

St Michael's CE (Cont) Infant School



St. MICHAEL'S
CE (CONTROLLED) INFANT SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed January 2024
To Be Reviewed by January 2026

'Learning Together with Love at the Centre'

Policy for Collective Worship

'St. Michael's CE (Cont) Infant School aims to provide a caring Christian Community where everyone is valued and nurtured within a safe environment. All our policies take account of and reflect the distinctive nature of our Church of England School.'

At St Michael's Infant School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to teach our children Christian Values, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

Aims

The main aims of Worship Time at St Michael's Infant 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
- 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
- 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:

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- reflect upon the value, purpose and meaning of things
- experience times of quiet inactivity to counterbalance the activity which generally marks the rest of the school day
- hear stories and words from religious and other literature which suggest that there is more to life than meets the eye

Collective worship contributes to the moral development of pupils by providing them with an opportunity to:

- reflect on matters concerning right and wrong
- hear about incidents in which, and people in whom, goodness or right 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:

- hear 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 the school community and beyond

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 Infant 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.

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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 Headteacher.

Organisation

Our current schedule is as follows:

- Monday is whole school Collective worship where we share a theme for the week linked to our school values
- Tuesday is a class Collective Worship
- Wednesday is a singing celebration worship
- Thursday is led by the Vicar
- Friday is 'celebration worship', led by the headteacher.

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 Collective Worship manager (Headteacher).

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 aims and include the Christian Values of perseverance, truthfulness, forgiveness, creativity, love and friendship

All children learn our school prayer:

Dear God

Thank you for our school, for the friends that we have here and for the exciting learning that we do. Please help us always to tell the truth, and to forgive people if they have done something wrong. Please help us to keep on trying if something is hard.

Thank you for the love that you show to everyone and please help us to do the same.

Amen

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

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

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The Headteacher 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 Times. These include a variety of crosses, candles, posters, bibles / bible stories, prayer books, music, and cloths. Each class should have a bible and a collection of prayers to use. Other bibles, bible stories and prayer books are kept in the library. Christian artefacts are available for use at any time and are in the RE box in the Rainbow Room. All hymn music and cassettes / CDs are kept in the hall. Teacher resource books / folders with ideas for Collective Worship are kept in the Staff Work Room.

Approved: January 2024

Review: January 2026

Appendix 1

GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Timing: between 10 and 15 minutes **maximum** KS1; less for FS

Include: thinking, sharing, listening, stillness, silence

Focus: lighting a candle / looking at a picture

Short and simple activities:

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

A picture, IWB image

A prayer – well known or school prayer

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

Use a child or children to illustrate or act where possible

Music to listen to; silence

Music:

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

Appendix

Changes to Collective Worship provision from September 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

If we do have to use bubbles for year groups we will use Teams for whole school worship following the weekly schedult.