Saint Michael's CE High School

A Church of England Academy

Therefore, choose

Collective Worship Policy

Responsibility to prepare	Headteacher
Approval	Ethos, Staffing and Wellbeing Committee May 2025
Next Review	Ethos, Staffing and Wellbeing Committee May 2028
Statutory	No
Required on school website	No - governors choose to publish

Our mission statement: As a vibrant learning community, we choose to serve God, pursue excellence and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual.

Therefore, choose

Our vision: Growing in body, mind and spirit

I have come that you might have life – life in all its fullness. **John 10:10**

Therefore choose [life] **Deuteronomy 30:19**

Collective Worship Policy

Jesus said, **"I have come that you might have life — life in all its fullness."** *John 10:10*

St Michael's is a Church of England Academy and so worship plays a vital part in the school day and in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school. The quote from John 10:10 underpins our vision of:

'Growing in Body Mind and Spirit.'

Together with our school motto of:

'Therefore choose (life).'

Philosophy

Whilst opportunities for spiritual development and flourishing are fostered across the whole curriculum, worship is at the heart of our vision and school life at St Michael's. It is seen as an essential part of all pupils' education, providing particular opportunities for promoting the spiritual development of pupils, enabling them to grow in body, mind and spirit. It is an opportunity for all members of the school community; staff pupils and visitors, to explore various aspects of the Christian faith, to reflect and pray together. It may be as simple as reading a prayer or reflection during tutorial. It may involve leading a year group in the main hall or the whole school at the end of term. As a Church of England Academy we are concerned that all pupils and adults have opportunities to worship, and we endeavour to provide genuine experiences of Christian Anglican worship that are 'worthy', creative, stimulating and reflect a broad range of approaches. Corporate worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values. Collective Worship in our school recognises the collectivity of all participants but does not make assumptions about their beliefs and values and respects the integrity of all.

We offer 'Encounter with the Christian faith'. We encourage both our young people and adults to engage with big questions about life and faith. Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring and appropriate to the family backgrounds of the pupils, their ages and abilities. It is attended by pupils and staff. Governors, parents and any visitors in school are welcome to join. Any parents or Governors wishing to attend Worship can contact our Christian Youth Worker through the school office and we will arrange this. Worship is often said to be the 'heart-beat of St Michael's' and as such is well-resourced, reflecting the central role it plays in the life of the school.

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that "*all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship*". The

school seeks to fulfil this obligation by delivering high quality Collective Worship in accordance with the school's Trust Deeds and reflecting the Anglican status of the school. Also, in addition to daily school worship, special services take place in the school and local churches during the course of the academic year, with the Eucharist being celebrated regularly.

The Christian Youth Worker supported by the Head-teacher is responsible for the strategic planning of the worship life of the school.

Aims

It is our aim at St Michael's that worship should:

- Be Invitational, Inspirational and Inclusive.
- Recognise and respect the integrity of each valued member of our school community.
- Invite members of the school community to praise and reach out to God.
- Invite members of the school community to respond to Christian language and symbolism.
- Invite members of the school community to experience stillness and quiet.
- Invite members of the school community to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation which might include praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others, quiet reflection.
- Help pupils begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Provide a foundation for future development of the understanding and practice of worship.
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of each child and adult.
- Allow reflection on and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, the local, national and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Promote community cohesion.
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the Christian values of the school.
- Support the wellbeing and self-worth of each pupil as a unique and precious child of God.

Content

Collective worship at St Michael's is dedicated time spent attending to the spiritual aspects of our lives; for some it may be simply time to reflect, for others it is time spent in God's presence, recognising who He is. Effective collective worship is well planned. It must have time for thinking, listening, reflecting and stillness as well as being vibrant and engaging. It could include music, dance, art, stories, or symbols (for example a dove, a candle or a cross). It may involve humour, poignant stories, video clips or music, but it will always be relevant to the lives of those participating. Pupils are frequently involved in planning and/or leadership. St Michael's dance and

drama groups, the Armstrong Choir and the school worship band routinely provide vibrant and inspiring contributions to collective worship. The Hughes tutorial group is a cross-year tutorial group which are able to provide music, songs and choral pieces to support the worshipping life of the school on a regular basis.

At St Michael's pupils and adults will be introduced to and helped to explore a wide range of key Christian beliefs and aspects of the School's Christian faith, as appropriate to their age and abilities. In planning Worship, we take into account the Church of England and Blackburn diocesan guidance on School Worship. We consider whole school, national and local priorities such as the Blackburn Diocese 'Vision 2026'. The Christian values of the School are also a major focus. We look at our Tutorial Patrons and the Christian values they demonstrate. We include events from the Church calendar and other important events such as Remembrance and Holocaust memorial week. We emphasise the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance. We investigate issues such as raising self-worth, wellbeing, advocacy and courageous justice from a Christian perspective. We aim to link worship back, where possible, to the school's vision and mission statements. We cover key Christian themes such as: The Fruit of the Spirit; the Trinity; Jesus' life, death and resurrection; Human nature, sin and the offer of a restored relationship and eternal life through Jesus; Living out faith; the values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption and compassion. We also consider how we can demonstrate Christian charity and ways in which we can serve God and others locally, nationally and internationally. We work to enable pupils to develop an appreciation of Anglican beliefs, practices and liturgy. Acts of worship begin with 'The Lord be with you', and end with the Grace or the Lord's Prayer. The Bible and prayer are integral to all our acts of Worship.

Collective worship celebrates, promotes and develops understanding of Christian teaching about Christian values, including **Love, Truth, Patience, Compassion, Wisdom, Community (Koinonia), Thankfulness, Peace, Endurance, Justice, Trust, Forgiveness, Humility, Service, Reverence, Stewardship, Hope and Reconciliation.** The school has made significant contribution to the Church of England's Education Department/National Society's 'Christian Values for Schools' initiative which outlines key Christian attitudes and behaviours (http://www.christianvalues4schools.org.uk/). This provides a helpful resource for worship.

Collective worship at St Michael's is celebrated in tutorials, in year groups, and sometimes with half year groups or with key stages together, such as end of term services or when the school is involved in a church service. The purpose of worship remains constant, regardless of how, or where worship is conducted. Within worship there is opportunity for encountering Christian teaching, the development of prayer life, for stillness and reflection as well as the appropriate inclusion of the gifts and talents of all members of the school community.

Leaders

The majority of the school community are involved in leading collective worship. On a rota, staff lead prayers in morning briefing. Staff are also invited to plan and lead collective worship for the whole school. Tutorial Collective Worship Representatives in Years 7-11 are trained to lead and facilitate reflections and prayers at the beginning of the day on days when they are not attending Collective Worship in the main hall.

All tutorials are provided with interactive reflections on Bible passages and prayers each week to be used in morning tutorial and the school day ends with the 'Grace'. Tutors, with assistance from the Christian Youth Worker and RE staff, are asked to support and encourage pupils to take part in designing and leading collective worship.

To provide the school community with variety in their experience of worship different media are used. Contemporary film and music are often used to make connections with the world of pupils. Guests may be invited to lead worship and / or address pupils and adults. Collective Worship may also occasionally be held at different times during the school day and in different places round the school building and grounds.

The chapel space in the Armstrong Centre has been designed to create a quiet place within the school for pupils and staff. It is available before and after school for private reflection. The Chapel is used for various activities including staff prayer meetings, lunchtime services and monthly Eucharists led by local clergy.

Tutorials are offered the opportunity to conduct tutorial collective worship in the chapel. Pupils talk positively about the atmosphere and opportunity for reflection. The outdoor worshipping area in the quad, designed by pupils, is sometimes used for worship, for example 'Carols in the Quad'.

All staff and pupils leading Collective worship in the hall are encouraged to consult the Christian Youth Worker and RE department for assistance and there are guides for leading Collective Worship at St Michael's. (Please see Appendix A, B, C, D and the Staff Handbook). Training to support staff leading worship is provided on a regular basis.

Right of Withdrawal

At St Michael's we seek to be an inclusive community which values differing points of view. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. The Governing Body would express concern if any parent who had accepted a place in this Church of England Academy were to do so. Any parent who does wish to exercise that right should contact the Headteacher.

School will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of students withdrawn from acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time and parents are asked to supply suitable material for reflection appropriate

to their child's needs. Please note the right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Organisation

The way in which worship is organised ensures that leaders of worship invest considerable time and effort in planning. The same worship leaders usually lead worship in the hall throughout the week on the same theme or topic. They make appropriate adjustments to their delivery to ensure that they meet the needs of different age groups. This makes a significant contribution to the quality of the main act of worship experienced by all pupils each week.

Currently acts of worship take place daily between 8:45am-9.15am in tutor rooms, the sports hall or the school hall on a weekly cycle:

	Pupil Manager	**Worship (Hall)**	**Assembly (Sports Hall)**	**Prayer & Reflection (Tutor)**
Year 7	Mrs Baybutt	Monday	Thursday	Tuesday, Wednesday Friday
Year 8	Miss Watson	Tuesday	Friday	Monday, Wednesday Thursday
Year 9	Mr Topping	Wednesday	Monday	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Year 10	Mr Kirkpatrick	Thursday	Tuesday	Monday, Wednesday Friday
Year 11	Mrs Rackstraw	Friday	Wednesday	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Evaluation of Collective Worship

The Christian Youth Worker coordinates the varied evaluation of collective worship, working alongside the Principal Worship Leads and the Ethos Council. It is both formal and informal, engaging staff, pupils, parents and governors. The outcomes of the 'pupil voice' evaluations are shared with the senior leadership team, governors, staff, parents and pupils.

Worship Leaders from each tutor group are central to the preparation, delivery and evaluation of collective worship by pupils. In addition surveys of staff, parents and governors enhance the evaluation process.

Policy Approval

The Collective Worship policy at St Michael's will be reviewed and modified on a regular basis, at least every 3 years via the Governors Ethos and Staffing committee, with amendments being added when necessary to this document prior to a review.

Biblical understanding of worship
Worship, in the Bible, is rich and varied:

- **Reverence and adoration**: It is the act of honouring God, acknowledging His greatness and authority.
- **A way of life**: Worship is not confined to rituals—it's a lifestyle where every word and action reflects devotion to God.
- **Humility and service**: True worship includes gratitude, praise, and humble service directed solely to God.
- **Physical expression**: Acts like kneeling or bowing are outward signs of reverence.
- **Submission and honour**: The Hebrew word *shachah* means "to bow down," symbolising surrender and respect.