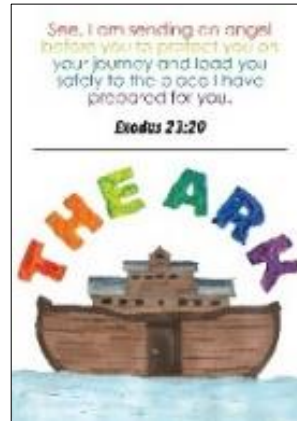


# St Michael's CE (A)



# Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

*The Lord says, 'For I know the plans for you...plans to give you hope and a future.'*

*Jeremiah 29 verse 11*

**Date Approved:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Review date:** October 2025

**Signed:** *Linda Guest* (Chair of Curriculum and School Improvement Committee)

# **St. Michael's CE (A) Primary School Collective Worship Policy**

**Worship is...**

***Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.  
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,  
thanksgiving and adoration to God.***

***It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.***

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of St. Michael's CE (A) Primary School. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS September 2021). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience/participate in/take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with St. Michael and All Angels' Church. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion and this is underpinned by the Church of England's Vision for Education – *Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good*, a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, but sets them in a wider framework.

## **School Vision, Motto, Values and Mission Statement**

### **VISION**

***The Lord says, 'For I know the plans I have for you .... plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29 verse 11***

As an inclusive Christian school, St Michael's Church of England (Aided) Primary School values everyone as a child of God and rejoices in its diversity. Our vision is to provide a happy, loving and nurturing environment where all have the confidence to make outstanding progress and so expand and fulfil their hopes and aspirations. Our inspiring, enriched curriculum promotes a thirst for knowledge and develops wisdom.

### **MOTTO**

**Learning to Love – Loving to Learn**

***'I give you a new command; love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.' John 13 v 34***

We believe the 4 key values which characterise our school are

### **FAITH**

The love of God revealed in Jesus Christ shapes the life of our school. We value and respect the diverse cultures and faiths represented by our school and wider community. We encourage pupils to share their experiences of faith and culture for the benefit of all.



***'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3 verse 16***

### **JOY**

We rejoice in our rich and vibrant community. We are committed to a creative, high-quality curriculum which is broad and balanced and embraces pupils' diverse backgrounds, interests and abilities.

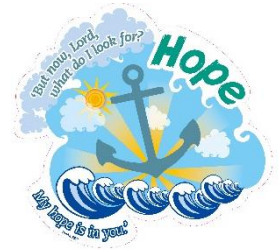


***'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!' Philippians 4 verse 4***

## HOPE

The hope revealed through Jesus Christ inspires us, as we equip pupils with the skills, passion and resilience, to achieve goals, giving them confidence as they journey through life.

*'But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.' Psalm 39 verse 7*



## LOVE

We encourage our pupils to love one another as God loves us. By practising forgiveness and reconciliation, we enable all to live well together and flourish. All at St Michael's play a prominent role in understanding their responsibility to care for the world we share.

*'Do everything in love.' 1 Corinthians 16 verse 14*



## MISSION STATEMENT

- We are fully inclusive and celebrate the rich diversity of the whole school community. We encourage every individual to thrive, tailoring care and support to the specific needs of individual children and their families.
- We work in partnership with our local church and diocese, and leaders ensure that the distinctly Christian vision is at the heart of all we do.
- We provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children to encourage a love of learning, enabling all to flourish and creating opportunities for children to be confidently curious.
- We give children the confidence to challenge social injustice and equality on a global scale, within a culture of encouragement, endurance and aspiration.
- We provide opportunities for children and adults to express their differing points of view in a safe, respectful environment where all opinions are valued but where prejudicial behaviours are challenged.
- We ensure collective worship is invitational, varied and interactive allowing all to develop spiritually.
- We ensure children flourish through the provision of high-quality religious education, which is seen as a core subject.
- We ensure the safeguarding of children is a priority for all adults involved with the school.

### Legal requirements:

#### **Trust Deed**

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

#### **DfES guidance**

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

#### **1988 Education Act**

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

*'.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school **shall in each school day** take part in an act of collective worship',*

And, that this should be,

***'.....mainly of a broadly Christian character'***

## **Worship and Assemblies**

Here at St. Michael's CE (A) Primary School we have an act of worship every day and a celebration assembly in order to celebrate pupils' achievements. This assembly is still regarded as an act of worship by lighting our candle at the beginning and through saying a prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupils' achievements and successes.

### **Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)**

All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA ), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, **the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision.** Here at St. Michael's CE (A) Primary School, this inspection will evaluate the school's collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

### **The right of withdrawal – see appendix**

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

### **Aims of worship**

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders which includes whole school and class worship.
- This can happen as a whole school body, class or key stage.

### **Worship should provide opportunities to:**

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both a normal and natural part of school life
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition. This is achieved through taught Eucharist, observation of it, taking part and receiving either Eucharist or a blessing and taught in RE lessons.

- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the school's Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

#### **Other opportunities that worship can offer are:**

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school routines
- share local school and community information

#### **Management of worship**

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship is the responsibility of the leader of RE and the Headteacher. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness. Their role is to follow school guidance of collective worship.

#### **Resourcing worship**

Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship in class and whole school, so that they have ownership of it. Class worship is led by pupils weekly, and the Spiritual Council are involved in leading worship at special identified events across each term.

#### **Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship**

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders' opinions are sought including pupils, teachers, governors, parents and the diocese. A yearly action plan which feeds into the school improvement plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

#### **Worship themes and current practice**

The worship themes for each week are based around a number of resources:

Anglican Lectionary, themes based on the school's Christian values, internet resources and other diocese worship plans.

Worship themes are planned in liaison with the children on the Spiritual Council and the Chaplaincy Team.

#### **APPENDICES**

1. Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship March 2017
2. Worship Programme - list of themes/content planned for the term/year
3. Names of those involved in the School's Spiritual Council (pupils)

## **Appendix 1: Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship March 2017**

### **Collective Worship**

The **1944 Education Act** gave the right to withdraw from RE or collective worship to parents who wished their children to receive different form of RE or worship. This right is also confirmed in section 71 of the ***School Standards and Framework Act 1998***. In the case of collective worship, the government guidance document is ***Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship***.

Collective worship in all Church of England schools and academies should honour the school's trust deed and Christian foundations. Worship is central to school life, offering an opportunity for the whole school community to explore the distinctive beliefs and narrative that underpins the school's Anglican foundations and distinctive Christian character. Worship is the responsibility of the governing body in conjunction with the headteacher, working in partnership with the staff and the local parish church.

Our Church of England schools should strive to ensure they are consistently excellent, distinctive, and inclusive, and that the whole curriculum is underpinned by Christian values. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum in all Church of England schools and academies. Its nature, objectives, and content should be shared with parents each term to ensure that parents are able to recognise that RE is of educational value to all pupils, whatever their belief background. In the same way, collective worship should lie at the heart of school life, proclaiming its distinctive character and faith in a way that is relevant, inclusive and that leads each pupil a little further in their spiritual journey. In this way, the likelihood for parental requests for withdrawal should be reduced. However, when they are made they must be handled accordingly to the legal guidance, while there is scope for a little realism and adaptability in order to ensure the best for every pupil.

In many of our schools within the Diocese of Lichfield, there is a large percentage of children whose families are members of another faith. It is the purpose and duty of every church school to be distinctive as a Church of England school. In each school, it is part of the mission of the church to welcome those of other faiths and no faith. In most cases, parents will have chosen the school for their child, making a specific choice of the school because of the ethos and education it offers. In a small number of cases, parents of other faiths will have been offered a place at a church school because no other school has a place for their child within a reasonable catchment area.

The right to withdraw from collective worship should be at the instigation of the parents or pupils above the age of 16.

### **The right of withdrawal from collective worship**

- The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed, the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.
- Experience suggests that, to avoid misunderstanding, a Headteacher will find it helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right to withdrawal:
  - the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
  - the practical implications of withdrawal; and
  - whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.
- Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to a particular faith or denomination, the governors and Headteacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:
  - such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school; and
  - that the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in **Section 1 of the 1988 Education Act. (Circular 1/94)**

## **Appendix 2: Current Worship Plan available on website**

## **Appendix 3: Spiritual Councillors**

12 pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 are part of the Spiritual Council. They represent a range of religions and no religion. They meet on a weekly basis before school. They are supported by Mrs Jackson and Miss Evanson.