



As agreed by the Governing Body on 27 June 2002 and reviewed by the School Worship and Ethos Committee during the Summer Term 2006

To be reviewed during Summer Term 2008

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLE

Collective Worship at St. Michael's plays an important part in the life of our school and is an activity at the heart of our Christian ethos. It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school, which values every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

At St Michael's we strive to provide a daily act of collective worship which serves our school's vision as defined in our Mission Statement

TO PROVIDE a positive and enjoyable learning environment within a Christian ethos, encouraging every child to realise their potential in all areas of their development and helping them to develop respect for themselves, others and their environment.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

We also take into account DfES legislation:

Worship will be

- appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils
- provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings with a variety of leaders
- in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community

We recognise the right of withdrawal from Worship for pupils, at the request of parents and for staff. An adult looks after pupils withdrawn.

3. AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

During our Acts of Collective Worship we aim:

- To enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- To foster reflection, prayer and silence
- To foster an awareness of and a respectful attitude to God
- To foster a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, the transcendent
- To foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- To explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- To affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- To enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christians
- To foster and value a search for a faith to live by (with reference, where appropriate, to the rich tapestry of religious belief and commitment in our world today.)
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- To worship together rather than apart (whilst taking into account the multi-cultural nature of every school community)

- To encourage an evocative setting for worship
- To recognise the beliefs and cultures of others (particularly those represented in the school)

4. MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Foundation Governors have responsibility for ensuring that the Instrument of Government of the School is honoured, in conjunction with the Governing Body, Headteacher, staff and school community. The Worship Policy created articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum. Parents are also kept informed through the School brochure. (In due course the Foundation Governors also have the responsibility to appoint the Section 23 Inspector, who carries out the Church Inspection of the school, alongside the OFSTED Inspection).

The Worship Co-ordinator and Worship Committee have responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day-to-day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

- Records of content are to be developed for Collective Worship, so that full records and knowledge of the actual implementation of the worship programme are ensured. This is outlined in the current Section 23 Action Plan
- The Worship Co-ordinator and committee also have responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources (see Appendix 4) and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. An equitable budget needs to be negotiated to ensure the worship programme can be carried out effectively.
- The Worship Co-ordinator also keeps in touch with developments in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Improvement Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.
- Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an on-going process and evaluated each Spring Term as part of the School Ethos and Worship Committee's self review cycle

5. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Worship Co-ordinator produces an annual action plan in line with other co-ordinators. This provides an indication of short and long term intentions, with arrangements for review concerning e.g.:

- themes and approaches
- development of resources
- staff training and support
- pupil participation and response
- evaluation of evidence sheet monitoring
- evaluation of the current programme and in the long term raise quality of worship, expend resources
- the role of visitors within collective worship
- audit resources

When a whole school focus for school improvement a target will appear within the annual School Improvement Plan.

6. CURRENT PRACTICE

a) Organisation

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

Day	Grouping	Time	Place	Leader
Monday	Reception to Year 4	10.00 – 10.15	Main School Hall	Head/Ministry Team

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	Years 5 & 6	9:00 – 9:20	Annexe Hall	Rota of Teachers
Tuesday	Reception and K S 1	10.00 – 10.15	Main School Hall	Rota of Teachers
	Years 3 & 4	9:00 – 9:20	Main School Hall	Rota of Teachers
	Years 5 & 6	9.00 – 9.20	St. Michael's Church	Ministry Team
Wednesday (Prayer and Praise)	Reception, K S 1 and Years 3 & 4	Specified on class timetable	Classrooms	Class Teacher
	Years 5 & 6	9:00 – 9:20	Annexe Hall	Pianist and Head
Thursday (Prayer and Praise)	Reception to Year 4	10.10 – 10.30	Main School Hall	Pianist and Head
	Years 5 & 6	9.00 – 9.20	Annexe Hall	Deputy Head
Friday	Whole School Worship	2.40 – 3.00	Main School Hall	Head/Deputy Headteacher / Ministry Team
	Or Class Led Worship (If parents attending separate classroom worship for K S not involved)		Main School Hall	Identified Class (Class Teacher)

N.B. When outside visitors are arranged worship is whole school and held in Main School Hall.

In addition the school worships in Church on the following occasions:

- Harvest
- Michaelmas
- Christmas
- Easter.

The Eucharist is celebrated in Church on Michaelmas and the last Tuesday before the Easter break.

Parents and members of the congregation are invited on these occasions and every Tuesday morning.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

These include members of the Parish Ministry Team and Lichfield Schools' Christian Trust.

NB No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience and in turn can be relevant to our interpretation of that experience.

Grace is said at lunchtime.

b) Methodology for delivering the Worship Programme

Current practice

Arrangements for worship take into account our split site and the constraints of St Michael's Church building.

Gifts and opportunities within our school community

We value our links with St Michael's Church and are able to draw upon the expertise within the ministry team and other members of the parish who support our acts of worship on a weekly basis

Timetable limitations

At some points during the year swimming lessons mean that a class may miss the act of worship for that day. On these occasions the children will have the opportunity to participate in a short class act of worship.

Elements of worship

Depending on the setting for worship (hall, classroom, church) worship leaders may choose to use:

- Music to signal the beginning and end of worship
- A focal point such as a candle or artefact such as the dove in the annexe
- A welcoming or closing phrase with a pupil response
- Hymns or worship songs
- A bible reading
- A visitor
- A period of quiet reflection or prayer
- Involvement of pupils in leading parts of the worship

Rationale for content

Our current two year plan seeks to provide worship leaders with fortnightly themes that are of a broadly Christian character. In addition to these important times in the church year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest, etc) will be observed.

The content of the Collective Worship Plan will seek to be relevant to the pupils' school and home life whilst, as the pupils progress through the school, will encourage and invite wider reflection about the implications of the theme in the local community, nation and world as each pupil cycles through the plan three times.

The centrality of the role and need for reflection in worship will be taken into account.

Trusting staff's professionalism, the Plan will seek to avoid being prescriptive whilst *suggestions*' from the Worship committee for resources, Bible readings and hymns / worship songs will be provided. Alternative themes have been created for younger pupils.

In leading worship leaders are encouraged to link the day's theme to Christian faith and principles, whilst acknowledging the rich tapestry of religious belief and commitment in our world today. Some elements which might be included are:

- The Christian Year of Festivals
- Christian rites of passage – Anglican and other Christian traditions
- Biblical teaching from the Old and New Testaments that is relevant to the pupils' experience and behaviour and is consistent with the ethos and values of the school
- The Life of Christ
- Faith in action – relevant examples to the school community from the past and present
- Parables and sayings of Christ
- The spiritual search – with examples of journeys e.g. missionaries, past and present
- Values and morals affirmed in school
- People who have challenged and inspired

- Topics related to the curriculum of the school, which have a Christian /religious / spiritual focus
- Every-day experience which has a spiritual focus

This will be reviewed as circumstances change.

APPENDICES

1. Instrument of Government
2. Worship Co-ordinator's Job Description
3. 2 Year Cycle of Themes
4. Resource List
5. Alternative Themes / Topics