



Prayer and Worship Policy

Our Mission Statement

*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love
and respect one another to be the best we can be.*

Amended by: Anita Britnell

Date for review: (Summer 2020)

Signed Chair of Governors

Date

Mission Statement

*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love
and respect one another to be the best we can be.*

It is the mission of the school to bring this into being. Thus at St Michael & St. John's:

Learn... We encourage our children to achieve their true potential and to take full advantage of all opportunities offered to equip them for their spiritual and educational journey.

Love... We believe that each child is a unique creation belonging to God and made in His image. We want our children to recognise this, as they develop their self-esteem and build relationships.

Respect... We support our children in appreciating their individual talents and in valuing the gifts given to others. We encourage the children to recognise that they are all equally valued within school and the wider community.



School Intent / Curriculum Driver

Within an excellent nurturing ethos and caring community, driven by our Mission Statement and Catholic values, we demand the highest expectations from all and for all. Through an inspiring and relevant curriculum our children of today become equipped with the knowledge and skills to be successful and valued future citizens of tomorrow.

In return we expect each child to give his or her best!

Learners of today, leaders of tomorrow.

Prayer & Worship - What

The worship that takes place in school is *Collective Worship*. ***A greater focus has been given to child led Collective Worship.***

Worship in a Catholic school is far more than just a legal requirement. It is central to Catholic education and forms an essential part of the school's overall provision for prayer and worship and thus individual spiritual development.

Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in Church.
- Those for whom perhaps, school provides their main or only experience of Church.
- Those who may have experience of other Christian traditions or faith backgrounds.

Collective worship is an activity or experience:

- To which all can contribute
- From which all can gain
- At Key Stage 1 & 2 the children plan and prepare Collective Worship on a regular basis.

Catholic Collective worship will always have Christ at its heart reflecting the liturgical tradition of the Church.

'Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'

Matthew 7:7

Prayer and Worship - Why

In prayer and Worship we *Praise, Ask, Thank and Say Sorry.*

We recognise who we are: a Faith Community in the Home, the School and the Parish.

Prayer and Worship focuses on life as a whole school, as a community. It expresses what the school values. It is both religious and educational; a learning and worshipping experience.

Through Collective Worship, opportunities are provided for both children and staff to come together to worship God and specifically:

- To experience quietness.
- To be mindful.
- To use all our senses.
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues.
- To build foundations of liturgical awareness.

- To develop and enhance community spirit.
- To respond to and celebrate life.

Prayer and Worship - Who

GIFT Team

In June 2014, GIFT Team (Pupil Chaplains) were commissioned by Bishop Terence Brain to lead prayer and worship within school. The children have raised funds and converted a room in school into a Chaplain Room that will be used for prayer and meditation by all students. The Chaplains are supported in their role by the Parish Priest, Mrs Webb and Mrs Clarkson.

The GIFT Team s have led services and supported the Year Three children in their Parish preparation for the Sacraments. They will in turn train and support younger pupils to take on the role as chaplains as they move onto high school.

Governors

Responsibility lies with the Governing Body, to approve a Policy for Prayer and Worship in the school, after consultation with the Head teacher.

Headteacher

The Head teacher's role, supported by RE Coordinator, is to ensure that collective worship is provided for each child every day.

Children

All children have an entitlement to take part in a daily act of worship.

Teachers

All staff have a duty to assist in the planning and delivery of meaningful acts of worship.

Parents

Parents have a focal supportive role to play and example to set and are encouraged to participate in school collective worship.

Parish Priest and wider Faith Community

The active participation of the Parish Priest and the Parish community in supporting aspects of Collective Worship is acknowledged by all.

'The family that prays together stays together.'

(R.C. Family Rosary Crusade 1947)

Prayer and Worship - When

Legislation does not require that Prayer and Worship takes place at a specific time. It does not necessarily have to occur at the beginning of the day.

The underlying philosophy of this policy is that the children are encouraged to acknowledge that:

- We can pray anytime, anywhere, about anything.

Prayer and Worship is therefore, to be viewed as much broader than just formal acts of collective worship.

There is scope during the day for brief moments of reflection, which arise in connection with what the children are doing, for example, reading a story, a poem or within circle time discussions.

Many of these will be provided by the spontaneous reaction of children and staff to the wonder of God's creation.

In **October** and **Lent** the GIFT Team and children in KS2 are given the opportunity to lead the Rosary and Stations of the Cross in the morning from 8:45am. Staff, children and parents come and join this if they wish.

Prayer and Worship - Where

As a rule all main acts of Prayer and Worship will take place within the School.

In the Classroom

'Where two or three meet in my name I am there among them.'
(Matthew 18:10)

A class-based act of worship can provide an opportunity for teachers and their children to share a unique experience together. Children can be involved in a pro-active way.

In the School Hall

*'Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
Sing the glory of his name;
Give to him glorious praise!'*
(Psalm 66:1-2)

The school hall can be transformed into a place of worship very simply by providing a focal point, based on symbol and imagery linked to the main theme, alongside the provision of music for reflection. The hall can be made to feel special by the example set by staff and older children's entry and exit. We expect children to enter and leave the hall quietly.

Children are given opportunities to become involved e.g. in reading prayers, role playing etc to provide ownership of the act of worship.

In Church

At St Michael and St John's RC School we are very lucky to have the church next door to the school. Every term, through the school year, the school has the opportunity to attend and take part in Masses with the parish.

Prayer and Worship - How

Our aim is always to provide the children with a variety of meaningful experiences. Acts of Worship will therefore take place in many forms, including some of the following aspects:

- They can be led by the children, staff or visitors.
- They can be offered by a class, key stage, mixed group or the whole school.
- They can use a balance of quiet reflection, silence, prayers both prepared and spontaneous, responses, music, songs, hymns, dance, drama, poetry, readings both Biblical and secular, psalms and visual images.
- They can provide a focus using artefacts, candles, lighting and symbols.
- They can ensure that the theme, delivery, focus, length and resources are appropriate to the interests, age range and abilities of the children.
- They can set an appropriate atmosphere including a sense of reverence, order and occasion, including entry and exit.
- They can encourage the active participation of all present and support the overall precept of inclusion, where all are seen to be valued and cared for.

Prayer and Worship. Planning.

In line with the School Mission Statement, all staff at St Michael and St John's school are striving to develop the intended impact of their actions.

Planning:

- Takes place in consultation with all appropriate parties and with reference to school aims and policies. It includes cross-referencing the themes contained within the 'Come and See' scheme of work.
- Takes into account the Church's Liturgical Year, significant dates and Saints days.
- Takes into account the need for flexibility to respond to the changing situations within the school and wider community.

Format for Prayer and Worship

As a guide for planning classroom worship we use the titles of **Gather, Word, Symbolic Action** and **Mission**.

These are based on the parts of the mass.

Gather : We gather together at the start of mass.

Word: We listen to the Word of God during the Liturgy of the Word.

Symbolic Action: We receive the Body of Christ during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Mission: We live out God's word after mass in our daily lives.

Record keeping

Each class has a large A3 sized book to keep a record of each prayer and worship session. Children's prayers and reflections as well as photographs and readings may be put in as a record.

Prayer and Worship. Resources

In relation to the provision of relevant suitable resources to support the delivery of this Prayer and Worship Policy, the school uses Bible stories and SEAL materials.

In addition, we have a wide range of books, symbols, candles, coloured cloths, visual imagery and musical resources.

'I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

(John. 8:12)

St Michael and St John's RC Primary School

Assembly Times

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:55 School day starts.	8:55 School day starts	8:55 School day starts	8:55 School day starts	8:55 School day starts
9:05 Whole School Assembly	3:10pm Hymn practice – Whole School.	3:10 pm Whole School Assembly	3:10pm Classroom Worship..	9:05 Celebration Assembly.

Daily Prayers and prayers all children should know

Prayers begin and end with a sign of the cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

School Prayer

This our school,
Let peace dwell here,
Let peace begin with me,
Let the room be full of contentment,
Let love abide here.
Love one another.
Love of humankind.
Love of life itself
And love of God.
That as many hands build a house.
So many hearts make a school.

Morning Offering prayer

Father in heaven, you are so good;
I will try to love you as I should.

Father in heaven, I give you today;
All that I think and do and say

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Lunchtime Prayer (Infant)

Bless us oh God, as we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that make the food.
less us oh God. Amen.

Lunchtime Prayer (Junior)

Bless us o Lord and these thy gifts.
For which we are about to receive,
from thy bounty.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lunchtime end Prayer

Thank you God for the food we have eaten.
Thank you God for all our friends.

Thank you God for everything.

Thank you God. Amen.

Afternoon Prayer (Infant)

God our Father, I come to say;
Thank you for your love today;

Thank you for my family and all
The friends you give to me.

Guard me in the dark of night;
And in the morning, send your light.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of grace,
The Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God.
Pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest give unto O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace . Amen

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Assembly Themes

We follow the Church's Liturgical Year in our prayer and worship so that the children may become familiar with the Gospels. Classes have an assembly timetable for the term which links the Sunday Readings to the whole school theme. These can then be expanded further in classroom worships.

Each 'Come and See' study unit is begun with an Assembly launch.