



## St Michael's (VA) C.E Infant School Policy for Collective Worship

### Introduction

St Michael's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Infant school and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. The school serves a wide community and has very close links with St Michael's Church in Mickleham.

Life at St Michael's has its foundation in Christian traditions, beliefs and values and, whilst children of all faiths or none are welcomed and their beliefs honoured and respected. The Christian faith is central to the school's daily routine and ethos. Collective Christian worships reflect the school values, aims and ethos and is also central to the life of the school, forming a part of school worship held daily for all to attend. As a Voluntary Aided (VA) school, staff are expected to attend and often lead collective worships.

### School vision and values



'*A Special Place to Learn and Grow*' is our overarching school vision. ***We believe that if we open our hearts and minds to the possibilities, each and every one of us no matter how small, can achieve and make a difference in our school and beyond. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that God can do a lot with a little.*** The growth parable of the mustard seed is a key passage that further reflects our vision.

Our community provides a nurturing environment where very young children and adults can flourish and grow, building strong foundations in learning and life, ready for their next steps and future life. We are a happy community where all work together and all are loved, valued and respected as unique individuals. We also demonstrate our commitment through **6 core Christian values** (Love, Peace, Trust, Thankfulness, Forgiveness and Hope) that are depicted as the foundational roots of our tree.

These values form the foundation of all we do and are prominently displayed and referenced by all members of the community in our everyday conversations with each other. We use the '*Bee Rules*' to help us choose behaviours that match our Christian ethos and show how the values can be used in our day-to-day lives (***be respectful, be kind, be thoughtful, be honest, be hard-working, be safe.***)

Worships are conducted in a dignified and respectful way. Children understand that worship time is an important period of calm reflection and the children's behaviour reflects this. Pupils from Year 2 act as volunteer Worship Leaders by leading the opening introductory greeting and candle lighting ceremonies and closing the act of worship. Year 2 pupils also set up the worship hall including the worship table, cross and candle. Children are asked to respond to a welcome response at the beginning of each worship and we close with the words, '*A Special Place to Learn and Grow*' and our accompanying action.

In classroom worships all children are given the opportunity to be the worship leader and the same protocol is followed as whole school worships.

## St Michael's C.E Infant School Values and behaviours

					
<i><u>John 15:12</u></i>  <i>Love each other as I have loved you.</i>	<i><u>Psalm 34:14</u></i>  <i>Seek peace and pursue it</i>	<i><u>Proverbs 3: 5-6</u></i>  <i>Trust in the Lord with all your heart</i>	<i><u>Chronicles 29:13</u></i>  <i>Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name</i>	<i><u>Psalm 130:4</u></i>  <i>But with you there is forgiveness</i>	<i><u>Romans 15:13</u></i>  <i>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy</i>
<b>We show love and compassion for each other.</b>	<b>We will make a peaceful school and world.</b>	<b>We put our trust in each other.</b>	<b>We are thankful for what we have and will look after our world.</b>	<b>We always try to forgive each other.</b>	<b>We are hopeful for ourselves and others.</b>

### Aims of our acts of collective worship.

We aim for our collective worship to:

- a) Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. (Children are invited to pray or they can make themselves still and peaceful to make their own reflections.)
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in age appropriate ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective worship also provides other opportunities, including educational opportunities for exploration of fundamental British Values, PSHE and SMSC curriculum areas:

- a) The whole community to celebrate;
- b) Sharing and experiencing differences;
- c) Developing a culture of learning;
- d) Building a sense of group identity;
- e) Encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- f) A break from the busyness of life (for stillness, quiet and spiritual thoughts and feelings);

- g) Learning how to behave in a large social group;
- h) Exploring feelings and emotions;
- i) Learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- j) Learning how to respond to a performance;
- k) Making visible the school's leadership;
- l) Developing inner awareness.

### **Guildford Diocesan Board of Education April 2018 63 Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Head teacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. As an aided school, staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship. In the case of parents they should contact the Head teacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship can be obtained from the school.

### **Planning of Collective Worship**

See **Appendix 1** for the organisation of collective worship for the current academic year. The leaders of the school (with the vicar when possible) plan the themes for the year / term and create overviews for each type of worship. These plans take account of school activities, festivals and other important events. More detailed sessional plans are developed by worship leaders who will also consider the comments and feedback from the children from any previous worships. The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson. Planning sheets for assemblies are in the collective worship folder and responses to those assemblies are also expected to be added when appropriate through added notes/post-its/photo or any other relevant evidence.

Pupils are involved in planning and leading Collective Worship through their involvement as worship leaders. They will light the candle, arrange resources, lead our opening and closing response, lead prayers and hymns and may be actively involved in the worship. Our year 2 leaders take on this valued responsibility.

**Class worships** are planned through a structured sequence of selected Bible Stories from the same Bible that is given to the Year 2 children at the leaver's service. (The Jesus Storybook Bible) This is planned and monitored by the RE subject Leader.

### **Themes**

We take the themes of our Collective Worships from **St Michael's C.E Infant School values**. In addition each term the festivals and events of the Christian calendar are included as well as any significant local events. We will also allow for reflection of any significant national or global events or incidents in order to help our pupils understand how to relate and understand them. Each week we also hold celebratory and singing based worships. Our Celebration/birthday worship allows us to appreciate the unique qualities of their child.

## Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship or a special time of the year, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the school. We welcome our St Michael's Parish Priest to the school on a regular basis but also aim to visit the church twice a half term where they lead a whole school worship. All our families are welcome to join us for this. In addition to this we have our Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of year church services where we invite our families to join us. The FRIENDS of St Michael's support an annual Harvest, Christmas and Mother's Day craft workshop for families of St Michael's and St Michael's pre-school, before Sunday service. A leader will then lead the children in song, at the service.

Visitors should understand that in schools E is for Education not Evangelism and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the head teacher.

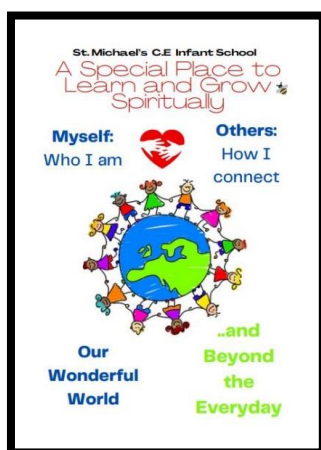
## Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

## Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The content and brief self-evaluation if appropriate by the person leading the worship is recorded in a folder, which is kept in the **staffroom**.

We have a separate spirituality group, (Spirituality Spreaders) who consider everything related to spirituality. The group meet once a week and their thoughts are then shared at the following worship. Spiritual thoughts are then opened up to the wider audience, to share, including the adults. We begin the group session and the follow up slot in worship with; **'how we learn and grow – within ourselves, with each other, the world around us and beyond'**. This is accompanied by actions. Our spirituality poster supports our recognition and engagement with this.



Heads will seek feedback from the children and staff about collective worship on a regular basis through pupil interviews.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection

## **Prayer Space – Place of Peace**

We have created quiet and peaceful prayer spaces around our school called 'Places of Peace'. The main space is in main entrance area, children can use this to reflect on questions and activities related to our school value. The activities and resources are planned on a term by term basis following feedback from pupils in our worship times. Partway through the half term, the children will reflect on their prayer space and in rotation, each year group will design their own prayer space and add to the existing space. Each classroom also has a prominent Place of Peace area and we have created an area for reflection, outside. The Year 2 leavers, plan this as a gift to the children.

Reviewed by SIAMS team governors - Date October 2024

Ratified by Full Governing Body – Date October 2024

To be reviewed – Date October 2026

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*Worship Schedule 2024-2025*

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**Daily acts of collective worship are held in the school hall, church or in the classroom.**

Collective Worship Type/focus	Day	Time	Led by
<p><b>Whole School St. Michael's Church</b> Christian Calendar Values Christianity as a world faith The Trinitarian nature of God and its language</p>	<p>Twice per half term (church)</p> <p>Once or twice per half term (parish priest visits the school)</p>	Varies	Sandra Faccini (parish priest)
<p><b>Whole School Values worship</b> (Love, Peace, Trust, Thanks, Forgiveness, Hope)</p>	Monday	9.20	Nicola Cleather Head Teacher
<p><b>Class Worship</b> Focus on bible stories using planned sequence</p>	Tuesday	Varies	Becci Chapman Judith Moore
<p><b>Whole school Singing Worship</b> Focus on hymns related to value or church celebration</p>	Wednesday	9.20	Becci Chapman
<p><b>Whole School Diocesan planning</b></p>	Thursday	9:20	Anna Fox
<p><b>Whole School Celebration worship Busy Bee/Birthday</b>  Praise achievements and attitudes of pupils from across school/celebration of the unique gifts of each child near their birthday</p>	Friday	9.20	Judith Moore