



St. Michael's CE (Controlled) Junior School

Inspired by Him, we serve the community of St Michael's by creating an inclusive learning culture where all differences are respected, where courage is shown to face and overcome adversity, and resilience is embedded in our journey to success so we can be the very best we can be.

Collective Worship Policy

Creation Date	May 2020	
Issue Date	May 2020	
Agreed & Authorised (Name & designation)	Mrs Steph Tyler Headteacher	Mr Ian White Chair of Governors
Next Review Date	May 2022	
Remarks		

At St. Michael's CE (Controlled) Junior School, we aim to provide a caring Christian Community where all adults and children are valued and nurtured within a safe environment. All of our policies reflect the distinctive nature of our Church of England School.

At St Michael's Junior School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a central role in the life of our school. It is a wonderful opportunity to promote and teach Christian Values, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide a quiet and peaceful time in which to reflect on our busy lives. Also, each act of worship is linked to our learning values of Respect, Courage and Resilience and explicit links are made through the biblical stories and world events that we share with the children.

We recognise that in our school we have many children who come from a variety of different faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all and we strive to show great care and sensitivity to ensure that **all of our children** feel valued and special as part of our school community.

Collective Worship at Saint Michael's Junior School also refers to Class Worship. This is held once a week by individual class teachers within their class. It also includes Celebration Worship each Friday, where our prayers reflect the events of the school week but also the challenges for the coming weeks.

The main aims of Collective Worship are:

- to provide opportunities for pupils to worship God
- to promote pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- to enable pupils to explore their own beliefs
- to promote a common sense of ethos and shared values which bind the members of our school community
- to evaluate the impact worship plays in our own lives
- to help our pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs, culture and values of others
- to explore Christianity through a multicultural perspective, fostering a respect for peoples of all races
- to gain a deeper understanding of Christian Values
- to help our pupils understand the nature and language of worship
- to give children an opportunity to improve their self-confidence by demonstrating their understanding of Christian Values to others through different forms of participation
- to support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication

Collective Worship contributes to the **spiritual development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of things
- experience a quiet reflective time of the day which is distinct from the activity which generally marks the rest of the school day
- hear stories and quotes from a variety of religions and inspirational people which foster a sense of enquiry about life and the issues of the world.

Collective Worship contributes to the **moral development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to

- reflect and discuss issues of morality
- hear about incidents in which goodness or righteousness are exemplified
- learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong
- learn about the school's Christian Values

Collective Worship contributes to the **social development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- gather with others for a common purpose
- share times of joy and times of sadness with others
- learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting

Collective Worship contributes to the **cultural development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- experience music from a range of times, places and cultures
- reflect upon ideas concerning beauty and that which is pleasing to the eye and ear
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within our school community and to share uplifting stories about individuals and events from history.

Collective Worship contributes to the **intellectual development** of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- learn and to engage with their minds
- have ideas and beliefs confirmed or challenged
- reflect upon the nature of learning and education

The Legal Position

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of St Michael's CE (Controlled) Junior School is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do so will need to make a written request to the Head teacher.

Organisation

Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday is Whole School Worship and is led by the Worship Leader in School. This is where we introduce a religious story or Big Question with which to engage our children. This is something which can then be discussed in detail in Class Worship later in the week but can also thread through our entire curriculum throughout the week.

Tuesday is Singing Worship led by the Music Leader within School and is where the children sing hymns of praise and explore the meaning and context of the song, often practising them for forthcoming performances and Church services.

Wednesday is Whole School Worship which is led by a member of the clergy from our Parish and reinforces and builds on the Monday themes as well as encompassing religious events pertinent to the time.

Thursday is Class worship and is led by the individual class teacher. This is where follow up work is carried out in relation to the stories and themes brought up by the Big Question.

Friday is Whole School Celebration Worship and is led by the Headteacher (or Deputy in her absence) where we celebrate children's achievements and are thankful that we are able to have these special times in school. This closes with a specially written prayer which sums up that week's stories and achievements on our St Michael's Journey to Success.

Collective Worship Framework

Collective Worship themes are broadly based around the school's Christian Values and reflect the Christian Year. If events occur which need to be addressed during Collective Worship, the theme may alter in discussion with the Head teacher and Collective Worship manager. The Big Questions which we introduce encourage our children to apply bible stories to current situations.

Themes are sometimes linked with curriculum themes, special occasions, Saints days and festivals through which these key issues can be developed. The key issues relate to our values of, respect, courage and resilience.

In addition to our Worship Framework, all children learn our 3 school prayers that are located on coloured cards in each classroom:

Morning Prayer (Pink)

Dear God

Thank you for a lovely new day.

Help us to be our best

And be friendly and kind to everyone.

Amen.

Lunchtime Prayer (Yellow)

Dear God

Thank you for the food that we are about to eat,

And bless those who provide our food.

Amen

Afternoon Prayer (Blue)

Dear God

Thank you for helping us today

Bless our families and friends

And keep us safe tonight

Amen

Class Worship will follow the weekly planning provided by the Worship Leader Weekly themes will be reinforced by class teachers through discussions within their classes.

The Worship Leader is responsible for monitoring Collective Worship. This process will involve staff and children.

Resources

Each class will have an area in their classroom that is a focus for their worship table. There is a variety of specific artefacts to aid Worship. These include a variety of crosses, candles, posters, bibles / bible stories, prayer books, music, and cloths. Each class should have a bible and a set of school prayers on coloured cards, as well as a copy of the Lord's Prayer.

All worships are resourced in the Teacher resources / Curriculum / Worship folder

Written May 2020

Review: On-going with a 2 yearly formal review by the Governing Body

Appendix 1

GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Timing: between 10 and 15 minutes maximum

Include: thinking, sharing, listening, stillness, silence

Focus: lighting a candle / looking at a picture or Big Question Card

Short and simple activities:

A short passage from the Bible / a story, poem (following the theme)

A picture, IWB image

A prayer

An account/event from your own life/child's life

Use a child or children to illustrate or act where possible

Song of Worship

Music to listen to; silence

Music:

Appropriate music to begin and end helps create the required atmosphere and enhance the experience.