

Collective Worship Policy

“What does the Lord ask of you? To act justly, to love
mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

(Micah 6:8)

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Statement of intent

In our school, our Christian vision shapes all we do. All members of the school community are committed to upholding the St Michael's Church of England Christian values:

- to show love, care and kindness to all in our community
- to value what we have and to share with others
- to enable everyone to achieve their full potential

All pupils at St Michael's Church of England High School is required to take part in daily collective worship where they are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues. At St Michael's Church of England High School, the daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life.

In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, the daily collective worship shall be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" (DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship', pg.21, para.60), though not representative of a particular Christian denomination. All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Collective worship is provided in a daily whole year group assembly and is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

Signed by: _____ Date: _____
Headteacher

Signed by: _____ Date: _____
Chair of governors

1. Legal framework

- 1.1 This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- 1.2 This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:
- DfE (1994) 'Religious Education and Collective Worship'

2. Policy aims

- 2.1. Collective worship at St Michael's Church of England High School aims to:
- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs
 - Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered
 - Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship
 - Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection
 - Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others
 - Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs
 - Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual's life stance, whether religious or not
 - Promote common ethos and shared values
 - Reinforce positive attitudes

3. Definition of collective worship

- 3.1. For the purpose of this policy, "collective worship" is an act, which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos.
- 3.2. To "take part" in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

4. Organisation and planning

- 4.1. The headteacher is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the governing board.
- 4.2. The act of worship will be held daily in form time periods and once a week in the year group assembly.
- 4.3. Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the headteacher and governing board.
- 4.4. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.5. The headteacher will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school.
- 4.6. The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.
- 4.7. Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's Visitors Policy during their visit.

5. Collective worship programme

- September - Motivation
- October - Imitative
- November - Courage
- December - Advent, Christmas and Epiphany
- January - Compassion
- February - Honesty
- March - Lent, Easter
- April - Achievement
- May - Enthusiasm
- June - Leadership
- July - Service

6. Implementation

6.1. The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

7. Right to withdraw

7.1. Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

7.2. Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred

7.3. Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

7.4. The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

- The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, nondenominational worship.
- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.
- The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

8. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

- 8.1. The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme.
- 8.2. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

9. Policy Review

- 9.1. This policy will be reviewed on a three-year cycle by the headteacher in agreement with the governing board.
- 9.2. This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.
- 9.3. Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.