



St. Michael's C of E VA Primary School

As a Church School we seek to ensure that the ethos and principles of Christianity underpin the experiences of the children in our care.

"St. Michael's is an inclusive school and respects and values the diversity of the Community".

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted at St. Michael's school : March 2018

Date for next review by Curriculum Committee: March 2020

Signed:.....Date.....

ST. MICHAELS' CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Policy Statement

At St. Michael's School, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our core values.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, Church Clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify the values of:

Year A	
Autumn term 1	Friendship
Autumn term 2	Peace
Spring term 1	Responsibility
Spring term 2	Perseverance
Summer term 1	Respect
Summer term 2	Wisdom

Year B	
Autumn term 1	Love
Autumn term 2	Humility
Spring term 1	Forgiveness
Spring term 2	Justice
Summer term 1	Trust
Summer term 2	Hope

These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

"... love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and academically so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought. (See Appendix 1 – our Values).

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday:

Top & Lower school worship with a values theme, led by the Headteacher.

Tuesday:

Values worship with a focus on singing. Top School in the hall and lower school at lower school.

Wednesday:

Whole school worship in Church in the morning led by a member of the local Clergy.

Thursday:

Worship held in individual classrooms. The assemblies for children in Lower School are led by the class teachers on a rota basis.

Friday:

Whole School Worship led by the Headteacher. These assemblies are linked to our PSHE scheme, as well as our current value. Once every term each class leads a Sharing Assembly when parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship, including collective worship group and the local Children's Church.

The assembly/worship should last approximately 15-20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for **Monday's** collective worship reflect the current value, Church calendar and current events. The worship begins with the children entering the hall/room accompanied by a piece of music for the week. The candle is lit and the

worship begins with the children singing a hymn. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer. The children then lead out as music is played.

Tuesday's collective worship includes the lighting of the candle to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of values. The children also learn/practice the week's hymns for collective worship in Church. The session ends with a time for reflection and a prayer before the candle is blown out and messages are given. The children leave in the same way as before.

The Church Collective Worship on **Wednesdays** involves the children in Year 6 greeting at the church door, taking a collection as everyone enters the church, lighting the candles and distributing hymn books or song sheets. Each week a different class is responsible for writing and reading a prayer relating to the current liturgical theme or school Christian value. Any notifications are given out after the Blessing and when the candles have been blown out. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. A member of the clergy takes this Collective Worship each week.

Thursday's Collective Worship in the classrooms is led and run by the class teacher. Each week a different group of children plans the assembly following the liturgical theme. This includes a Bible reading, a hymn, a time for reflection and a prayer. A similar format is followed in Lower School and by Cats class, with the teachers leading the worship.

Friday's worship takes the form of a sharing assembly and focuses on PHSE. Once a term the parents from each class are invited to join the children to watch their sharing assembly. This assembly concludes with a celebration of children's achievements, both in and outside school, led by the Headteacher.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, extempore prayers, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Headteacher, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle. A cross is also displayed in the Hall.

At the beginning of the lunch hour and at the end of each school day a prayer is chosen by each class from their prayer book and read by a child in the class.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Any evaluation will be recorded here. Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St. Michael's School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St. Michael's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

- Children may be withdrawn from collective worship at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.
- In line with the Hertfordshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education's Guidance on Collective Worship, the role of Link Governor for R.E. has been created on the governing body. The R.E. subject leader and Link Governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the Co-ordinator and the Governing Body.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Appendix 1 - Values and Definitions

Forgiveness:

to lose feelings of resentment and show mercy towards others when they have offended you by word or deed.

Friendship:

a mutually supportive relationship with another person; a bond of mutual affection.

Hope:

a positive feeling of expectation and the desire for something to happen.

Love:

a feeling of deep affection; a great interest or pleasure in something.

Peace:

getting along with other people; having positive thoughts about oneself and others; freedom from disturbance.

Perseverance:

working to complete a task regardless of how long it takes; seeing a job through to the end.

Respect:

a feeling of regard for the qualities and achievements of oneself and others; a caring and appreciative attitude towards the world in general.

Responsibility:

the ability to act and make appropriate and sensible decisions; taking care of oneself and one's property; abiding by commitments; recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

Service:

the Christian belief in Jesus as the 'servant king' and how he showed the importance of serving God; working to show appreciation and gratitude to those who help us in school and the wider community.

Thankfulness:

the belief that God loves and cares for us in many different ways; that we should be thankful for this provision; to appreciate all that we have and be grateful.

Trust:

a belief in the honesty, reliability and strength of another person; the acceptance of a statement not backed up by evidence; reliance on someone or something.

Wisdom:

the Christian belief that wisdom comes from God; that wisdom is a gift from God and a characteristic of God, to act responsibly and think about the wisdom of our words and actions; the importance of making sensible and wise choices though being thoughtful; reflecting on what is of real value in life.