



**Love Life
Love Learning
Grow in Faith**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'
Matthew 18:20

There will be a daily Act of Worship for all pupils in accordance with the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act.

As a Church of England Aided school we will reflect the tradition of the Church of England and in accordance with the Trust Deeds of the school Worship will be wholly Christian in character.

The timing and groupings for Collective Worship will vary in accordance to the needs of this school.

'Worship is a sacred time of experiencing & praising God in which we:

- Assemble in God's name
- Proclaim God's word
- Give thanks to God
- Go in God's name

A time of special remembering: a way of bringing both the Christian community's experiences of God from the past and God's promised future into our present experience through memory, imagination and meaning.'

Young Children & Worship – Stewart & Berryman 1989

Aims

1. To foster the attitude that worship of God is an important and relevant part of school life.
2. To create an atmosphere in which those who wish to worship can do so.
3. To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing the children together.
4. To value and nurture our spirituality and encourage a reflective approach to life.

5. To increase sensitivity so that the children become more aware of the search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries. (*allows children to make meaning & order in their lives by bringing their own experience into dialogue with Biblical stories & truths – Stewart & Berryman 1989*)
6. To introduce the children to aspects of Christian worship and Biblical truth in an open and honest atmosphere.
7. To provide an opportunity to celebrate achievement, special occasions, and express thankfulness.
8. To make time for sharing common concerns and responsibilities.
9. To provide occasionally a context within which we can be joined by members of the wider community.

Presentation

Consideration will be given to the language used when conducting worship. Inclusive language such as "we believe that" or "we will all pray" will be avoided. Children will be asked instead to reflect on Christian beliefs and be given opportunities to respond in their own way. However, within prayer inclusive language may be used (as prayer is something children have choice in making their own).

A variety of activities will be offered to children to enable all of them to contribute and from which all can gain, no matter what their personal commitment or life-stance. Such activities will include:

- Exploration of religious ideas
- Developing sense of transcendence/mystery
- Responding to challenge
- Pondering ultimate questions
- Reflection on the meaning and purpose of life
- Celebration
- Learning from the experience of others.

These and others will be offered through:

- Biblical and Secular stories
- Creative Silence
- Readings
- Singing - songs/hymns
- Drama/mime
- Artefacts & natural materials
- Prayer (Lord's Prayer will be included regularly)
- Listening to music
- Discussion
- Poetry
- Teaching.

Themes

We recognise that personal integrity is the most important element when planning for Worship. All take responsibility for ensuring that themes are developed in a broad and balanced way. A cycle has been developed with each half term covering seasonal set dates, bible themes, different prayer aspects and general themes. (see appendix 1). The adults leading worship decide who is covering what.

Leaders

The Headteacher will lead one Worship session, the deputy head and Mr Southey one per week, Malcolm Handley will lead one per week and Rev Raaf will lead one every other week and input into Good Work. Other teaching staff may lead occasional worships.

Other visitors will be asked to contribute to this programme.

Timings

Worship will mainly take place at the beginning of the day with the exception of Friday's when Good Work Celebration and Thanksgiving completes the school week (parents are invited to join the celebration). There are regular acts of worship at St Michael's which include: Welcome Service, Christmas Service, Easter Service, Leavers Service to which parents are invited.

Worship is timetabled for 15 minutes per day. We believe it enhances the delivery of R.E. and PSHE in the school through the stories, discussion and music that are used.

Monitoring

The ½ termly sheets will be monitored yearly by the Head Teacher to ensure adherence to this policy. The policy will be reviewed by the Strategic Development Committee of the Governing Body. This review will take account of evaluations from the teaching staff and any findings from Governors visits and the school council.

We acknowledge that the act of bringing children together to experience stillness, peace, awe, wonder, mystery, celebration, reverence and belonging are of central importance in promoting spiritual, moral, cultural and social development.

Parental rights of Withdrawal

Request may be made for children to be withdrawn from collective worship.

Next review date: Aut 2020