



# St Mary's Primary Collective Worship Policy

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## St Mary's Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

St Mary's Church of England VC Primary School will provide a happy, caring, family environment **where children feel inspired**. We know that every child matters – whatever their skills and abilities, whatever their background and whatever their aspirations. Belonging to a safe and nurturing community, founded on strong Christian values, children will develop an array of skills that will equip them to meet the challenges of our ever changing world and to make their own positive contribution to our global society.

### Our Vision

Our vision, as a Church of England primary school, is deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition, to develop happy, young people with enquiring minds, a lifelong love of learning, respect for themselves, others and the environment so that they will have the skills, resilience and adaptability to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The Bible verse that sets our vision statement in context comes from the words of Jesus:

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4.13

We have five core values that are strategic to this vision

### Our core values

*Forgiveness, courage, friendship, respect and perseverance.*

All we do as a school is underpinned by these values

Whilst growing in God's love, we will support and encourage one another to aim for the best in all we do.

Collective worship is held according to the guidelines laid down in the E.R.A. of 1998. It is a non-denominational activity which reflects the "broad traditions and practice of the Church of England". It is a celebration of values held in central importance to a community – our pupils belong to the school community and our daily act of worship is a means of promoting those values.

We hope that all pupils will take part in our daily act of worship but respect the right of parents to withdraw their children if they wish to do so.

### What are we aiming to do?

At St Mary's C. of E. Primary School, we view collective worship as a vital time when either the whole school or each class meet together to share in worship and each others' achievements.

We believe that collective worship should:

- Be an expression of praise and gratitude and a recognition of our vulnerability as humans
- Provide an educational framework to encourage pupil's development
- Be appropriate and relevant to all pupils, regardless of their personal or religious commitment
- Take into consideration the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of our pupils

- Develop caring / sharing attitudes amongst the children and a very “special” community sense of belonging
- Promote spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical awareness and wellbeing and help children to become sensitive to the wonders and mysteries of the world
- Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, appreciating that people differ, yet should be valued, whatever their beliefs or culture
- Provide the time for the experience of reflection – private time for staff and pupils without having to express opinions and thoughts.

### **How do we achieve our aims?**

We endeavour to:

- Reflect the Church’s year – e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost etc.
- Respond to other events either local or national, accordingly
- As appropriate, reflect the multicultural nature of society
- Provide opportunities for thought, silence and reflection as well as time for participation
- Encourage children to enter and leave the hall in a quiet, orderly manner
- Use appropriate language
- Use a variety of resources / people as appropriate

### **The Collective act of worship**

Collective worship takes place daily, but not always at the same time.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Group attending</b>	<b>Lead Person</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Open the Book	Church	9:00 – 9:15am
<b>Tuesday</b>	Values worship	Headteacher	9:00 – 9:30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Church worship	Church – Rev Ruth/ Rev Andrew	9:00 – 9:30am
<b>Thursday</b>	Class worship	KS worship	Any time
<b>Friday</b>	Whole school	Children	9:00 – 9:30am

### **The format of whole school collective worship**

A cross and a candle in a special area are used as the focal point for each act of collective worship.

Each act of worship is planned to include the main elements as detailed:

- A candle is lit to signify the importance of the special time together
- A formal greeting by the lead person to which the children respond
- The main focus of the assembly starts with child participation at relevant times
- A time for reflection related to the focus
- A hymn that relates to the focus where possible
- A prayer that relates to the focus
- The candle is extinguished by a child to signify the end of the special time together.

## **The format of Class Worship**

Worship within the class provides an ideal opportunity to focus at an age appropriate level to the children within each class. In Bumblebees Class, worship is centred around the sharing and discussion of a book or story that links in to the overall theme of the week or that addresses an issue that may have arisen.

Within the remaining classes, Class Worship revolves round the following activities:

- Stilling
- Class diary of reflection
- Celebration of individual achievements outside of school
- Responding to local / national / international issues

## **Planning the collective worship**

The structure of our collective worship reflects the Christian beliefs and values, focussing on God, the Creation, Jesus and all God's people. Materials from other religious traditions, may also be used, e.g. poems, readings, stories, music, artefacts.

Staff plan according to a chosen focus to ensure continuity and a variety of resources are used to supplement ideas.

The plan for the collective worship theme for the term is recorded on a form (see attached) by the co-coordinator for worship and shared with the staff.

Each week/month/term there is a theme for Collective worship based on the school's core values, Christian festivals, and/or in response to major incidents in the local/global community. These are published at the beginning of each term. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

The ethos committee, which includes the schools Foundation Governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship at the school.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process and as such their views are sought regarding themes and content.

## **Monitoring and evaluating of Collective Worship**

The monitoring and evaluating of the planning, provision and impact of worship is carried out each term. The foundation governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

## **The role of the co-ordinator**

The Act of Worship co-ordinator leads the process by which the focuses are chosen. S/he is responsible for developing the recording system and for maintaining and monitoring the central record ensuring all relevant staff are up to date with current guidance.

## **Rights of Withdrawal**

At St Mary's C. of E. Primary School, we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.