

St Michael's Church of England High School

Building on the foundation of Luke 2:52, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature," students and staff grow spiritually, personally and academically as Christ did. By embodying our Christian values of Love, Peace, Forgiveness, Courage and Equality, we flourish in a caring Christian community enabling achievement for all God's children.

'Jesus grew in wisdom and stature.' (Luke 2:52)



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed by the Governors: April 2023

We will ensure that each individual is valued and achieves success within a caring Christian community. This policy is intended to reflect the Christian values held by the school, its Governors, staff and students and should be considered in the light of this. We intend that this policy, when put into practice day by day, will be another way in which the St Michael's family demonstrate our core Christian values.

Collective Worship at St Michael's:

St Michael's CE High School is a Church of England Academy. Collective Worship is therefore an important part of the school day that should reflect the broad traditions of Christian beliefs and give us the opportunity to come together as a school community to contribute to the spiritual development of students and staff.

Collective Worship is a huge part of fulfilling our Christian vision, in enabling all students and staff to flourish spiritually and personally, in wisdom and stature, as Christ did:

- ***Building on the foundation of Luke 2:52, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature," students and staff grow spiritually, personally and academically as Christ did. By embodying our Christian values of Love, Peace, Forgiveness, Courage and Equality, we flourish in a caring Christian community enabling achievement for all God's children.***

All acts of worship are to be driven by our Christian vision and reflect the Anglican status of the school. We share the Church of England's heart for Collective Worship to be **inclusive**, **invitational**, and **inspiring**, so that everyone in our school community—whether students, staff, parents/carers, whatever their beliefs or background—feel welcome to enter into a warm and inspiring experience of Christian faith.

In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place to celebrate key events in the school and the church calendar.

Collective Worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, and evaluation.

Aims of Collective Worship:

It is our aim at St Michael's CofE High School that Collective Worship should:

- Reflect and be driven by the Christian vision of the school, allowing all present to grow in wisdom and stature, just as Jesus did
- Offer opportunities to worship God
- Be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all present
- Experience traditional forms of Anglican worship
- Use Bible teachings to develop individual spirituality
- Be clearly planned
- Be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- Offer opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- Be regularly monitored and evaluated
- Underpin Christian values
- Celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- Be an opportunity for all present to reflect on human existence

- Help all present explore and develop their own spirituality
- Enable all present to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- Inspire and challenge all present to consider how we can each grow in our character and grow closer to God as individuals and a community
- Create an environment that is conducive for worship
- Offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- Allow students and staff time to share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- Show appreciation for the God-given gifts and talents of the school community
- Offer students time for silent reflection
- Develop understanding and tolerance for the beliefs of others.

Planning of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is coordinated by the School Chaplain who gives additional support to teaching staff and students when planning worship. Collective Worship is planned and delivered by staff and students right across our school family, with most of our worship being delivered by our students; either by form class or by Worship Leaders:

- Form classes across the school take it in turns to prepare worship with their form tutor to then deliver to each year group throughout the week.
- Worship Leaders are student volunteers, with each form class having at least one. As well as helping form tutors to lead morning form-time worship, they also help create and deliver Collective Worship and whole-school church services in Houses, and act as role models within the school and uphold our Christian values. Worship Leaders are given yearly training by our Chaplain on the role and purpose of Collective Worship at St Michael's.

Each Collective Worship centres around the theme of the week, which itself is linked to one of our 5 Christian Values; Love, Courage, Peace, Forgiveness, Equality. Themes for worship are published at the beginning of the year, and are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective, meaning students have the opportunity to reflect on the themes from a variety of viewpoints.

The following can be included in planning Collective Worship:

- Formal Anglican welcome ("The Lord be with you... and also with you")
- Bible readings and stories
- Opening and closing prayers
- Real-life stories
- Acted-out dramas
- Videos
- Songs
- Quiet times of reflection
- Visual illustrations and interactive object lessons

- Challenge for the week ahead

As well as our students taking a leading role, Collective Worship is often led by our Chaplain, as well as members of our Senior Leadership Team, our Learning Mentor Team, and guest speakers, such as our local reverend.

Worship at St Michael's is not only for our students. All our staff members are invited to come along to any of our Collective Worship assemblies and events.

All students are given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of different worship. We have a group of students who take on the role of Worship Leaders who support worship and take a lead in delivery.

Implementations of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship acts are attended by all students and staff, and any visitors in school are very welcome to join. Collective Worship within St Michael's CE High School takes on a number of forms:

Year Group Worship

- Each year group will participate in a Collective Worship each week, lasting the duration of form time. Collective Worship is seen as distinct from other forms of assembly where announcements or administration matters are delivered to students. This worship will be primarily delivered by form classes, as well as by the School Chaplain, Senior Leadership, and visitors on a rota system.

Form Time Worship

- Throughout the rest of the week, students will participate in worship in form time:
 - **Values Development** – A weekly session led by form tutors which tie in to the theme of the week, allowing students to dive deeper into the theme explored in that week's Collective Worship assembly. Each session begins and ends with the form tutor or form's Worship Leader reading a prayer centered around that week's theme. Following this the form will watch a 'Thought Bubble' video, created by our Chaplain. Students then open up their Worship Booklet, a personal journal which allow students to reflect and develop their ideas and personal understanding about each week's theme.
 - **Daily Worship** – When not in a Collective Worship assembly or Values Development sessions, forms participate in Daily Worship in form time. On each of these mornings students will quietly listen to a contemporary Christian worship song or a traditional Christian hymn, and then be posed with questions for reflection, each drawn from the song's lyrics. After some time of quiet reflection, a closing prayer is read.

Whole School Worship

- During the school year, two whole-school church services take place at Christmas and Easter at the local parish, St Michael's Blundellsands. These services help reflect the Anglican traditions and allow all students and staff to celebrate. These are planned and delivered by the School Chaplain and Worship Leaders.
- Additional services may occur throughout the year, either held in the school or church. These include, but are not restricted, to the following: Values Services, Welcome & Leavers Services, Communion and Agape Meals, Remembrance Day Service, Holocaust Memorial Day and Memorial Services.

Evaluation of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship is discussed at termly Ethos Committee meetings, where staff and governors help evaluate and monitor the role it has within school. Through these meetings we seek to review and enhance our effectiveness in allowing all in our school family to grow in wisdom and stature through all aspects of Collective Worship.

We also seek to encourage students to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. To this end, we conduct both brief student evaluations with form classes, and in-depth evaluations with the whole school.

For the form class evaluations, one of our five houses is selected each half term, and all five forms within that house will be asked to fill in a short response form regarding the worship they experienced that week. These short evaluations help us to assess the effectiveness of Collective Worship.

For these annual whole-school evaluations, every student and form tutor will fill in a lengthier questionnaire regarding Collective Worship as a whole. These longer evaluations help us to assess our practices and gauge the experiences of students and of staff in order to help us further develop engaging and meaningful worship.

Statutory Requirement:

Collective Worship at St Michael's CE High School complies with legal requirements set out in the 1988 Education Reform Act, and is guided by the Church of England's *Collective Worship Guidance* and *Vision for Education*, which states:

"We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives... Collective Worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this."

This commitment is reflected at St Michael's as we strive for Collective Worship to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring, allowing all in our school community to grow in wisdom and stature, as Jesus did.

Right of Withdrawal:

At St Michael's CE High School we seek to be an inclusive community, and therefore we respect the right of parents / carers to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. We expect that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Executive Headteacher/worship coordinator, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.