



Cultivating Respect, Persevering, and Learning with Courage

Collective Worship Policy

Our vision, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you” motivates us to use our values in all aspects of our life. This policy has been written, reviewed, and applied with our values of courage, perseverance, and respect at its heart

Aims for Collective Worship

The staff and Governors of St. Michael's aim to enable the children in our care to develop as kind, caring, respectful and courageous members of both our school and the wider community. The staff, together with St Michael's Church, carefully ensure that our acts of worship promote our school Christian Vision and Values. We have strong links with St Michael and All Angels church and Rev. Phil Sutton plays an active role in our school and wider community. He contributes to our collective worship every Thursday as well as working alongside teachers to enhance the links between collective working and the provision of religious education.

Collective Worship will enrich the experiences of pupils by:

- ☆ Providing an opportunity for pupils to come together as a community to experience all aspects of worship including silence, contemplation, prayer, praise and thanksgiving in their diverse forms
- ☆ Providing an opportunity for pupils to worship God and to learn and understand key biblical narratives and teachings in order to understand the Christian faith and how such faith is lived in a community where there are people of all faiths and of none
- ☆ Promoting racial and cultural harmony and respect for all
- ☆ Promoting care, tolerance, difference and respect that is due to everyone as we are all made in the image of God
- ☆ Enabling pupils to explore and question the essential nature of our vision in a culture of respect for difference of opinions and for doubts and uncertainties
- ☆ Provide opportunities to further the spiritual development of the children; how can we grow in faith, hope and love for the benefit of self and others
- ☆ Providing opportunities for awe, wonder and reflection at the beauty and diversity of God's creative order and our role in sustaining the fragile balance of all creation
- ☆ Providing an opportunity to celebrate achievement, blessings and occasions in worshipful song, music, and all forms of dramatic art
- ☆ Develop the individual's sense of place in the world beyond the physical as a person created by love and for love.

Right of Withdrawal

All pupils are expected to take part in a daily act of 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 children during this period.

Parents do not have to give reasons or explain. This complies with the 1944 Education act and was restated in the 1998 Education Reform Act. Should a parent wish to withdraw their child, we encourage them to either come and discuss the matter or write to the Headteacher.

Guidelines for Collective Worship

The Headteacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship which must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character. The precise nature will depend on the family background, ages, and abilities of the pupils.

We understand collective worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show respect and nurture an attitude of reflection and prayer in a diversity of ways. Collective worship will involve all members of the school community coming together and participating in whole school, key stage or class group worship.



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Collective worship is led by:

- The Headteacher
- Members of staff
- Visitors – representatives of other churches, charities etc

Collective worship based on Christian Values is planned from various sources including:

- The Bible
- Christianity and other faiths
- The lives of famous people
- Current Affairs

The Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship which is made up of whole-school and class assemblies

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Type of Collective Worship	Story	Class Worship	Singing	Open The Book	Celebration
Led by	Headteacher	Class Teachers	Music Lead	Children's Ministry Team	Headteacher

We conduct collective worship in a respectful way. We tell children that worship time is often a time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave appropriately. We ask that they are quiet and thoughtful and to make a prayer their own by joining in with Amen.

We light a candle and say a short prayer to mark the start of collective worship. This provides the community with a focal point and reinforces the importance of gathering for worship. The blessing marks the end of collective worship.

Themes of worship are taken from our Vision and our Values, relevant topics of local, national and global significance, the church year and the bible. All assemblies are linked back to biblical teachings, to develop children's biblical literacy.

Class Reflection Areas

All classrooms must have a space for reflection. This may form a part of a cosy reading area or be separate.

Class bibles must be clearly visible in this area. There should be other resources to support personal reflection such as rosaries, holding crosses, copies of class prayers etc. which could support a small activity linked to your RE learning.

School Prayers and Song

The Blessing, **chosen in consultation with the children**, is said at the end of each day, and at the end of each collective worship. A lunchtime prayer is said daily before the children go to eat. These reinforce a sense of the school community and calm reflection.

Blessing

The Lord Bless you and keep you
 The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you
 The Lord turn his face toward you
 And give you peace
 Amen



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Morning and Lunchtime prayer

Various depending on age of children. In Key Stage 2 children may have written their own prayers to share at these times

School Songs

The sung Blessing is our school song along with Proud. These both form a part of collective worship and create a sense of community.

At the time of major Christian Festivals, an act of worship is held in the Parish Church. These are usually, but not limited to, at Christmas and Easter. Children from all classes take part in the leading of these worship services.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Governing body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The Governor concerned liaises with the coordinator before jointly reporting to the FGB (Full Governing Body) on Religious Education and Collective Worship

Legal Requirement

The law requires that each child will take part in an act of worship every day.

This is the responsibility of the Governing Body.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from acts of worship.

Approved – November 2023