



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.

Policy Name	Collective Worship
Brief Description:	This policy outlines the school's responsibilities and approach to Collective Worship
Status: Statutory/non-statutory	Non-Statutory Policy
Other related policies and procedures:	Equality Statement SEND policy RE policy
Approval level: HT/Governors/FGB	FGB
Approved by the Governing Board on:	23/3/2026
Frequency to be reviewed	Annually
Latest Date for Next Review:	23/3/2027
Version + Schedule of Amendments:	V2
Signed:	Shaun Riordan
Position:	Headteacher
Date of Signature:	23/3/2026

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 worships, 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. Collective worship is distinct from assembly. While practical information may be shared, clear markers (such as music, lighting of a candle, or liturgical responses) signal the beginning and end of worship.

As a Voluntary Aided Church of England school, collective worship is provided in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflects the Anglican foundation of the school, rather than SACRE determinations. In accordance with statutory requirements, the majority of acts of collective worship are wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, reflecting the traditions of the Church of England, while also drawing on other faiths and worldviews where appropriate.

Collective worship reflects the Trinitarian nature of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and enables pupils to encounter the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. Collective worship contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual development, enabling them to reflect on big questions, develop moral understanding, and grow as courageous advocates.

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 cycles 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

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community

- 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. We actively develop partnerships between school, church and home, supporting the Church of England's 'Growing Faith' approach.
- 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

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- 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 worship 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 worship may be singing worship with hymns and songs of praise and joy.

Worship typically follows a recognisable structure of gathering, engaging with a theme or scripture, responding through reflection or prayer, and sending out. Worships 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 worship leader will add, “Peace be with you” to which the response is, “And also with you.”

The main content of the worship 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.

Worships should include a song or hymn to be sung collectively and all worships 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 worships 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.

Pupils are actively involved in planning, leading and evaluating worship through a structured Key Stage 2 Worship Leader programme.

Staff and worship leaders receive regular training and support, including opportunities through the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education.

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 Worship Leaders to work with the Worship Co-ordinator on ideas for worships and to provide feedback on them. There may also be a questionnaire about worship plus feedback from staff, visitors (including Governors) or the clergy on how effective the Collective Worship is and ideas for improvements.

The Governing Body, particularly foundation governors, play an active role in monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship, ensuring it reflects the school’s Christian vision and meets statutory requirements.

Monitoring includes:

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- Regular observations of worship
- Pupil voice
- Staff feedback
- Governor and Diocese monitoring visits
- Evaluation against diocesan guidance

The Law

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship.

At St Michael's Easthampstead, we aim for collective worship to be inclusive, invitational and meaningful for all. We therefore welcome conversations with parents to ensure they fully understand the nature and purpose of worship before making a decision.

If a parent chooses to exercise this right, they should inform the school verbally or in writing and children will be exempt from worship with immediate effect. Appropriate supervision will be provided for pupils who are withdrawn.

Pupils will not be disadvantaged by this decision and will be treated with respect and sensitivity at all times.

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