



# St. Michael's CE Primary School



## **Our five core Christian values**

*Trust, Honesty, Compassion, Respect and Kindness*

are centred on **'Do to others as you would like them to do to you.'(Luke 6:13)**

Through these values we inspire children to be the best they can be. Encouraging high aspirations and expectations that will allow them to achieve, explore, succeed and prepare for their own path through life.

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## **Collective Worship Policy**

### ***'Do to others as you would have them do to you'***

St Michael's CE Primary School's Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos. Our vision and values are at the core of all we do. They underpin our teaching, learning and daily relationships and provide a firm foundation for all aspects of our children's development.

We uphold our chosen Christian values which provide the focus for our worships and times of reflection whilst being interweaved within our daily actions.

In our school, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring our school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

### **Inclusive – Invitational – Inspiring**

The school is guided by The Church of England document, "Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring" (May 2021) which outlines the aims and objectives of worship and underpins this policy:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

## **Legal Requirements**

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, the law on collective worship that applies in a community school, "that it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character", is not relevant.

Worship in St Michael's School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions. The governing body of this school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

## **Inclusion**

Whilst the principles of inclusivity are guided by the Church of England aims and objectives, it is also recognised by the school that special consideration should be given to pupils with additional needs. Pupils who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) for example, may find the environmental conditions of worship difficult. Each individual must be considered in their own context.

However, as an inclusive school, there may be occasion where worship provision should be adaptive and cater for pupils who require appropriate and reasonable adjustment.

This may include:

- The use of ear-defenders
- Appropriate, physical breaks
- Provide opportunities for pupils to suggest ways that will help at times of worship.

## **Our Aims**

We believe that Collective Worship is a significant educational activity which underpins the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff. It reflects and explores the school's distinctive character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and wellbeing of all learners.

Collective worship is planned to provide all members of the school community opportunities to:

- Worship God in an inclusive and sensitive way. It should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith
- Learn from Biblical and Christian teaching
- Develop a personal understanding of salvation and The Trinity - God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Develop and reflect on a common ethos and shared values
- Personally respond to worship in a way that impacts daily life
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection
- Begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship in the Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements of those within the school and to take part in local, national and international occasions of significance, including festivals.

Our worship programme is linked to the Christian Value for that week, reflecting our 5 core values over a term; Respect, Honesty, Compassion, Trust and Kindness.

We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'Engaging' 'Responding' 'Sending'. We use the Roots and Shoots and Values for Life resources to help support the planning of Collective Worship.

## **Gathering**

- We gather together and greet each other.
- We all come to play a part in this community.
- We are preparing to meet God.

### **Engaging**

- We engage with the big things and the little things in life.
- We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible.
- We are listening for God's message for us.

### **Responding**

- We respond to what we have heard and seen.
- We respond together as individuals.
- We are given the opportunity to worship God.

### **Sending**

- We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world.
- We are all dismissed with God's blessing.

We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting and extinguishing a candle and saying the school welcome and closing liturgy, as well as always sharing our Biblical foundation and the spiritual meaning behind our school logo.

### **Prayer**

Prayer is an important part of our worship. Our unique Trust prayer, which is used during collective worship, is very special to us and there is a strong sense of ownership amongst us.

Children also have an opportunity to reflect and pray at any time through the use of our class prayer stations which are renewed regularly.

### **Our Worship Structure is: (attended by everyone, everyday)**

Monday – Introduction to our Value of the week/ Worship led by clergy and members of the parish church

Tuesday – Whole School Worship focusing on a British Value and other World Views, within the Value of the week

Wednesday – Whole School Worship focusing on Value of the week.

Thursday – Whole School Worship focusing on Value of the week

Friday – Whole School Worship / Family Celebration Worship, celebrating our Value of the week, seen in children through their actions and voices (parents invited to half-termly SuperStar celebrations, celebrating demonstration of Values over time).

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through our worship leaders. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of collective worship. They are also involved in the reflection of worship. The Standards & Distinctiveness Committee monitor collective worship through their membership of the Governing Body

### **Staff development and training**

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. This training is bespoke and through the programme of development through the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education PSA commitment.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

- Collective worship is monitored on an on-going basis
- Who is involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship e.g. children, staff, link/foundation governors, clergy
- Evidence to show how the monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time

### **Disseminating the policy**

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

### **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 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 of School.