

Nature of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St. Michael's is an invitation for all members of the school community – children, staff, parents and Governors – to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Whilst respecting diversity of belief and commitment, our Collective Worship is Catholic in character reflecting the Liturgical tradition of the Church and having Jesus Christ at its centre.

The Place of Collective Worship at St. Michael's Catholic Primary School

Collective Worship at St. Michael's is much more than just a legal requirement. It is central to the Catholic tradition and lies at the heart of our school life, offering all members of our school community a place to listen to Scripture, reflect and pray. Therefore, it is key to the spiritual and moral development of our school community.

Aims of Collective Worship

At St. Michael's Collective Worship is planned:

- To provide participants with an opportunity to listen to Scripture and reflect on God's presence in our lives and His love for us.
- To provide a place for worship and contemplation of the mystery of God.
- To be an enriching experience, encouraging participation and response.
- To allow participants to explore their own beliefs.
- To create opportunity for participants to feel valued.
- To encourage praise, reverence, thanksgiving and contrition.
- To reflect the ethos of our school, as presented in our Mission Statement, embracing tolerance, respect and responsibility and thus developing a sense of belonging and community.
- To contribute to the liturgical development of the children.
- To provide opportunity to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To celebrate life – at home and school, in the wider community, and around the world – encouraging an awareness of the lives and needs of others.
- To give participants space and time to respond to events around them: to wonder; to value; to accept.

Principles

Collective Worship at St. Michael's will be a valued activity at the heart of the school's day-to-day provision, reflecting the ethos of the school and allowing the children's natural instincts for awe and wonder to be realised. Each child and staff member has the opportunity to take part in daily Collective Worship. Parents and Governors may be invited to attend and parents also have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship.

Whilst celebrations will reflect the tradition of the Catholic Faith, we expect our staff and children to show respect for other Faith and Cultural Acts of Worship.¹

Collective Worship will be relevant and appropriate to the needs of our children providing them with positive liturgical experiences, appropriate to their age and understanding.

How Collective Worship is Organised at St. Michael's Catholic Primary School

To meet the aims and follow the principles outlined in this policy, Collective Worship at St. Michael's is celebrated in a variety of different ways including:

- **Classroom Reflections** – taking place in each classroom these timetabled reflections will be facilitated by the class teacher and, when appropriate, children.
- **Come & See Rejoice Worship** - planned and led by children at the end of each Topic, sometimes 2 classes may plan together, wherever possible other classes, staff, governors or parents will be invited to join the celebration. These may take place in the classroom, school hall, Faith Garden or church.
- **Clergy Led Classroom Reflections** - Fr Fitz visits one class each week to lead the children and staff in a reflection. His visits are on a rota basis with a greater focus on Year 4 and other children preparing to receive the Sacraments.
- **Staff Led Assemblies** – these timetabled celebrations will be facilitated in Key Stages at the beginning and end of each week. Monday morning assembly always focuses on the Gospel from the Sunday proceeding.
- **Class Led Assemblies** – across the year each class will be asked to lead a celebration for the whole school community (including parents and Governors) following a given theme.
- **Prayer Spaces** – children and staff will be invited to reflect upon a theme in small groups eg. Homelessness, Remembrance or Following the Passion of Christ through

¹ Equal Opportunities

Lent. Prayer Spaces may be set up in various venues across the school including the Faith Garden, Mission Tree (outside KS2 Hall) and the History Museum (in the KS1 building).

- **Reflections in Church** – St. Michael's Church may be used for Collective Worship at any time arranged by staff and Fr. Fitz. During Lent each Year group will be asked to facilitate a reflection in church for children, staff and parents.
- **Liturgies** – taking place in church or school to celebrate events in the life of school or the Liturgical year.
- **Staff Reflections** – led by Collective Worship Lead, held at the beginning of each Come & See Topic
- **Staff and Governor Reflections and Liturgies** – held to celebrate key moments across the year eg. Start of a new year, Advent/Christmas, retirements, SYNOD etc.
- **Family Reflections** – on occasion when schools are closed due to emergency situations eg. Coronavirus Pandemic, a weekly reflection will be available for families via the school website, App and newsletter.

Of the celebrations listed above, the main focus at St. Michael's is on **Classroom Reflections** where a smaller group allows for a more personalised experience. Teachers will plan these reflections to be simple, short and paced appropriately for their class (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e., 5-6 mins for Key Stage 1 and 7-10 mins for Key Stage 2). Time for Classroom Reflections will be included on each class timetable for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. The teacher should facilitate most Classroom Reflections and be an excellent role model for children to emulate, inviting the children to lead various parts of the Collective Worship eg, read scripture or lead in prayer.

Children with Additional Educational Needs will take part in Collective Worship in their own classes. They will be allowed to learn formal prayers at their own pace and level of ability. Participation in worship will be appropriate to their need. ¹

Themes for Collective Worship will be planned across the year to follow the Liturgical Calendar, Sunday Missal and the school Mission Values. Although there may be times when Collective Worship will need to be reactive and sensitive to current events eg. A bereavement, a child moving to a new school or national events such as a terrorist attack, accident or pandemic.

Collective Worship will be facilitated in a range of **venues and media platforms** as appropriate. Venues will include classrooms, KS1 Hall, KS2 Hall, church, the Faith Garden, other suitable places indoors and outdoors in the school grounds. Reflection and prayer opportunities will be shared with the whole school community using varied media formats as appropriate, eg. Twitter, website, school Newsletter, email.

Resources

- Each classroom will have a 'Collective Worship Box' containing a variety of items which can be used for Classroom Reflections. Children may have access to this, and in most cases can be involved in the preparation for worship.
- Each classroom has cloths in liturgical colours for use throughout the year.
- Music for worship is resourced through CDs, the school's shared drive and YouTube.
- There are themed Collective Worship plans planned and ready to use on the staff shared drive.
- The Collective Worship Lead has storage space with additional materials for use during celebrations.

Voluntary Worship / Retreats

Sacramental Preparation – St. Michael's school will endeavour to support children, their families and the Parish of St. Michael's and Sacred Heart in the preparation of children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in Year 4 and above. The Family Catechesis programme is led by Parish Catechists and Fr. Fitz from September through to May each year with support from school.

Celebrations at the Metropolitan Cathedral – Children in Years 3 and 4 will be invited to attend the Schools Advent Service at the Metropolitan Cathedral, and children from Year 2 will be invited to attend the Epiphany Celebration.

Animate – Year 6 children will be invited to attend an Animate Retreat Day as part of their transition period in June/July.

Residential Visits – Children in Years 4 and 6 have an opportunity to take part in residential visits. During their time away from school and home, there will be a time given for quiet reflection on the experience.

Eucharist

Eucharistic celebrations in school will be celebrated with children from Key Stage 2 and, in line with the principles of this policy, opportunities for children to participate will be maximised.

The Role of the Co-ordinator

The Collective Worship Lead is Kami Lester and the RE Lead is Nicola Birch (Assistant Head). Together they work closely to promote, develop and highlight RE and Collective Worship across St. Michael's School.

The Collective Worship Lead will:

- Plan themes for Collective Worship across the year.
- Support staff in the planning and facilitation of Collective Worship.
- Audit and supply Collective Worship resources.
- Work with Fr. Fitz and Headteacher to plan Liturgical Worship in school
- Plan Prayer Spaces, Staff Reflections, etc.
- Monitor and evaluate Collective Worship at St. Michael's

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

The Collective Worship Lead will monitor collective worship throughout the school once a year and feedback to staff.

Data from monitoring will be evaluated and used to develop the RE/CW Action plan which will highlight areas for the development of Collective Worship at St. Michael's. This will be presented to and reviewed by the Headteacher.

The Senior Leadership Team (including the RE Lead) and Collective Worship Lead will review this policy bi-annually. The review will be reported to the Governing Body.