



Mission Statement

St John with St Michael CE



‘Live, Love, Learn and Pray’

At St John with St Michael CE Primary school

We aim to promote the physical, mental, moral and spiritual development of the children in the light of the Christian Gospel.

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship in a Church School should be of the highest quality, strongly reflect the school’s distinctive Christian character and permeate throughout the whole life of the school.

Collective Worship Mission Statement

Within the context of this Church School, Collective Worship will have a distinctive Christian nature and will contribute to the ethos and spiritual dimensions of school life. Through doing this the children will develop their creative thinking and will have the opportunity to grow as a spiritual human being. We pride ourselves upon our strong Christian ethos which underpins all that we do.

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” Psalm 150v6

Responsibility

In Voluntary Aided Schools the management of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the governors and headteacher. Collective Worship has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England and/or Methodist Church. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in its school. At St John with St Michael CE primary school we have a varied range of approaches to worship whilst we remain true to our Trust

Collective worship policy.

Deeds and as well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Although Collective Worship and RE naturally compliment each other and enrich one another they should be managed separately and Collective Worship does not form any part of the time allocation for RE. It is also important to highlight that though worship is not designated as a curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. The core value in collective worship are taken from the 'Values of Life' in primary schools folder.

Content

St John with St Michael CE primary school Collective Worship uses distinctively Christian foundations as content for our Collective Worship and a school Liturgy is followed during this time on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and it is included in the celebration assembly each Friday. The core values used in school include: Compassion, courage, creativity, trust, forgiveness, generosity, justice, thankfulness, friendship, hope, truthfulness, respect and reverence, tolerance, self-sacrifice, co-operation, integrity, conviction, humility, mercy, self-knowledge, responsibility, self-reliance, perseverance and consideration and wisdom.

The varied range of approaches used to worship includes:

Stories, readings, drama, music, poetry, art, dance, artefacts, reflective silence and prayer. Which ever approaches are used it is important to introduce children to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and them to explore these by recognising:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and forever forgiving
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity
- The importance of prayer
- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the Church year.

Organisation

Acts of Worship will be based upon chosen themes using the suggestions from the 'WOW Worship' support information and the 'Values for Life' support information. These will be used together with chosen school themes. This mixture of programmes provides the children with a varied content which we feel our children need together with the freedom to express our Christian belief. Within the programme staff are allocated times for their Act of Whole School Worship, they are given a specific theme within that which also incorporate the core values. Special Saint days will also be observed within the programme. This allocation is made by the Collective Worship co-ordinator. The approximate length of Collective Worship will last between 15-20 minutes. We aim to create a worshipful atmosphere by playing music on

Collective worship policy.

entry and exit and sustain this atmosphere by lighting a candle to represent Jesus being with us 'as the light of the world'. Collective worship will also take place around the use of Christian symbols e.g. cross and Christian school values, signs and artefacts.

It is expected that every class teacher will lead at least one Whole School Act of Collective Worship each term. The school Vicar will also conduct a Whole school Collective worship session each term as well as conducting a Whole school Eucharist service. Other links are with the Methodist ministers who also visit the school at least once every half term to conduct a collective worship activity.

Each class will lead the school in a special class assembly where they celebrate and show the work they have been doing to which parents are welcome to attend each academic year. There is a Celebration assembly every 1st Monday of each month to celebrate work and parents are also invited to this assembly. The school Liturgy is also read as part of this assembly.

In addition to the above, class worship and reflection time will also take place where class teachers can lead worship in class, around a school value or theme appropriate to their class every Thursday alternate with Hymn practice. There is a worship/ reflection corner available for the children to use in every class.

Links with our local Church

St John with St Michael CE has a close link with, and use of, the local Church and relationship with the Vicar and Church community. We will meet in Church at least once a term for Collective Worship and any additional time depending on the Church calendar e.g. Harvest.

Lighthouse Methodist Church – an Act of informal Worship takes place around important events or Christian festivals e.g. Christmas, Easter etc. The children visit the local Methodist church for a workshop experience during festival times and spend more time reflecting and developing their thoughts about God.

The aims of Collective Worship at St John with St Michael CE primary are:

- To *explore* and question a relationship with God, explore and question the teachings of the Bible, prayer and the school Christian Values. *Explore* what and how people worship and what it means to have faith.
- To *encounter* Christianity in action, the nature of God as revealed in Jesus, creative silence, the awe and wonder of God's creation and a relationship with God.
- To *experience* the joy and celebration of God's love. Encourage and develop children in leading worship.
- Collective worship should be an enriching experience for everyone in the school.
- Collective worship should enhance an individual's spiritual journey and relationships with God.

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- Collective worship should give everyone a sense of the ‘overtures’ of God’s love.

Children’s Participation

At St John with St Michael CE, we believe that children should be active participants in collective worship. Their involvement may include:-

- Preparing the hall for worship
- Question and answer time
- A time for private prayer and reflection and developing knowledge and understanding of the bible
- Involvement in class assemblies
- Pupil development and contribution to whole school celebration assembly

Community Involvement

We hope that the collective worship at St John with St Michael CE helps in nurturing links between school, home, parish and the local community. Parents and friends of the school are invited for celebration assemblies and Church services. Members of the parish church form close links with the school and are members of the school governing body. The school also attends events at the Civic hall with the Mayor and other ‘churches together’ community members, Remembrance Day services and other local events.

Cross curricular links

Collective worship themes are linked closely with the curriculum and are embedded across many topics that we plan and deliver at St John with St Michael CE primary. It reflects and shapes the core values and contributions to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Issues concerning citizenship and care in our environment are also considered.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

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It is the role of Collective Worship co-ordinator in managing Collective Worship. Each term the co-ordinator will give staff a time table showing a plan of Worship sessions, the themes they will be covering and who will be leading them. The co-ordinator will liaise with the church and develop links for home, school and community. Provision will be given for staff development for the co-ordinator and other staff members for Collective Worship. The SLT team, Governors and Vicar will monitor at least once a term.

Resources

The Collective Worship resources have been developed and are continually monitored to reflect the importance of worship in the school. The school uses the Manchester Diocese Scheme of work, 'WOW worship' documents, 'Values for Life' worship scheme and 'A teachers dozen' scheme of work. Staff can also use a wider range of sources when planning collective worship sessions.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessment takes the form of the Manchester Diocesan assessment pro forma and children evaluate their own work through talk partners and self evaluation sheets.

Withdrawal

Children – parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship in our school. However, as this is in accordance with our Church of England Foundation and this in turn is reflected in our curriculum and whole life of the school community, removal from Collective Worship will not insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

Staff – if staff wishes to be excused from attending Collective Worship on the grounds of their religious opinion or practice they should inform governors, in writing, as to their reasons.

“You are the light of the World. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven. ” Matthew 5v14-16

Appendix 1

Questions about Collective Worship for the Staff and Governing Body

- Is there a clear policy document for Collective Worship?
- Does the school policy relate to the school's Ethos and/or Mission Statement?
- Is the policy for Collective Worship being followed?
- How is the worship organised?
- Does the school have a named person responsible for Collective Worship alongside the Head Teacher?
- Is there a governor with responsibility for Collective Worship?
- Does the school prospectus clearly reflect the legal position of Collective Worship?
- Does the school prospectus refer to the school's Trust Deed?
- Does the prospectus and other school documentation reflect the value that the school and the governing body place on Collective Worship?
- Is the Collective Worship clearly planned?
- Is there a budget set aside for Collective Worship?
- Is the worship professionally resourced?
- Have staff received in-service training on Collective Worship?
- Does the Collective Worship offered in the school underpin the school's Christian ethos?
- Is the Collective Worship provided underpinned by Christian values?
- Is the Collective Worship regularly monitored and evaluated?
- Does the worship take place in a variety of groupings?
- Are staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are support staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are there opportunities for governors and parents to be present for worship?
- Are there opportunities for individual class worship within the classrooms?
- Does the pattern of worship reflect the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage?
- Does the worship allow the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition?



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- Does the quality and provision of Collective Worship offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual development?
- Does the worship offer opportunities for pupils' cultural and multi-cultural development?
- Does the worship give opportunities for the pupils to explore the worldwide Christian Church?
- Does the worship provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God?
- Does the worship take place in an environment conducive to worship?
- Does the worship offer pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death?
- Does the worship provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them?
- Does the worship provide experiences that are relevant to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds?
- Does the worship give time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space?
- Does the worship link into other areas of the school curriculum e.g. PSHE and circle time?
- Do the classrooms have a 'sacred space' or a table set aside with a cloth and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection?
- Have the school considered other vehicles for prayer and reflection e.g. an anonymous prayer box?
- Are pupils, governors, clergy or other visitors involved in leading Collective Worship?
- Does the governing body provide guidance for visitors who lead worship?
- Does the school celebrate the Eucharist?
- Has the governing body discussed the possibility of a school Eucharist?
- Are there regular acts of worship for staff, including a Eucharist?
- Does the school have any links with other Christian denominations?
- Does the worship celebrate all that is good and express thankfulness and joy at simply being alive?

Appendix 2

Pupil Questionnaire for the Evaluation of Collective Worship

Is the length of our worship: About right/ Too long/ Too short

Which things do you like best in worship?

Stories/Drama/Dance/Poems/Prayers written by pupils/Prayers written by adults/Opportunities for spontaneous prayer/Music/Singing/Quiet time/Don't mind

Why?

Which type of worship do you like best?

Whole school/Key Stage/Year Group/Class worship/Having a visitor/Going to church

Why?

Do you like it best when?

Adults lead worship/Children lead worship/A visitor leads worship/The priest/vicar leads worship/There is a mixture of leaders (pupils and adults)

If you were able to change our worship what would you do?

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What time of day should we have worship?

First thing in the morning/Later in the morning/Early in the afternoon/Last thing in the afternoon/Different times on different days

Is there anything else you would like to say?

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Appendix 3
School Acts of Worship Record



Theme:

Hymns & Music	
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Evaluation – Adults & Children

School Acts of Worship Record

Theme:

Collective worship policy.

Hymns & Music	
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Evaluation – Adults & Children
