



## 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

At St John with St Michael our collective worship enables our children to explore who God is and his central purpose within each of our lives. Therefore it is not ultimately defined by particular rituals or liturgy (although these will be used) Instead, it will be a diverse exploration, sometimes loud and celebratory, at other times quiet and contemplative.

### 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.

*"Praise the Lord, all living creatures!" Psalm 150 v6*

## **Responsibility**

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The management of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the Governors and head teacher and is seen as an essential part of all pupils' education.

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

*"Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer." Hebrews 10: 24-25*

Although Collective Worship and RE naturally complement each other and enrich one another, Collective Worship does not form any part of the time allocation for RE. The worship and prayer life of our school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally and at the end of the day as well as graces before lunch.

## **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 and Wednesday and is included in our weekly song practices and celebration assembly each Friday. The core value in collective worship is taken from our school core values and the 'Values of Life' in primary schools folder.

The core values used in school are: Creativity, friendship, compassion, resilience and respect, with other Christian values being used as themes throughout the year.

The varied range of approaches used to worship includes:

Stories, readings, drama, music, poetry, art, dance, artefacts, reflective silence and prayer. Whichever 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 entry and exit and sustain this atmosphere by lighting candles 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. the 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 half term. A local minister, linked to either our church or the local Methodist church, will also conduct a whole school collective worship session each month. Whole school Eucharist services will be held when a minister is available.

Each class will lead the school in a special class assembly during an academic year where they celebrate and show the work they have been doing. Parents are welcome to attend these assemblies and also our Celebration assemblies, held every Friday to celebrate good work. Once a week our collective worship is in the form of song practice with children learning and rehearsing songs that link with celebrations in the Christian year and our core values.

In addition to the above, class worship and reflection time will also take place on a Thursday where class teachers can lead worship in class, around a school value or theme appropriate to their class. This includes a

'Newsround' where children keep updated with current affairs. 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 clergy and Church community. We meet in Church at least once a term for Collective Worship and any additional time depending on the Church calendar e.g. Harvest.

We also have links with the minister from Thrum Hall Methodist Church who comes into school to lead collective worship monthly and hold prayer breakfasts for the staff.

### **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.
- 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 Big Story of the Bible
- Involvement in class assemblies
- Pupil development and contribution to whole school celebration assembly

An ethos group has been set up with the aim of empowering pupil voice and helping to instil our values throughout the school community.

### **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, class assemblies and Church services, including Church in school. 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 community members, hosts Whitworth schools' Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph and supports 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**

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 wish 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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Collective worship policy.

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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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Collective worship policy.

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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?**

**Appendix 3**  
**School Acts of Worship Record**



**Theme:**



Hymns & Music	
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Evaluation – Adults & Children
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**School Acts of Worship Record**

**Theme:**

Hymns & Music	
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Collective worship policy.

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Evaluation – Adults & Children

Reviewed November 2018