness of and encourage the asking of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these.
- enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- establish, explore, and reinforce our chosen Christian values.
- provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- help our children to become aware of the faiths and non faiths represented in our school and the wider community developing tolerance and acceptance
- help children to develop a feeling of empathy for others and take action in response to poverty, inequality and global environmental issues
- to foster feelings such as awe, wonder, fascination, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- develop every child's spirituality and recognition of time for reflection through the day
- help children to foster a feeling of belonging to a family and community outside of their home life

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- invite members of our community and local church to become memorable people for our children and create invaluable experiences

2 Planning

We hold a daily collective worship in the form of a whole school assembly; in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings. We create an appropriate atmosphere and use Christian objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children and show the Trinitarian nature of God. (Appendix One outlines our four stages of practice for our Collective Worship)

A team of teachers, local clergy and other representatives of local religious groups conduct collective worship. We work very closely with the local Reverends and they have become very much part of our school family. They visit us weekly, enrich educational experiences, support school events including trips and help our children to learn about God in different ways.

We adopt themes of our collectives from the traditions of the Christian faith, teachings of Jesus, events of the Christian calendar and times of celebrations. We will also make plans in relation to key projects that are launched from the Diocese or in response to projects such as Christian Aid Global Neighbours (Appendix Two outlines our Collective Worship themes).

The whole school values are reinforced during Collective Worship so the children learn how important they are to hold as human beings living on God's world (Appendix Three outlines our School Values 2020).

In every Collective Worship there will be acts of Anglican liturgy, including a greeting and response, choral worship, the saying of prayers (including the Lord's prayer and our school prayer), the Grace and moments of stillness and reflection. (Appendix one provides more detailed explanation of our practice).

Once a week our 'Celebration Collective Worship' is based upon the achievements and learning of the children both inside and outside of school. We encourage the children to participate in Collective Worship by showing their work to the other children and certificates, medals or trophies achieved as individuals or in teams. This plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised, advocating our school vision of 'Being the best we can be'.

At least once a term we invite parents to attend our Collective Worship and we encourage them to support their children therefore promoting the community spirit of the school. It also helps to show parents a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children.

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We welcome governors' attendance at our Collective Worship at any time.

As a school we want our children to become more involved with Collective Worship as the Bible teaches us "Jesus welcomed children and used them as models of faith when speaking to His followers" (Luke 18: 15-17). We recently launched a programme, aimed at our Year 5 pupils and to work in small teams to support the staff, clergy and children during our time together. The children are invited to earn bronze, silver, gold or purple cross badges for completing tasks, adopting roles and carrying out different responsibilities during Collective Worship (Appendix Five shows the Collective Worship Leaders programme).

From September 2020, we will be including Eucharist service for year 3 children upwards in our timetable. This will be a special service, once a term, aimed at children who are baptised and preparing for their Holy Communion. All children in year 3 or above will be invited to attend and they will be offered a blessing from the Reverends if they wish to participate. Parents and the local community will be invited to join this special service and we will make arrangements for the numbers attending.

3 The Early Years Foundation Stage

All children are expected to attend the daily Collective Worship assembly.

4 Contribution of Collective Worship to teaching in other curriculum areas

Collective Worship underpins the success of children in **Religious Education, SMSC and PSHE** subject areas.

5 Teaching Collective Worship to pupils with additional needs

At St. Michael's we provide an inclusive environment where all pupils are valued, supported and challenged to reach their potential. Where necessary we adapt the curriculum to ensure that all pupils can enjoy their learning and achieve success.

6 Right to Withdraw from Collective Worship

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship however, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. Parents may be asked to provide suitable work during this time that should be related to their spiritual or religious pathway.

7 Resources

We have a range of resources to support children's learning in all aspects of this area and an inventory is attached. We have the following documentation in school to support teachers with the teaching of this subject;

- Children's bible

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- Children bible stories
- Collective worship resource bag
- Prayer bag
- Flippin' praise
- Bible story lesson openers
- Thinking RE World Faiths Activity Cards
- Bible puppets

8 Health and safety

Appropriate risk assessments are completed for all visits off-site and on-site, if applicable. Visitors working with the children are always CRB checked and cleared.

9 Daily Organisation

Collective Worship is delivered by a variety of people, including teaching staff and we have an ever-growing clergy team to support our children's development. See Appendix Four for a daily timetable and more detail about our clergy support team.

10 Monitoring and review

- Governors to review the policy;
- SLT to review the development, monitoring and assessment;
- Curriculum Team / Leader to provide co-coaching, support, modelling, tracking progression of skills, resources, enriching the curriculum;

11 **Additional Policies**

We recognise that Collective Worship as a subject incorporates many other areas of the curriculum and we have therefore written separate policies for these areas as identified below

Religious Education

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Appendix One

Detailed outline of our time together.

We plan for Collective Worship to cover 4 stages:

Gathering

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, pictures, candles and Christian objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

On entry to our hall, the children and staff are met and greeted by members of our Worship Leaders. The leaders will welcome our church school family with smiles and greetings used in Christian worship.

Once inside the hall, there is music playing that is uplifting, engaging and inspiring. Additional members of the Worship Leader team help to support pupils by encouraging and supporting their friends to participate with singing and signing. This helps children to become more focused, reflective and think about the purpose of our gathering.

There is an altar at the front of our hall which provides a focal point. When all of the children have arrived, our Worship Leaders dress the altar with a Bible, cross and candle. As these 3 items are placed on the altar, the children are reminded of the Trinitarian nature of God, the Bible for God's teachings, the cross for God's son Jesus and the candle is lit to represent the Holy Spirit.

Once all the children have arrived, they are asked to respond to a 'Good Morning' message with a greeting from the Psalms or welcome such as 'May the Lord be with you, And also with you'.

Engage

This is the story and teaching part of our Collective Worship. The story will normally come from the Bible in order to engage the children with God and Jesus' teaching. We help the children to make links with their learning in the classroom, the school values and ultimately our vision, 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord' Colossians 3:23. We ask the children to respond and reflect upon the world, their life and their beliefs.

The story or teaching is delivered in many different ways including: Storytelling, drama, videos, visual aids, games, quizzes, puppets, Godly play or objects.

Respond

We allow time for reflection and spiritual development through moments of stillness, prayer and ask them to think about the ultimate questions of life.

We encourage our children to participate joyfully with choral worship. The children are asked to stand and sing as a sign of respect. We enjoy praising the Lord with our voices and make it accessible to all children in our school through signing, actions and words on a screen. We choose songs that are uplifting, enjoyable and encompasses worshipping God.

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We invite the children to pray as a time to talk to God or a time to be spiritual and thoughtful. We have a School Prayer (Appendix Six) written by the children who first started at St Michaels in 2012. This has become a very well-known and loved prayer and the children embrace the messages written within it. We will say the Lord's Prayer during clergy Collective Worship and this may be spoken or sung. We also say 'The Grace' at the end of Collective Worship as part of the sending to start the day of learning.

Sending

During this time, we invite the children to think, reflect and respond to the Collective Worship. We aim to help the children to make connections about the Collective Worship to our school values, vision and learning in the classrooms. We will play calmer, more reflective Christian music to help the children leave to their learning in a quiet, reverent and focussed manner. The Collective Worship Leaders are positioned at the door to send the children back to the classrooms and encourage their friends to 'have a great learning day' and 'to be the best they can be'.

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Appendix 2
Collective Worship Themes

2018-2019	Bible stories from the Old Testament	World events and special days	Jesus' miracles
2019-2020	Exodus – People of God	New school values	Global Neighbours Project (Moved due to Coronavirus lockdown)
		God's plan for your wellbeing	
2020-2021	Prayer	Global Project	Neighbours Bible and Real World Heroes
2021-2022	Saints	Three Birds Series	Spirituality and the Holy Spirit
2022-2023	Parables	Kingdom of God	God's Special People

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Appendix 3

Our Whole School Values

In 2020, the children, staff, parents and governors were asked to help review our school values. During the review, it was decided we should try to reduce the number of school values.

Below are the final 10 values and you can see them displayed in our school in the St Michael's Church School logo, on the wings of St Michael who helps us to fly in our education. We have also added Biblical statements to each value to help the children to connect our values to the teachings of the Bible.

Responsibility

Happiness

Respect

Honesty

Friendship

Compassion

Excellence

Perseverance

Resilience

Faith

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Appendix 4
Timetable for Collective Worship

Monday	Headteacher	Thought of the week Bible stories Upcoming events
Tuesday	Clergy Team/Representative CW Leader	Bible stories Jesus' teaching Upcoming Church events
Wednesday	Choral Worship Mr Rob Little	Singing and praise Hymns of varying styles from raps to traditional and modern songs Prayer and reflection time
Thursday	Assistant and Deputy Head Biweekly	Reading for Pleasure Special and Remember Days
Friday	Headteacher / SLT	Theme of the week Thought of the week Celebration time

Our Clergy Team

Reverend Andrew and Carol Avery	St Michael's Church, Stanground Parish
Jonathon Wood	Cardea Community Church
Rachel Jessop	Peterborough CROPs team

Appendix Five
Collective Worship Leaders Award

Bronze Award

- Welcome, greet and send people into and from CW with confidence and meaning
 - Stand up and deliver the CW greeting and response
 - Dress the altar – using an assertive voice
 - Stand up and deliver the 'School prayer' asking the school to find a quiet place inside and join in or remain still and be reflective
 - To complete pupil voice feedback in a positive and polite manner
 - Support an adult during a CW
- To make and maintain positive and meaningful relationships with staff and children.
 - To support school community events
 - To demonstrate your understanding of our school values and vision

Silver Award

- Plan and use your own lead and response, informing the lead teacher to prepare the PP
 - Be recognised by adults and children in school for welcoming children into CW
 - Choose a choral worship song to plan and lead the actions
 - Write your own prayer in response to CW theme
 - Plan and deliver a Bible story relevant to the theme for CW
 - To ask fellow pupils to complete pupil voice feedback in a positive, constructive and polite manner
- To always and consistently treat others with respect, dignity and cherished as God's children
 - To practice and promote forgiveness and understanding
 - To ask big questions and try to find the answers with others
 - To support our children in school to understand our school values
 - To talk to others about how our school values impact your life

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Gold Award

- Plan and lead own Collective worship
 - Organise fellow worship leaders to welcome, dress the altar and say goodbye
 - Create a Power point for your planned collective worship
 - Choose empowering, inspirational music for entry
 - Greeting and response
 - Lead choral worship with actions
 - Write own prayer
 - Talk about links to our school values
 - To choose a relevant Bible story to match your plans
 - Choose reflecting, calming music for exit
-
- To express personal views in a mature manner
 - To challenge negativity and offer resolutions when needed
 - To be models of inspiration and aspiration of faith
 - To think of individual ideas to raise awareness of issues or incidents that need addressing

Purple Award

- To demonstrate you are able to exhibit our school vision, Colossians 3:23
- To aspire children to 'be the best we can be'
- To be recognised as an example to others for demonstrating Christian values
- To take action, show how faith can inspired and influence action and bring positive change to others.

Appendix 6

Our School Prayer

Written by the 2012 children

Dear Lord,

Hear our prayer,

Help us to enjoy our school and the wonderful world You have created,

Teach us to respect ourselves and each other,

Show us how to care, as You care for each one of us,

Give us the skills to use our talents wisely, so we are the best we can be,

In our hearts we pray,

Amen



Appendix 7

COVID-19 response to Collective Worship

Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions we have had to temporarily adapt the way in which we can celebrate Collective Worship together.

We will still meet as a whole school each morning at 9.15 via Zoom. Each class logs into CW each morning and they are able to join in with singing (as they all face forwards), actions to songs etc.

Collective worship leaders are still involved and they lead the welcome, dressing the altar, and closing prayers by coming forward to the camera so that the whole school can see their actions and hear their voices.

We have tried to involve parents too. They are invited to send in photographs and messages to celebrate any of their children's achievements. These achievements will also be placed on our website for parents and children to access.

UPDATE APRIL 2022

In response to keeping the number of COVID-19 cases down it has been decided to host a small number of classes inside of the hall and then have the remainder of the school attending through zoom. Using resources such as 'Google jamboard' has allowed for this hybrid approach to allow all children to be part of the school Collective Worship time together.

UPDATE September 2022

As a school, we have decided to allow children back into the hall for two separate Collective Worship times – EYFS and KS1 will come to our shared school family time at 9.30 and KS2 will come at 10.30. This is the case for Monday to Thursday. On a Friday it will be normal practice for the staff and children to join together as a whole school through the use of Zoom. This was decided by the teaching and support staff with the children because it means they get to be altogether once a week, celebrating and recognising personal and academic achievement.

We also now have Junior Collective Worship leaders from Year 2 who help to open our time in the hall for the EYFS and KS1 children. They lead the wave and help to dress the altar with our Trinitarian message. They will also help with the role play, freeze framing and storytelling. Our Year 5 Collective Worship leaders have to write a leader to express their interest in becoming one of the leaders in our school. They have to assist in the same ways as our Juniors however they also have to meet/greet classes on arrival, lead the greeting message, lead and say the prayers, assist with our signing and dancing and be great role models to the other children in our school.