



St. Michael's CE  
Primary School



Diocese of Salisbury  
Academy Trust  
*'Beyond expectations for all of God's children'*

**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

Policy Date: September 2024

Review Date: September 2025

We believe worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Worship at St Michael's School is a celebration intended to promote awe and wonder and a love of God. We aim to develop spiritual insights and beliefs, encourage concern for others locally and in the wider world, and to assist children in their own search for meaning and purpose in life. Worship at St Michael's is in accordance with the trust deed of the school and in line with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

### **Our Expectations for Collective Worship at St Michael's are to:**

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God and celebrate each unique individual made in the image of God
- enable children to explore their own beliefs, allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of concern and value to all
- encourage participation and response with opportunities to celebrate and give thanks for different achievements and special occasions including festivals
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God, experience stillness and quiet, understand and respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation
- develop in children a sense of community spirit, promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes
- contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children and foster a concern for the needs of others
- help children begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship providing a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

### **Planning and Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship, usually led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or class teacher. This can be whole-school, key-stage or sometimes as a class. A representative from St Michael's church or from different local churches also leads worship throughout the term. In addition there are also special services throughout the year including, Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day.

We conduct Collective Worship in an engaging and respectful way; a time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time to come together and to expect children to behave in a certain way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate within the worship. We create an atmosphere by using music, sometimes with candles or other visual stimuli, to focus the attention of the children.

Children will be encouraged to contribute to and take responsibilities in leading collective worship. Adults should plan for this. We observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. We plan on an annual basis using our own Values and supported by Roots and Fruits to promote the teaching of Christian values; The Worship coordinator discusses with the church and visitors, the term's themes and provides a timetable, usually based around the identified value.

Our Whole School assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate by sharing their learning with others, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Whole school assemblies provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school and also plays an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, unique and special.

### **Classroom Prayers**

Children have weekly focus linked to their world/school value

Opportunity to share

Use of prayer symbol (cross or stone to pass around circle)

Can say a prayer or consider in silence

### **Right of Withdrawal**

Every child at St Michael's has the opportunity to participate in such an act every day and we expect all children to attend assemblies. We seek to be an inclusive community and whilst we respect the right of parents to withdraw their child from Collective Worship we expect that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

### **Responsibility and Experiences**

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. At St Michael's Primary School the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship is delegated to the collective worship co-ordinator who plans the themes, invites and liaises with visiting speakers.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Headteacher and the worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

## **Evaluation**

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator, the Headteacher and governor(s), including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators.

## **Review**

The Headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every *two* years. A worship planning is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

## **Conclusion**

At St Michael's CE VA Primary School, Collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high-quality acts of worship. Worship can contain many elements but we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.