

Collective Worship Policy

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER:

What does the Lord ask of you?

To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6vs.8

Contents

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework

2. Policy aims

3. Definition of collective worship

4. Organisation and planning

5. Weekly collective worship programme

6. Implementation

7. Right to withdraw

8. Policy review

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

At St Michael's Church of England High School, we see the value in collective worship and adhere to our statutory duty by ensuring that moments of collective worship are part of everyday life at St Michael's. This time will enable pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

We, as a Church of England school, are committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives.



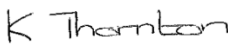
Our goal is that collective worship at St Michael's should be inclusive, invitational, and inspiring.

However, we are aware that many pupils and staff in our school will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. With this in mind, pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent; to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

As a result of inspirational collective worship, pupils and adults alike should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Signed by:

 _____	Acting Headteacher	Date: <u>02/12/2021</u>
 _____	Co-Chair of governors	Date: <u>02/12/2021</u>
 _____	Co-Chair of governors	Date: <u>02/12/2021</u>

Date of adoption	September 2015
Date of revision	2 nd December 2021
Review date	December 2024

1. Legal framework

1.1 This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

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 come together to collaboratively promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school's ethos, by paying reverence or veneration to a divine being or power.

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 school will implement collective worship in line with advice given by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

4.2 Every pupil will participate in the act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn in line with section 7 of this policy.

4.3 Worship will broadly be of a Christian character.

4.4 The Headteacher is responsible for creating the vision for collective worship in discussion with the governing board and Ethos Lead.

4.5 The act of worship will be held daily in form time periods and once a week in the year group assembly.

4.6 Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the pastoral Assistant Headteacher and Ethos Lead.

- 4.7 The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- 4.8 The school may invite visitors or guest speakers to speak during collective worship, in accordance with the timetabled theme.
- 4.9 Guest speakers will be required to adhere to the school's Visitors Policy during their visit.

5. Collective worship programme

- 5.1 The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils.
- 5.2 Throughout the week, students will have our school chaplain relay a short Christian message to them, which incorporates a Bible reading, discussion questions and a prayer. Students will also be involved in two-year group assemblies each week where messages of our school Christian values, current hot topics and other lifestyle messages will be delivered. These moments allow our students to think and ask questions, ponder, and reflect. Our school chapel is open each day too for staff and students alike to use for personal and group times of reflection, solace, and peace. The school's values card system is recognised and promoted each day whereby students have the opportunity to showcase how they can live out the school's Christian values.
- 5.3 Prayer, hymns and time for reflection will be a regular part of collective worship and participating individuals will recite the school prayer.
- 5.4 Collective worship will address key themes such as:
- Mercy
 - Integrity
 - Care and Compassion
 - Humility
 - Achievement
 - Equality
 - Leadership
 - Service
- 5.5 All topics covered will be appropriate to the age of pupils participating in collective worship and will be inclusive for all needs.

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.
- 6.2 The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the

collective worship programme.

6.3 The school will arrange for learning support assistants to assist pupils with SEND if the need arises.

6.4 Inspection of collective worship will be arranged with the following religious authority:

- the appropriate diocesan authority

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 Alternative provision will be arranged for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

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, non-denominational worship
- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school

7.5 The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

8. Policy Review

8.1 This policy will be reviewed on a three-year cycle by the Headteacher in agreement with the governing board.

8.2 This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

8.3 Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.

8.4 The scheduled review date for this policy is December 2024.