



# Collective Worship Policy

## St Michael's Easthampstead CE Primary School

At St Michael's we are a community of active learners who go above and beyond in everything we do, equipping ourselves to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others.

<b>Policy Name</b>	Collective Worship
<b>Brief Description:</b>	This policy outlines the school's responsibilities and approach to Collective Worship
<b>Status: Statutory/non-statutory</b>	Non-Statutory Policy
<b>Other related policies and procedures:</b>	Equality Statement SEN policy RE policy
<b>Approval level: HT/Governors/FGB</b>	FGB
<b>Approved by the Governing Board on:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>Frequency to be reviewed</b>	Annually
<b>Latest Date for Next Review:</b>	February 2026
<b>Version + Schedule of Amendments:</b>	
<b>Signed:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>	
<b>Date of Signature:</b>	

Go above and beyond with Love:

Kindness, Honesty, Respect and Aspiration

--	--

## Context

At St Michael's Easthampstead CE Primary School, Collective Worship is an essential part of our daily life. We believe that it helps to punctuate the lives of our children with moments of reflection, thankfulness and spiritual development. We promote our school values of Love: Kindness, Honesty, respect and Aspiration in the themes and focuses of worship and encourage our children and staff to "Go above and beyond" in all they do.

## Principles

Our collective worship is Christian in nature and we follow the Anglican Liturgical Calendar so that the children can learn about the Christian celebrations and festivals that occur throughout the year. In assemblies, the table will always display a cloth of the correct liturgical colour to reflect this along with a Bible and candle to signify a time of thought and reflection.

Worship themes reflect the vision of the school.

*A community of active learners who go above and beyond in everything they do, equipped to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others.*

Our values are embedded throughout our cycle of worship.

Our worship has the 3 underlying principles:

1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils
2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants
3. It is inspiring and combines a range of experiences

### **It is inclusive:**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith, which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship.

Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- Recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community

**Go above and beyond with Love:**

Kindness, Honesty, Respect and Aspiration

- Have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- Be appropriate for every student and adult to attend
- Focus on issues and experiences that are relevant to the pupils
- Foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.
- Reflect on the Vision and Values of the School and concerns of the wider community it serves
- To deepen and widen a child's spiritual and emotional response to the world around them
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their faith commitments and to be sensitive to those different ways of responding; celebrating the diversity of faith
- To heighten children's awareness of questions relating to the mysteries of life and of the commitments made by themselves and others in response to issues such as – change, loss, sadness, suffering, good, evil, celebrations and joy
- To enable children to gain insights into ways in which people express themselves within their lives and to be sensitive to those different ways; celebrating the diversity of people.
- Nurture and maintain the dignity of the image of God in everyone through working for social justice
- Include appropriate references to and elements of other faiths and secular worldviews

**It is invitational:**

Acts of collective worship will:

- Invite participation in times of reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer
- Provide pupils with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words
- Provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day
- Foster an appreciation of the natural world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it
- Develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

**It is inspirational:**

Our acts of collective worship provide wider opportunities to:

- Promote wide ownership of our Christian vision
- Assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life
- Develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content
- Encounter and explore Jesus' teachings and the Trinitarian nature of Christian faith
- Identify opportunities for Christian celebration that can be associated with other school events

**Go above and beyond with Love:**

Kindness, Honesty, Respect and Aspiration

- Include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.
- Encourage pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy

Whole school or key stage assemblies will take place regularly led by staff, but may also be led by individual classes or other groups. Celebration Assemblies will also take place at the end of week focusing on the achievements of those within our school community. Some assemblies may be singing assemblies with hymns and songs of praise and worship.

Assemblies will begin with children entering the room silently whilst music plays quietly to promote a tone of quiet thought and reflection. There will be a stimulus on the screen for children to reflect on. Once seated, the children will be greeted with, "Good morning/afternoon" and once they have responded the assembly leader will add, "Peace be with you" to which the response is, "And also with you."

The main content of the assembly will either follow the Liturgical theme/reading for that week or the theme set out for the week which may be drawn from a range of sources such as special days in the calendar or world events.

There will be chances for children to participate as well as periods of quietness for reflection or thought. Class worship will draw on some of the practices of the Spacemakers programme.

Assemblies should include a song or hymn to be sung collectively and all assemblies will end with a prayer which the children will be invited to join. If they are not joining in with prayer they will be asked to sit quietly whilst others do.

All visitor led assemblies will follow and uphold the principles detailed in this policy ensuring that worship is always inclusive, invitational and inspirational.

Clergy led worship will be held fortnightly by the team from the Parish and Pilgrimage Church of St Michael and St Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead and to commemorate Christian feasts and festivals such as Michaelmas, Epiphany, Pentecost, Advent and Ash Wednesday.

The Worship Co-ordinator also organises Whole School Community Services such as Harvest Festival, Carol Service and Year 6 Leavers' Service in conjunction with the Parish and Pilgrimage Church of St Michael and St Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead. It is also their duty to produce a half-termly Worship Calendar for all of the School Community to follow.

## Monitoring and Evaluating

This is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Worship Co-ordinator to monitor and evaluate Collective Worship and this is done through a range of ways. Key Stage 2 classes supply Worship Leaders to work with the Worship Co-ordinator on ideas for assemblies and to provide feedback on them. There may also be a questionnaire about assemblies plus feedback from staff, visitors (including Governors) or the clergy on how effective the Collective Worship is and ideas for improvements.

**Go above and beyond with Love:**

Kindness, Honesty, Respect and Aspiration

## The Law

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship.

Arrangements are made for children who are withdrawn from collective worship. If parents do withdraw their children they should provide suitable material for the children to read /contemplate during this time. Staff have the right to withdraw from collective worship.

**Go above and beyond with Love:**

Kindness, Honesty, Respect and Aspiration