



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

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Mission Statement

Psalm 147:4 God counts the stars and calls them all by name

The aim of our Church school is to develop the full potential of each child spiritually, socially and academically in a safe, inclusive environment which is grounded within the ethos of the Christian Faith.

This policy is grounded within our school mission statement, and underpins our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive environment for all stakeholders which reflects our Christian values.

1. Rationale

Our school Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos above and will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on our fifteen Christian Values.

At St Michael & All Angels school we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well being of all learners.

Therefore, Collective Worship at St Michael & All Angels is planned to:

- Be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school.
- Regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching which explores and relates to the school's core Christian Values.
- Have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- Help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness.
- Contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with 'something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to'.
- Be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective Worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at St Michael's includes opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness;
- learning about oneself and others;
- learning about diversity and inclusivity.

2. Legal Requirements

The law requires the Head Teacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

The school meets this requirement and it is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and staff handbook.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers, contact needs to be made with the Head Teacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

3. Planning a Collective Worship Programme

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle and playing music as the whole school gathers.

Our school Collective Worship lead, PSHE and RSE Co-ordinator plans a choice of a variety of different Collective Worship activities for staff to choose from and develop for delivery to all children on a daily basis. Each choice includes opportunities to 'gather', 'engage', 'respond' and 'send out', and is founded on Biblical material. There is also one option each week which requires children to lead and deliver and the Collective Worship lead is building in opportunities for UKS2 children to become involved at the planning

stage as well as delivery. The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the School Council/House Groups. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship, too. At the end of each week, our Celebration Assembly begins with collective worship and a reflection area offers all children the chance to share their participation in worship that week and reflect on the ways we are also celebrating our faith. Weekly planning of collective worship is linked to any corresponding knowledge organisers in Religious Education, in order to make links to other faiths where appropriate.

As a school, we offer specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children's own beliefs and traditions. These are celebrated on festival days as well as in each weekly Certificate Assembly. Kindness awards such as 'Bee Badges', 'Star Badges' and nominations from class 'kindness buckets' contribute to the children's understanding of the living out of faith.

The school's Foundation Governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship through membership of the Ethos Committee at the school.

It is for the school to decide how best, in its own context, pupils should take part in Collective Worship, e.g., in year groups, key stage groups etc. The law makes no requirement about this other than it is daily.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is overseen by the Head Teacher. The school uses a variety of resources, including Roots & Fruits, Leicester Diocesan Collective Worship Plans and links with Out of the Ark music resources.

4. Our Pattern of Collective Worship

Whole school worship is held each day. These are taken by each teacher and Head Teacher and sometimes visitors.

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values as well as British values, although they include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events.

Whole School Celebration: Act of Worship

As detailed above, once a week the school gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Parents may be invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development which include the link to our 'hymn of the week'.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Head Teacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Head Teacher.