

St. Michael's C of E Aided School



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Policy: *Collective Worship*

Issue Date	Review Date	Document Owner(s)	Nominated Governor
July 2014	July 2016	Ben Everitt	Kate Hart/Foundation

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school, in consultation with the Headteacher, collective worship co-ordinator and other members of staff.

Legal Requirements

St Michael's C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community.

As such it has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be "in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England".

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of Collective Worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Where needed, the school will set up a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from acts of worship. All staff are expected to attend acts of worship on a weekly basis.

Rationale

Our vision is for a school where a love for learning and an appreciation of the world will last our children a lifetime. At St. Michael's we aim to achieve this by creating a broad and rich learning experience, underpinned by Christian values. This enables each child to develop their curiosity and imagination, and gives them the skills to ask questions, solve problems and know where to find the answers.

Our goal is to ensure that the different needs of each child are met, and to enable every child to explore and expand their talents accordingly. We believe academic achievement and personal development are equally important, and a stimulating and happy learning environment fosters both. Furthermore, we aim to build confidence and a sense of responsibility in all our children, as well as nurturing the moral, ethical and spiritual values that will ensure they are able to make positive contributions both now and in later life.



Our commitment is to maintain a high quality of provision that serves both the children and the community beyond for many years to come. We consider a successful school to be an intrinsic part of our vibrant village community. A thriving St. Michael's, with a shared sense of pride and purpose, enriches us all.

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The Staff, Governors and PSA of St Michael's work together to provide a friendly and secure atmosphere, within which great emphasis is placed on the intellectual, emotional, social, physical and spiritual development of the children.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

Through the years, the school has served the whole Aldbourne community, and welcomes children of all faiths. It aims to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The caring values promoted throughout the school also reflect this commitment.

Aims of Collective Worship

At St. Michael's School Collective Worship aims to:

- Help pupils see worship as being relevant to everyday life
- Help pupils become more sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of God's world around them
- Help pupils to reflect upon their own existence and the puzzling questions which life poses
- Develop a sense of community, to celebrate its successes and an understanding of its importance
- Encounter various kinds of language and symbols used in Christian Worship
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them
- Give time for silent reflection
- Experience a variety of different forms of worship
- Invite (never coerce) a response from the children which is appropriate to the occasion.
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school

Organisation

Daily acts of worship occur for the whole school. Typically the format will be:

- Monday: Whole school collective worship, led by the Clergy
Tuesday: Class worship
Wednesday: Songs of Praise led by Headteacher
Thursday: Open the Book – followed by class reflection
Friday: Whole school celebration worship, with community invited.

Other Church services are planned celebrating Christian festivals within the Church year and other events in the school year. These are generally open to the whole community.

When appropriate, visitors may lead collective worship.

Planning

The school and Clergy work closely together in planning for Collective Worship. There is a shared theme for each week which is taken from a list of 'Christian Values'. The Christian Values are from various sources and linked very closely with each Open the Book Session. This same theme is then woven throughout the school's worship by :

- a central display in the school each week
- appropriate music being played before and after each worship
- songs linked to the weekly theme
- Open the Book with class time for reflection.

Opportunities are taken to use Collective Worship for:

- Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- Prayer and reflection
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observing the cycle of the Church year
- Celebrating children's achievements
- Sharing of stories, thoughts
- Enjoyment of visitors' skills or lifestyles

Resources

The school has a range of materials and artefacts to support the delivery of Collective Worship. The Lion Storyteller Bible and Open the Book Storybook are used within the school to support the teaching in Open the Book.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be monitored by the subject leader and include:

- Discussion at staff meetings
- Discussion with children and looking at their reflective diaries used in reflective class time after Open the Book.
- Discussion between Collective Worship co-ordinator and the R.E. governor
- Asking "Are the requirements of the law being met?"
- Attendance at worship by Foundation Governors when possible