



ST MICHAEL'S
C of E PRIMARY
HIGHGATE

Collective Worship Policy

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Responsible for this policy	Laurence Davenport, RE Lead

To nurture and inspire our children to develop a love of learning in a supportive Christian community and become the best they can be

Introduction

At St. Michael's School, we work within a Christian philosophy and positively promote our Christian ethos. We aim to provide the best possible education, to prepare and equip children for life in our multi-faith and multi-cultural world. We wish children to acquire a spirit of enquiry, positive attitudes, and a concern for others, within a caring community. Each child will be actively encouraged to develop his or her own capabilities to the full. We will recognise the worth and value of each child, and the importance of his or her self-esteem.

This is the vision for our community.

- As a Church of England Primary School worship plays an important part in the life of St. Michael's.
- School worship, in its many forms, is the place where the vision is celebrated and renewed each day.
- Worship is for the whole school community.
- Worship emphasises the uniqueness of the individual created and loved by God.
- Worship reflects our commitment to foster the spiritual development of every child.

A definition

School worship is the place where we acknowledge the infinitely larger world we inhabit and where we are touched however fleetingly, by its mystery and wonder.

(From Open the Door – National Society.)

Aims

Through our provision for worship we aim to give:

- Opportunities to worship God and to grow in the life of prayer
- Opportunities for thoughtful reflection on personal experience spiritual and moral issues and world events
- A space for children to grow in their own spirituality and to explore the transcendent
- An experience of Christian Worship
- A language of faith

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- Opportunities to celebrate and build community
- The opportunity for awe, wonder and discovery

A Pattern of Worship

Collective worship is held every day at 09.00.

Monday – whole school Collective Worship (Head Teacher)

Tuesday – EYFS/KS1 Collective Worship lead by Deputy head/KS2 Hymn Practice with Collective Worship prayer and reflection.

Wednesday – EYFS/KS1 Hymn Practice with Collective Worship prayer and reflection/KS2 Collective worship lead by Deputy head.

Thursday – Key Stage Collective worship lead by the clergy team: Fr. Kunle; Fr. Tim; sometimes a pastoral assistant from St. Michael's.

Friday – Whole school Family Assembly, sharing assembly or other significant event lead by Class, SLT or member of staff.

The Pathways team or visitor are planned and lead worship on different days of the week, at least once a term. Nikki from Pathways and David from Highgate URC lead these sessions.

Making Collective Worship Distinct

Collective worship is a distinct act of Christian worship separate from Other Faith, secular or PHSE themed 'assemblies'. We mark this distinction by 'bookmarking' prayer time with verbal, kinaesthetic and visual cues: We will say 'Let us pray', light a candle **directly before prayer**, and instruct children to put their hands together and bow their heads (or another culturally acceptable way to show prayer). At the end of the prayer we encourage the children to say 'Amen'.

Children take an active role in prayer and reflection by writing the prayers for the prayer tree. These are refreshed each half term and read out by the child who wrote the prayer. If a prayer is taken from another source, Biblical reflection or liturgical book, the printed prayer is used **in conjunction with**, and not instead of, the children's prayers.

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Planning of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned in collaboration with the clergy team and the Head Teacher following a weekly theme based on our Christian Values and follows the rhythm of the Church Calendar. The R.E. pupil team also contribute ideas that they feel will enhance Collective Worship.

During the course of the year we mark significant Christian festivals with worship at our Parish Church or at school:

- Michaelmas (Church)
- Harvest (School)
- Christmas – EYFS Nativity (KS1 Hall); KS1 Nativity (KS2 Hall); KS2 service (Church)
- Easter (Church)
- Leaver's Service (Church)

There are also special services at school for reflecting on Other Faiths, World Events and Celebrating and sharing community can add a deeper meaning to such activities as Black History Week, Anti-Bullying Week etc.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of Worship if they so wish. However, the Governors' Policy for admission states that St. Michael's is a Church of England Primary School and Worship is central to the life of the school and adds richness and meaning to our daily lives in school.

It is valuable to consider the statement from the National Society formed in 1811:

'The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England and the basic curriculum required by law in the school shall include religious education consistent with the faith of the Church of England' and 'Use should be made, within the provisions of the Education Acts for the time being in force, of the Parish Church or other Church of England place of worship, both for occasional acts of collective worship and for religious education.'

Resources

- Staff Inset.
- Visits to the Parish Church.
- Wide range of Collective Worship material is kept in the RE resources.
- Websites such as 'The assemblies website' and 'Christian Values'.
- SEAL assembly resources.

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- Guidance for Collective Worship document.
- Collective Worship rota.
- Emailed resources from Collective Worship lead teacher.