



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## MISSION STATEMENT

*In the footsteps of Jesus, we strive to achieve  
excellence in everything we do.*

Policy Date: February 2021  
Approved by Governors: February 2021  
Review Date: February 2023

## **Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to provide the highest quality education; living and learning through the example and teachings of Jesus. We celebrate our friendship with God through prayer, worship and liturgy. We aim to provide a rich, stimulating environment where all of our children regardless of ability are encouraged to pursue excellence in learning, developing academic achievement and personal development. Working together with our families, our parish and our local community we seek to create a safe, happy school where our children are encouraged to become confident, caring citizens, *'following in Jesus' footsteps.*'

## **What is Prayer?**

Prayer is a sincere and reverent conversation with God. It is a time that we are directly addressing God orally or mentally. We may pray on our own or as part of a group. The gift of prayer is that we can talk to God in a variety of places or situations.

## **St. Michael's Catholic Primary School Prayer and Worship**

At St Michael's Catholic Primary School we believe that it is essential to provide an environment which contributes towards developing the prayer life of all members of our community.

We will ensure that children experience a varied range of meaningful prayer, worship and liturgy and that all within the school community have opportunities to grow in the development of faith.

## **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer said either by the teacher or everyone present does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Head Teacher.

## **Aims:**

Through Prayer, we at St. Michael's School aim to:

- Nurture each child's relationship with God, building on the foundations laid by the family and the parish communities.

- Encourage in pupils the desire to engage in personal prayer.
- Ensure that all are aware of the religious, spiritual and moral values the school has as part of its Mission to help children understand their role within the Christian family.
- Recognise a sense of the sacred and holy.
- Build on children's own experiences and value what each has to offer: Prayer opportunities will take into account the needs, ages and stages of development of all children.
- Develop children's natural sense of awe and wonder.
- Encourage parents to share in the prayer life of the school.
- Help to foster a sense of community.

### Teaching and Learning Styles:

Worship and prayer contribute to the spiritual, moral and general development of pupils. Through school and class worship, opportunities will be provided for pupils to develop their ability to lead, perform, sing and communicate. All children have an opportunity to plan and contribute towards Masses, reflections, liturgies, assemblies and services. Children can write or suggest ideas for prayers. We encourage children to enter and leave all forms of worship quietly and calmly.

Each class has a special table to focus towards during prayer times. The children and teachers take pride in maintaining its reverence so that it is regarded as a special place to honour God.

### Prayer Times

Days, times and types of liturgy for Key Stages One and Two are:

Day	Act of Worship	Location
Monday	Whole school Liturgy	Hall
Tuesday	Class Liturgy	Classrooms
Wednesday	Class Liturgy	Classrooms
Thursday	Whole School Assembly	Hall
Friday	Class Assembly/ Class Liturgy	Hall/Classroom

The following prayers are said at these times:

Morning	Before Lunch	After Lunch	End of School Day
Morning Prayer	Grace Before Meals	Grace After Meals	Afternoon Prayer

Other prayers are included in worship or liturgy as appropriate to the needs of individuals, groups or our wider community. Prayers may also reflect the liturgical time of the year.

Prayers may be adapted in Foundation Stage to suit the age and development of the children. It is expected that most children will be able to recall the daily prayers by the summer term in Reception.

Collective worship will always include prayer and praise by song and reflection. It may also include:

- A short passage of scripture, if liturgical, a Gospel reading.
- A story, poem or piece of literature.
- A visual stimulus.
- A personal account of an event or experience.
- Use of music, art, dance, drama, displays or information and communication media.
- Silence and stillness for reflection.
- Time for children's responses.

### **Recording**

#### **Collective Worship is recorded:**

- Through displays in class and throughout the school; collections of pupils' contributions, prayers, reflections photographs etc.
- PowerPoint presentations
- In the Subject Leader's file
- On class timetables

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At least once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship.

### **Resources**

Most resources are stored in the RE area in the loft. Some artefacts, candles and cloths are stored in classrooms. The Head Teacher also stores additional items, crucifixes, candles, cloths, music CD's etc. in the store cupboard.

### **Eucharist**

KS2 Class Masses are held in school each term; Reconciliation services are held twice a year (Lent & Advent). Other services are celebrated that reflect the liturgical year. Whole School Masses are held in the church at the beginning and end of each term.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored by the subject leader for Collective Worship and will be evaluated and reviewed by the whole staff and governors every two years. Foundation governors in particular will play an important role in the monitoring and review of the policy.