

**St Michael and All Angels CE VA School  
Collective Worship Policy**

**Our school vision rooted in scripture.**



***John 8:12 I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.***

We value the worth and potential of each person, enabling all to flourish and shine as lights in the world.

The whole school community will know the love of Christ.

A high quality, broad and balanced curriculum will ensure none walk in darkness.

When we let our light shine, we let the light of Jesus radiate from within us to transform lives and communities around us. When we let our light shine, we shape society with the peace, joy and compassion of Jesus and we can live "life in all it's fullness." (John 10:10)

## **1 - Introduction**

As a Church school we want to worship and we want our children to have the opportunity to learn to worship and to grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. Our policy reflects and reinforces the school's vision. Worship in our school is not simply a statutory duty. We believe that we and our children are made in the image of God and that worship is a vital factor in this image becoming more real and meaningful.

We believe that, at its heart, Collective Worship should provide opportunities for pupils and staff to come together, to sing and pray, to share and communicate their feelings with one another and to God. It should take them beyond themselves towards an encounter with the living God and should prove to be an exciting time for all of them. It reflects and explores the school's distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners and staff.

For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school, and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God. Therefore

the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response, it invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, in line with the national curriculum, we may, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. The original source of the material (story, song, text, information) is clearly stated, and then set in a Christian framework, and the connections with the Christian tradition are explored.

For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of *Eid ul Fitr*, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition.

## **2 - Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship as defined by the Education Reform Act 1988 are as follows:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs
- to encourage participation and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes

At St. Michael and All Angels' we aim to enable our school community to engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day.

## **3 - Legal Requirements**

We seek to comply with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that all registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on "each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship".

For Collective Worship, pupils can be grouped in numerous ways: as a whole school, according to age, or in groups (or a combination of groups) which the school uses at other times.

Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.

The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools are able to hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g., St Michael and All Angels Church) on special occasions.

Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a VA school rests with the Governors in consultation with the headteacher. Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed for "the purpose of securing, as far as is practicable, that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular, that the worship is conducted in accordance with the provisions of any trust deed relating thereto."

The headteacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

## **Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship.**

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the headteacher should be approached. The head teacher will then record this request and the Governing Body will be informed of the number of children withdrawn from Collective Worship.

### **4 - Anglican Faith and Practice**

In addition to the above, we seek to provide acts of Collective Worship that reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England therefore:

We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning and make pupils familiar with the Lord's Prayer, The Grace, psalms and other verses of scripture. We use God Great Plan and Roots and Fruits to create a framework for worship.

We use Christian symbols as a focus for reflection and provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence. We encourage intercessory prayer for individuals, those in positions of authority, the needs of the local community and the wider world. We observe the cycle of the Anglican year including celebrations of the major Christian festivals.

We aim to provide worship spaces which are attractive and well prepared with appropriate thought having been given to colour, space, seating, ambience and music.

We are fostering strong links with St. Michael and All Angels' Church - involving its clergy in leading Collective worship and providing coherence between the worship in church and school. We make students aware of wider links with the Blackburn Diocese and beyond that to the worldwide Anglican Communion.

### **5 - Connections with other local churches**

The Anglican sees itself as part of a much wider church and promotes ecumenism (the principle or aim of promoting unity among the world's Christian Churches)..

At St Michael and All Angels School, accordingly, we promote close links with other local churches and Christian organisations and welcome their clergy and leaders as contributors to acts of Collective Worship. We recognise that, while some of our pupils and families belong to Anglican churches, many worship at churches of other Christian denominations and others come from different faith backgrounds or none. We endeavour to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and accepted in worship without any pressure to participate inappropriately or to believe.

### **6- Rights and Responsibilities**

As established by the 1944 Act and explained in the School Prospectus, parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, having chosen to send their children to St Michael and All Angels School, it is hoped that no one will exercise this right. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made in keeping with the requirements of the Act.

Similarly, teachers have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship. The Foundation governors at St Michael and All Angels School have a particular responsibility to ensure that the character and foundation of the school are reflected in Collective Worship but the actual arrangements for Collective Worship are made by the Headteacher.

## 7 - Planning

Long and medium-term planning for Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher. Plans follow the cycle of the Anglican year and the God Big Plan/Roots and Fruits scheme. They are arranged around half termly themes and associated Christian concepts. We also make space for other national events, such as World Book Day/Anti Bullying Week.

## 8 - Organisation

An act of Collective Worship is held \*daily. This may involve the whole school in the hall or key stage groups or in classes in individual classrooms.

The Headteacher and other members of staff together with groups of children take turns to conduct Collective Worship. On Thursdays, we always try to welcome a visitor from other Churches or Christian organisations.

We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way expecting children to behave appropriately. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music and candles, pictures or other artefacts to act as a focal point. We ask children to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully and to participate in singing and prayers.

We use Friday assemblies as an opportunity to share children's work and to celebrate their successes. These are incorporated into an act of Collective Worship and play an important part in promoting the vision and ethos of the school.

We invite parents to the Friday assembly on a weekly basis as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of our children. Governors are welcome to attend acts of worship at any time.

Each class has a Collective Worship "reflective area". Children are encouraged to reflect on the Collective Worship value within their class at least once a week.

Time for prayers is included within the school day: during assembly, just before lunch and at the end of the school day. Children are encouraged to lead prayer and take part in prayer, selecting from ones known, using a prayer book or improvising on the day.

\* In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, daily whole school Collective Worship gatherings have been severely restricted to single classes within their own classrooms. The practise of Collective Worship has not ceased, merely the gathering. This accords with the safety requirements outlined in the Risk Assessment.

This Policy outlines general practise where current restrictions are not required

## 9 - Resources

We have a good collection of assembly books and artefacts which we aim to regularly update and improve. We also access short term plans from the internet.

We have purchased ISing to support Classworship. We have an extensive collection of CDs which are used to provide suitable music as children enter and leave the hall as well as to accompany singing.

Within the hall, resources are conveniently stored in in a cupboard and a suitable trolley which keeps them safe and makes them readily accessible.

We aim to purchase additional resources to enhance the hall environment and create a more effective focal point for Collective Worship to take place.

## **10 - Contribution to SMSC development**

We recognise that although SMSC development should be fostered across the whole curriculum, acts of Collective Worship provide opportunities in this area too numerous to mention in detail. For example, children will be encouraged to reflect on and celebrate the deeper meanings of life, consider their own behaviour, and recognise the need for forgiveness, appreciate the contributions of others and respond to their needs, value their own culture and the cultures of others.

## **11 - Monitoring and Evaluation**

We aim to develop the monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship by surveying adults and children as to their views on its effectiveness. Stakeholders will routinely observe and monitor acts of Collective Worship. The headteacher will also involve the Foundation governors more fully in the monitoring and evaluation process.

## **12 - Inclusion**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, gender, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We therefore aim to make Collective Worship accessible to all and accommodate ourselves to individual needs when appropriate. As when teachers prepare lessons, worship leaders take account of different learning styles and aim to present materials using multisensory resources.

## **13 - Implementation of Policy**

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator/headteacher is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed every two years. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

## **14 - Responsibilities of the Governing Body**

As well as fulfilling their legal obligations, the governing body should also make sure that:

- all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes;
- the subjects are well led, effectively managed and well planned;
- the quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation;
- teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND;
- clear information is provided for parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn;
- the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures that the school can fulfil its legal obligations.
- the religious ethos of the school is maintained and developed.

## **15 - Linked Policies**

Due to the focus and purpose of this policy, there are also direct and intrinsic links to the following:

- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- SMSC Policy

- SRE Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Science Policy
- RE Policy
- PE Policy
- SEN (Special Educational Needs) Policy
- Staff and Volunteer's Code of Conduct Policy

Please also refer to those named policies for more comprehensive information.

**Signed:**

**Sara Richardson**

**RE & Collective Worship Co-ordinator/Headteacher**

**To be ratified by the FBG Autumn Meeting December 2021**

