

**St Mary's Church of England  
Voluntary Controlled School**

**Policy  
For  
Collective Worship**

## Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

**References to 'parish' refer to St Mary's Church which the school is linked to. This is the parish named in the Instrument of Government for the school (IoG). The vicar will be the 'principal officiating minister' of the named parish.**

*"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God." William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury 1942-44*

## Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us
- Be distinctively Christian
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school – hope, tolerance, respect and belonging.
- Have **Integrity** as acts of Anglican worship whilst being **Invitational, Inclusive and inspirational**
- Be based on Christian text or themes
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Reflect on human existence
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community
- Celebrate the core Christian values - hope, tolerance, respect and belonging and identify how these link to the collective worship themes

To comply:

- Reflect the trust deed
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by foundation governors

## Aims

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring and transformative.
- To nurture spirituality, morality, social and cultural values.
- To develop the schools core Christian values so that they are embedded in everyday life
- Sometimes to provide a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Sometimes to be noisy and joyous with singing, music, dance, drama, gymnastics etc.

- To give an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year.
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them.
- To develop pupils' sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty.
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship.
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship.

## How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence following the 4 central attributes of worship.
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the school community at some time.
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; RE curriculum, festivals and celebrations, within Christian and other faith traditions, our Christian values and the Respect, Rights and Responsibilities programme – celebrating achievements, good work and behaviour and core Christian values.
- Using a wide range of resources, devotional aids artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external speakers to engage children's interest.
- Encourage children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers and writing prayers.
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience.
- Involving pupils and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish.
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions.
- Recognising and celebrating core Christian values in action.

## Central attributes of an act of worship

The School will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with School's trust deed, by holding 'an act of collective worship every day'.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following 'central attributes' of worship:

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|-------------------|--|
| <b>Gathering</b>  | Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbol and ceremony  |
| <b>Engaging</b>   | Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content   |
| <b>Responding</b> | Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways |

and in addition

**Sending** Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education through collective worship**

**We endeavour to develop SMSC within our school by referring to the guidelines from Ofsted. We look to promote this criterion through acts of collective worship as well as the teaching of RE and other subjects.**

### **School specific organisation**

#### **KS1**

<b>Monday</b>	Class worship led by Class Teacher
<b>Tuesday</b>	Class worship led by Class Teacher
<b>Wednesday</b>	Singing and worship led by teaching staff
<b>Thursday</b>	Class worship led by phase leaders
<b>Friday</b>	Celebration and worship led by member of teaching staff

#### **KS2**

<b>Monday</b>	Class worship led by Class Teacher
<b>Tuesday</b>	Class worship led by Class Teacher
<b>Wednesday</b>	Singing and worship led by teaching staff
<b>Thursday</b>	Class worship led by phase leaders
<b>Friday</b>	Celebration and worship led by member of teaching staff

*The School may vary the organisation School / Class / Phase and Key Stage each year or term.*

*Collective worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.*

### **The centrality of prayer**

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and school reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.

There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.

Each class has a 'reflective area' to engage and promote individual pupils and adults, as well as designated special spaces around the school.

### **Management and organisation of resources**

The Executive Head teacher plans worship on a termly basis, with input from pupils, teachers, members of the parish church and reflections / feedback from pupils, staff, governors and parents.

Resources and artefacts are available from the cupboard in the hall.

All classes have access to prayer books and Bibles, as well as the class set of Bibles in the library.

A board is displayed outside the hall, highlighting the focus and theme of collective acts of worship, music and prayer.

The School's reception area displays reflect the colours of the Anglican Church's year, current ideas and themes, as well as the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values.

**White** is the colour for the festal periods from Christmas Day to the Presentation and from Easter Day to the Eve of Pentecost, for Trinity Sunday, for Festivals of Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary, for All Saints' Day, and for the Festivals of those saints not venerated as martyrs, for the Feast of Dedication of a church, at Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday and in thanksgiving for Holy Communion and Holy Baptism. It is used for Marriages, and is suitable for Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination, though red may be preferred. It may be used in preference to purple or black for Funerals, and should be used at the Funeral of a child. Where a church has two sets of white, one may be kept for great Festivals indicated as 'gold or white'.

**Red** is used during Holy Week (except at Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday), on the Feast of Pentecost, may be used between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent (except where other provision is made) and is used for the Feasts of those saints venerated as martyrs. It is appropriate for any services which focus on the gift of the Holy Spirit, and is therefore suitable for Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination. Coloured hangings are traditionally removed for Good Friday and Easter Eve, but red is the colour for the liturgy on Good Friday.

**Purple** (which may vary from 'Roman purple' to violet, with blue as an alternative) is the colour for Advent and from Ash Wednesday until the day before Palm Sunday. It is recommended for Funerals and for the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, although either black or white may be preferred. A Lent array of unbleached linen is sometimes used as an alternative to purple, but only from Ash Wednesday until the day before Palm Sunday. Rose-colour is sometimes used as an alternative on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

**Green** is used from the day after the Presentation until Shrove Tuesday, and from the day after Pentecost until the eve of All Saints' Day, except when other provision is made. It may also be used, rather than red, between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent.

## Communication

The school newsletter contains the theme, parents are always informed about the worship taking place in school. Some parents will value this personally and may discuss and reflect on the worship at home with their child.

Information about school worship is provided to the local parish church so parishioners can be informed about the worship in school.

## Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship, church services and celebration worships.

## Legal status of collective worship

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

## Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from parts or all of the daily act of collective worship. Schools must comply with this wish and must ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

Collective worship guidance is contained in Circular 1/94.

***The school will respect parental and a sixth-formers request and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community.***

## Responsibilities

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view daily collective worship as an integral part of their own wellbeing and spiritual development as human beings. The school's expectation is that all staff attend acts of collective worship. Staff retain the legal right to withdraw from acts of collective worship.

At interview all applicants are informed that the school holds daily acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school. The normal expectation is that teaching staff, including student teachers, participate in and lead acts of collective worship. The school welcomes offers from all members of staff who feels confident to lead collective worship.

The Executive Head teacher is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff.

The person responsible for collective worship is The Executive Head teacher

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of acts of collective worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis.

Regular monitoring of Collective Worship will take place. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in weekly class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

## **Review**

This policy should be reviewed annually, or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.

Date; July 2015

Review Date: June 2016