



'Learning together through love, friendship, forgiveness and faith.'

St Michael's CE Primary School

Collective Worship

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself' (Matthew 22:39)

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects the mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths (or none) are welcome to worship. Our schools/academies are faith communities that celebrate religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourage dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an educational entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live. This worship can occur at various times of day and with a mixture of grouping of pupils. Through regular acts of worship our school has the opportunity of offering thanksgiving and praise to God through a range of liturgical patterns which may include the Eucharist.

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

1. Collective worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
2. Collective worship is inclusive in nature
3. Collective worship is Educational

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service;
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

Inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus we welcome children and staff of all faiths. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

Educational

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- reflect the aims of the school, and foster wide ownership of our core values;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Anglican practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;
- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- this will include scope to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

The following matters are dealt with at an operational level in school:

Personnel responsible for worship;

- Personnel involved in leading worship, including learners;
- Timetabling of acts of worship, including use of local church and groupings of pupils;
- Planning of worship, including its relationship to any core values;
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- Taking account of SIAMS requirements as applicable to the specific situation;
- Opportunities for worship/prayer throughout the day;

Our acts of worship are of a clearly Christian character, recognising the diversity of our community, and providing occasions when pupils meet together in a variety of settings where a positive tone and focus for the day can be established. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect on relevant Christian, moral and spiritual issues, drawn from a variety of sources, thereby enriching their experience of life.

At St Michael's, Worship provides opportunities for pupils and the whole school community to reflect on the 6Rs and how these work together with our mission statement of '*Learning together through, love, friendship, forgiveness and faith.*' to create a learning environment and community where everyone feels safe and valued. We want our children to develop the life skills necessary to contribute, as caring individuals, to life in the 21st century.

Worship is an essential means of recognising and celebrating school values and achievements in their broadest sense. In worship all participants are recognised for their personal achievement, both within school and in the community. Pupils are awarded, in worship, with a range of rewards, thus placing achievement and effort in the Christian context of the school.

Collective worship will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and children
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve the students
- have a dedicated focus which signifies what is being reflected upon.
- provide a dedicated opportunity for students to reflect/respond to the input

Acts of worship often include ritual aspects these are a means of enabling worship and include:

- stories and readings
- songs, hymns and music
- dance and drama
- prayer, meditations
- lighting a candle
- creative silence
- sacred/secular readings
- artifacts and natural materials
- children's contributions

To ensure Worship retains its important central role in school life, there is no generic one size fits all approach to prayer. For example, where pupils of certain faiths feel uncomfortable praying to Jesus, we would encourage a sensitive dialogue with parents/pupils.

To ensure we maintain an inclusive approach to Worship at St Michael's, parents are encouraged to speak to the headteacher if they feel uncomfortable with the way Worship is performed at school.

Reviewed: October 2018

Next review: October 2021