

Collective Worship Policy



St. Michael's
Church of England Primary Academy

Updated June 2025

To be reviewed June 2026

St. Michael's

Church of England Primary Academy

Our Theologically Rooted Vision:

To embody the love of God by championing justice and inspiring service.

Our Values:

Community

Aspiration

Learning

Love

Each of our values provides the basis for our school rules, which in turn are supported by key Bible verses:

- **Community** – Treat others as you want to be treated.
'Do not seek your own good, but the good of others.' 1 Corinthians 10:24
- **Aspiration** – Try your best in everything that you do.
'Take delight in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.' Psalms 37:4-5
- **Learning** – Be engaged in your learning.
'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more.' Matthew 25:20
- **Love** – Forgive and forget.
Do not seek your own good, but the good of others.' 1 Corinthians 10:24

Vocati Resurgemus

*(Rise to the **CALL**)*

Underpinned by two biblical narratives:

1. The woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment
- **Mark 5:21-34**
2. Jesus meets Zacchaeus the Tax Collector
- **Luke 19:1-10**

Legal Framework: Links to OFSTED and SIAMS expectations

The OFSTED School Inspection Handbook, November 2019 No. 190017, page 59 & 60, states:

Inspectors will evaluate the effectiveness of the school's provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural education. This is a broad concept that can be seen across the school's activities but draws together many of the areas covered by the personal development judgement. Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings, and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning willingness to reflect on their experiences.

The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule for Schools and Inspectors, September 2023, includes the following questions:

IQ3 How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?

a) How do the theologically rooted Christian vision and the Anglican/Methodist foundation of the school shape worship and spirituality in the school?

b) How do partnerships with the DBE and/or MAST, and partnerships with parish/local church/es enhance this?

c) In what ways is the worship life of the school inclusive, invitational, and inspirational?

d) In the context of the school as a Church school, what do pupils and adults understand to be the meaning of spirituality? How does this enhance and enrich collective worship and individuals' spiritual development?

e) How does the trust contribute to and enhance the school's worship and spiritual life?

Introduction

St. Michael's CE Primary Academy is a Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'.

In Church of England schools, collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.

Collective Worship is a statutory requirement for all schools in England and Wales but at St Michael's CE Primary Academy collective worship is much more than this. For our church school, Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we come together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. It is an opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily school life and gives us a space to encounter faith and explore our relationship with God. It gives us the opportunity to reflect and ponder bigger questions. It gives us the opportunity to come together as a school family and enjoy a time that is special. It helps shape who we are as individuals and a school. It is an important time to reaffirm our vision and values.

Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of St. Michael's C of E Primary Academy and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for our children and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and communally. As a Church of England school, we recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing our school's Christian vision. Equally, we are committed to offering high quality collective worship.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

The Church of England Education Office, Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

Collective worship at St. Michael's C of E Primary Academy aims to do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and values and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, we reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help children and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate - the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- To encounter Jesus Christ and his teachings, the Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances lives.
- To develop the children's spiritual understanding and offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection.
- To provide experiences for all children and develop understanding of different faiths.
- To encourage a sense of personal, social, and moral responsibility
- To develop opportunities to for children to understand how they can be the positive change they want to see.
- To involve all children of different (or no) religious belief in celebrating their personal worth.
- To evoke a sense of awe and wonder.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To celebrate the life of the Church.

Intention: Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring

As a Church of England school, our Collective worship is 'Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring'. It always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. Children are invited to pray if they choose to do so, in a way that is comfortable to them. At the beginning of the whole school worship the candles are lit and a simple song is sung. The end of worship is indicated by another song and the candles being blown out. At the beginning of the lunch hour, a lunchtime prayer is recited in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day.

Invitational - In acts of Collective Worship at 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. Therefore, the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces. We intent for our collective worship to be warmly welcoming with opportunity for individuals to decide their level of participation. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inclusive - we ensure that we include themes that are relevant to all and may include news items or big issues such as climate change, bullying. Although our worship is centred on the Christian faith and the life and teaching of Jesus and reflects Anglican tradition, we also seek to be fully inclusive by representing other faiths and beliefs. It is an opportunity to explore our values and their strong links to the bible and the teaching of Jesus but also through other stories and examples. Pupils are given the opportunity to partake and respond or sit back and consider. Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship.

Inspiring - we aim for our worship to be inspirational. We hope to ask challenging questions and help pupils and adults explore themselves and their place in our school and the world. Our vision is inspired by the transformational impact of Jesus and the hope he brings to be encouragers and our best selves. We want inspire others to make positive changes and live well together through the teachings of Jesus. We want to inspire all through stories, examples of leadership and help children understand how they can be leaders and make a positive difference through their actions and voice. We want to help them to think differently, and to reflect on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Worship lasts approximately 15-20 minutes. Visiting guests also lead worship. We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:



Monday: The theme of the week is shared and exemplified through a biblical story, songs and offering of prayer.



Tuesday: The theme of the week is explored further and exemplified through poetry and/or story, songs and reflection of the key lessons learned from the stimuli over the past two days.

Wednesday: The theme of the week is delivered by St. Michael's Church Reverend – Father Dominic.

Thursday: The theme of the week is exemplified through the lens of safeguarding.

Friday: Celebration Assembly

Structure

The structure of Collective Worship is as follows:

Gather	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This is how we come together collectively for the daily act of worship.How we enter the hall should be carefully considered.INTRODUCTION by Teacher and WW's (Good morning/ Peace be with you/ welcome: liturgical prayer).This should also include revision of school motto/ values.	13:35 – 13:55 10-12 minutes
Engage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How are the children and adults alike being drawn in?The use of music, liturgical singing, reading of biblical stories and texts will engage the children.The theme/ story should be considered carefully. How will you link the theme/ story back to Jesus? What is the key message in this story? Make this explicit as it will serve as a natural transition into the reflection element of collective worship.	
Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utilise both silence and sound for reflection (moment of silence/ gentle piano while allowing children to reflect).The primary aim here is to deliver a key message before sending the children out with a thought or a question to ponder.	3-5 minutes
Send Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The aim here is to send children away with a key message and/ or sense of empowerment to do.A member of the Worship Warriors should come out to light the candle prior to the prayer. This can also be done during the reflection stage of CWPrayer is a key part of 'sending out' – the theme of the prayer should reflect the theme of the collective worship not merely 'The Lord's Prayer' but this should be an additional prayer led by the WW's.	

Calendar

The worship calendar will be related to the school's worship themes, school vision, Christian values or to the Christian calendar.

- Links to other world religions and cultures will also be made at different points in the year
- We include Old and New Testament stories, Jesus's life and teachings along with seasonal worship such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- There are opportunities each Friday to celebrate the achievements of our children within the life of the school or in the wider world and how they are promoting our school Christian Values.

Weekly Themes and Overview

The weekly themes for collective worship are reflective of moral values, core Christian values and key events in the liturgical calendar. A Collective Worship Overview is written for each term (appendix 1), which details what themes will be delivered throughout the term. The children enter the hall to a piece of music or Christian song. The candles on the altar table are lit and the worship begins. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a time for reflection and prayer. The candles are then blown out before any final messages are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children are then 'sent out' as the music is played.

See Appendix 1 for Calendar

Leadership

Collective worship is led by school staff and St. Michael's clergy. or church teams who are part of churches together. Visitors are also invited to deliver collective worship if they enhance the message or impact of collective worship. These might be charity groups, drama groups, choirs or invited guests.

Regular visitors, include:

- Birmingham City Mission
- Hands Outstretched (a collection of churches from Handsworth)
- Father Dominic (St. Michael's Church clergy)

Our church

St. Michael's CE Primary Academy has a close relationship with St. Michael's Church, not only do the church team support the planning of collective worship but they also regularly lead collective worship at school, and we attend church services.

We celebrate the following at St. Michael's Church:

- Harvest Festival
- Remembrance Day
- Christmas Service
- Easter Service
- St Michael's Feast Day
- Year 6 Leavers' Service
- Valentine's Service

Pupil leadership

The Ethos committee are regularly involved in leading collective worship and prayers. They evaluate collective worship and plan and deliver collective worship.

Planning - children will:

- Write their own prayers to share at the end of worship.
- Help the ethos leader plan collective worship

Set up – children will:

- Help set up the hall and worship table
- Greet pupils at the door and help set the atmosphere of collective worship

Worship - children will:

- Take part in Drama activities
- Support teachers with music, video clips and PowerPoint slides.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Read or saying prayers.
- Leading actions or signing to songs.

Gathering - children will:

- Say a welcoming sentence/ call and response
- Say the words of the trinity

Sending - children will:

- Reflect on a question linked to the theme
- Recite a collection of faith prayers

Leaving - children will:

- Hold doors open for those leaving.
- Put away equipment and chairs.

Responding/recording

- Children regularly have time to revisit key messages and values in class
- Children share their responses to collective worship in worship through the whole school log through the whole school logbook their learning, reflections, and prayers from collective worship

Monitoring

Monitoring collective worship will be done jointly by the head teacher, the worship coordinator, and key stakeholders.

Strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- observing practice
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.



St. Michael's
Church of England Primary Academy

To embody the love of God by championing justice and inspiring service.

Community - Aspiration - Learning - Love

vocati resurgemus