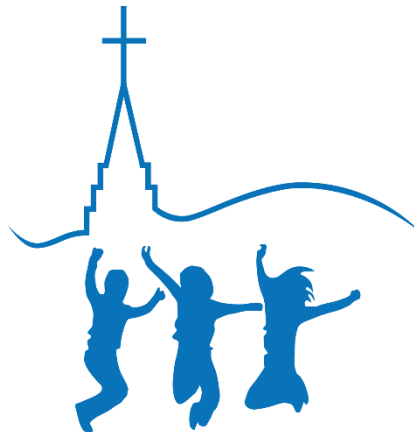


A St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School Policy



St. Michael's CE (VA) Junior School

By God's love, we all flourish together.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. (1 John 4:16)

At St. Michael's, by God's love and through our Christian values of Love, Faith, Respect and Courage, we celebrate uniqueness and nurture curiosity, enabling each child to flourish on their own rich learning journey; whilst contributing to the wider community.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Ratified by Pupil & Curriculum Committee:	March 2023
To be reviewed	Autumn 2025

Collective Worship is totally inclusive, active and engaging for all. Daily worship is an occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God and celebrates fully the school's vision and values throughout. It involves all members of the school community, gathering and being still in one space, where everyone participates in song, prayer and reflection.

Children, their families and other adults of faith and no faith can expect to encounter worship that is fully accessible to all. Our collective worship is inspiring and transformational in nature as children have the opportunity to think deeply. Our children encounter collective worship that is consistently invitational, providing an opportunity for children to be present and engage, whilst invited to pray in their own way, if they wish to do so.

Each week, the clergy invite children's responses to the teachings of Jesus and to reflect on the key messages, asking 'Big Questions' about who we are, and why we do what we do. Open questions encourage the children to be fully engaged in spiritual and ethical discussions and to question their own impact on the wider community and how they can be courageous advocates of causes. It encourages the collective to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and philosophies about the World around them. At the end of Monday worship, the children are invited to leave the worship, discussing and reflecting on the themes of the service.

Over the academic year, all children are involved from the outset in the liturgical practices of worship and are involved in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship. We visit St. Michael's Church four times a year for our Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' services. These are led by the children, and written by our Worship Committee alongside our incumbent and are always well attended by parents and members of our school community.

The aims and purpose of Collective Worship are to:

- celebrate '*By God's love, we all flourish together*'
- explore our British values and celebrate diversity
- give opportunities to explore the school vision and our Christian values of Love, Respect, Faith and Courage
- give opportunities to develop virtues that enable each child to flourish and develop personally, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.
- provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- enable children and adults to develop spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness and reflection
- enable children to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response
- develop in children a sense of community spirit
- promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- teach children how to worship
- appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by listening to and engaging with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- enable a calm, daily space for reflective practice and private prayer

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church, in accordance with the provision of our Trust deeds of the school. Collective Worship reflects the Anglican status of our school which is expressed in our trust

deed. Guidance is provided in The Church of England's 'Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring' document (Version 18.5.21). While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold worship that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Provision

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and we reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. The themes are written in conjunction with St. Michael's Church and incorporate themes from our Rights Respecting curriculum. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children. Music is a key focus of all worship used to educate, engage and invite responses to appropriate musical themes and musicians. The children sing or recite 'The Lord's Prayer' by heart. The Headteacher, other members of staff, the children and local clergy conduct worship.

We invite parents to a celebration worship on a weekly basis and we encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome Governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

Right of withdrawal

We encourage all our children to attend Worship. However, the Church of England does recognize the right of withdrawal from collective worship for parents or children who wish to exercise this option. Any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and review

It is the role of Foundation Governors with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.