



## St Michael's CE VA Primary School Collective Worship Policy

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**

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship. We hold a daily act of collective worship for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law (see below).

Worship is usually led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or a member of the teaching staff. This can be a whole-school assembly, key stage assembly or a class assembly.

"The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups." *The School Standards and Framework Act 1998*

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 a half termly basis using Values for Life, a Diocesan resource, to promote the teaching of Christian values; The Worship coordinator discusses with the church the termly themes and provides a timetable, usually based around the identified value.

The pattern of worship each week is broadly:

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|-----------|--|
| Monday    | - Whole school led by Headteacher or senior staff              |
| Tuesday   | - Classroom Prayers  |
| Wednesday | - 'Open the Book' for the whole school led by church community |
| Thursday  | - Whole school led by Teacher                                  |

Friday - Whole school 'Celebration Worship' led by Headteacher

Representatives from St Michael's church lead 'Open the Book' once a week with the whole school. In addition there are special services throughout the year including Harvest, Christingle, Carols, Mothering Sunday and Easter. There are special class assemblies led by the children once a term to which their parents are invited. Year 6, who transfer to secondary schools at the end of the year, lead a special leaver's service at the end of the summer term. Parents, governors and members of the school community are welcome to attend.

Twice a term clergy hold a Communion Service for all Key Stage 2 pupils. Year 6 children help to lead the service.

On different occasions other visitors may lead collective worship such as representatives of different organisations or charities, such as Christian Aid. They are given guidance, usually by the head teacher, of the appropriate content and recommended length of the Worship.

Our 'Celebrations' 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. 'Celebrations' 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  
- 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.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

In VA schools teachers, including the head teacher, do not have the right of withdrawal.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in the staff room on the shelves. A resource trolley in the hall contains prayer cards and music. Periodically the school is able to apply to the Bishop Wordsworth Trust for extra funding for Collective worship resources.

### **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 and keeps a record of the content of each act of collective worship. The governor-led Christian Ethos Group supports the Headteacher and worship co-ordinator in monitoring and evaluating acts of collective worship.

## **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

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings by the Collective Worship Coordinator which will review collective worship which will be held regularly. In St Michael's VA Primary School this will occur on a termly cycle.

### **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 foundation governor(s), including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at **least annually** as detailed in the Christian Ethos Group review cycle and Action Plan.

### **Review**

The Headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every *two* years. A worship planning and record sheet 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.

### **Signature and date:**

Date Approved by the Governing Body: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

Signed by: P Brock

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

Next review date: March 2017