



## Aughton St. Michael's C.E. School

### Collective Worship Policy

Date Approved: Autumn 2018

Review Date: Autumn 2020

#### Mission Statement

**A**chieving all we can to develop fully our hearts and minds.

**S**haring in a loving, caring, Christian community.

**M**aking sure everyone is valued.



Aughton St .Michael's C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to Worship and praise God, reinforce Christian values and develop the children' s spiritual, moral , social & cultural understanding .

#### Introduction

The staff and governors at Aughton St Michael's C.E. Primary School see the main purpose of the school as that of providing an excellent education both academically and socially in a Christian context for all its pupils, as reflected through our Mission Statement.

One of the school's main aims is the achievement of high academic standards and a sense of personal worth for all its pupils through encouraging them to do their best and fulfil their individual potential. Subject to its physical capacity our school therefore welcomes all children from the neighbourhood, whatever their family faith, if parents wish an education in a Christian context for their children.

#### Current Organisation of Collective Worship at our School

In accordance with our Trust Deed and with statutory requirements, at our school Collective Worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. Worship is organised on both a key stage and a whole school basis and is led by staff, visitors and the pupils themselves. The

worship and prayer life of the school is not limited, opportunities are taken to use prayer in the curriculum generally, at the end of afternoon sessions, as well as grace before lunch.

One of the ways our school fulfils its Christian character is by having services in our local church from time to time and by inviting the Parish clergy to come into school each Wednesday to lead worship.

We can reassure parents, however, that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity that will compromise their own family faith or lack of faith, indeed parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from worship. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all pupils whatever their background is of prime concern to us as a school. However, Christian values underpin our ethos and teaching. They are reflected in the cycle of themes on which our daily acts of worship are based.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

It is our aim at Aughton St. Michael's C. E. School is that worship should:

- reflect the schools' Trust Deed
- reflect the Mission Statement of the school
- reinforce the Christian values and ethos of the school
- offer opportunities to worship and praise God
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches Anglican calendar
- show appreciation for gifts and talents of the school community that God has given us
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- be inclusive
- be regularly monitored and evaluated

### **Delivering Collective Worship at our School**

With the exception to Wednesday, when it is at the discretion of class teacher, all Collective Worship in our school is timetabled.

Different members of the school's teaching staff take it in turns to lead Worship. The Rector from St. Michael's Church leads Thursday's Worship.

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school hall and, on occasion of important dates in the Church calendar, at St Michael's Church and Liverpool Cathedral.

All staff and pupils currently take part in Collective Worship, a position Governors actively encourage, though the right to withdraw exists.

All members of our school community have opportunities to attend Collective Worship on various occasions throughout the school year.

Pupils of the school prepare the hall (or classroom) for Collective Worship and take an active part in ensuring the Worship runs smoothly. Pupils of the school enter and leave in silence. Music is played during that time. When all children and staff are present, a pupil lights the candle to show that Worship has begun. It is in this way that a worshipful atmosphere is created and sustained.

### **Content and Approaches**

Worship is planned every half term by the Headteacher and the Rector. For each half term there is an identified Christian Value which forms the basis of the theme. Notable dates on the Church calendar are also incorporated into the plan. The identified value for the term is then displayed in the reflection area of each classroom to reinforce this value.

In our school, the process of worship takes place through a variety of media, song, story, drama (rehearsed and improvised) visual aids, role play, music, poetry etc. It takes place through Class led Worship - pupil planned and led as well as adult-led worship time.

A range of approaches and styles of Worship is used; storytelling can be powerful, joyful, or reflective and is used a great deal. We also have signing songs, activity songs, quiet reflective hymns, shared prayers.

Non-biblical stories, or big books of Christian stories or biblical stories are used as are poems helping young children to experience feelings, emotions which are shared, helping them to listen and appreciate each other's ideas. There is a reflective time for silent prayer in quietness or with quiet appropriate music.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced, during the school year, to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and help to explore them.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

Monitoring & evaluation of Worship involves the views of staff, pupils and members of the Governing Body. Their views then help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

## Resources

Resources are researched and purchased regularly using appropriate agencies.

Permanently on display are:

- Wall tiled mosaic celebrating school, local, church, diocese communities.
- A large wooden cross on display in the School's Porch.
- A beautiful wooden alter table is on display in the hall.
- School Banner is displayed in the school hall
- Children's work reinforcing the key Christian values are displayed around school
- Reflection areas are a focal point in every classroom
- Classroom prayer books, compiled by the children are displayed in rooms

Resources are normally kept either in the school hall in the Collective Worship display cabinet or the Headteacher's office. (Resources for RE curriculum are stored separately)