



ST. MARY'S CE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Love, Trust & Hope

 Love  Trust  Hope



Collective Worship Policy

Date policy last reviewed: September
2025

Signed by:

S. Smith

Headteacher

Date: 18/9/25

K Hissitt

Chair of governors

Date: _____

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

St. Mary's is an inclusive Christian family learning and growing together. We Invest in the uniqueness of each individual, which is firmly rooted and is the golden thread running through everything we do.



"I Am Fearfully And Wonderfully Made"
— Psalms 139 v14

Our Core Christian Values are Love, Trust and Hope.

Rational

Collective Worship at St. Mary's C of E Primary School takes place daily in accordance with provisions of the School Standards and Frameworks Act, 1998. The contents of all our collective acts of worship are in accordance with the aims of the trust deed and its Anglican Foundation.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a core activity each day and it is a special time when we come together to listen, think, participate and spend time in God's presence.

Aims

The school provides collective worship which reflects the Anglican traditions of the Church of England. Worship is inclusive and school members, who do not come from Christian families, are able to join the daily act of collective worship, even though this, in the main, reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief. Our St. Mary's family encounter worship as truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

We aim to provide collective worship that provides pupils with the opportunity to;

- worship which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their spiritually
- participate and respond
- to promote a common ethos and shared values
- to help pupils develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others
- promotes respect, tolerance and understanding for those with differing beliefs and background

Worship in St. Mary's Church of England Primary School encompasses our school values of Love, Trust and Hope.

Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. Our pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils and staff in our school come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many of our pupils are naturally at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. Care is taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective worship is not 'done to' but involves meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that our pupils bring their own experience to worship.

Invitational

Our parents, pupils and adults encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly our door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults are always invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way. Prayer is always accompanied by the option to reflect. Music and liturgies used in worship reflects the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, it connects with the theme and explores the sacred to educate and engage. Music used reflects the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community. Care is taken with the music and liturgy: the traditional and modern riches of Christian hymns and music is drawn upon and we think about what is most appropriate, at a given time, for the spiritual life of our community.

Inspiring

Pupils and adults encounter inspirational worship. Worship is formational and transformational: it enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It motivates pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they are inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It encourages them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions. There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our school and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option.

Pattern of Worship

- Monday - Whole school worship led by a representative from church

- Tuesday – Whole school worship reinforcing the previous day's worship through activities and discussion. Led by the Headteacher
- Wednesday Worship reinforcing the previous day's worship through activities and discussion. Led by the Headteacher/Member of Staff
- Thursday - Worship led by Deb Hird
- Friday – Class Worship to reflect on the theme of worship, discuss stories, activities and link to our school vision and values.
- Friday - Celebration worship led by Miss Finnigan. This is a review of the theme and a reflection of how children have been living out the theme in their daily lives. Awards and certificates are also presented. Special events and achievements are brought to the attention of the children. We celebrate our children's achievements.

At St. Mary's, the core of our school worship is belief in God the Creator. It is also an affirmation and celebration of the Anglican tradition and of the values and ethos of our school.

Good practice for Collective Worship before worship begins

- Candles should be lit to signify Christ's presence
- Music should be played
- Children should enter quietly as Worship is a special time. Teachers need to enforce this and set excellent examples.

Beginning Worship

- The leader should greet the children and staff and say together, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen' 'The Lord be with you'

Concluding Worship

- Prayers should be said
- Music should be played.
- The leader should signify the ending of worship with The Lord's Prayer
- Children should leave quietly. Teachers again need to enforce this by actions and gestures rather than words.

Class Worship

- A candle should be lit, if safe, to signify Christ's presence.
- Include prayers.
- Class Teachers to follow the suggestions from the Collective Worship Evaluation.
- Prayers

Pattern of Worship

Worship Table

- Cloth to reflect the colour of the season of the church year
- Values poster
- Bible
- An artefact or object suggesting the theme or content of worship (if appropriate)

Welcome

When everyone has gathered, a candle is lit to signal the start of worship. Words of welcome will be given during the lighting of the candles. The root of the worship (e.g. a Bible Story) is also introduced at this time.

Learning



Symbolised by a window, the learning element is when new possibilities or different perspectives are 'opened up' through the use of drama, visual images, poetry or videos based on Bible stories or other texts.

Reflecting



Symbolised by the mirror, the reflecting element encourages everyone to consider how the Bible story or stimulus has resonated with, or challenged them. Usually, 'searching questions' are offered as a focus for reflection. Sometimes this is followed by a few moments of silence.

Responding



Responding, the final element in the worship, has the symbol of the door and provides an opportunity to consider how God might be challenging those present in the worship to 'step out' and play their part in making a difference in the world either as individuals or as part of a whole school community.

If appropriate, a further activity is suggested to stimulate further discussion and consideration on the theme of worship through the week.

Class Led Worship

The parents of the children taking part in the Class Led Worship will be invited to come to the worship. Each class teacher will have a supply of invitations to give to the relevant children in good time. A text message can also be sent to reinforce the invitation. These workshops will include a hymn and a prayer.

Prayer and Reflection

Worship in all forms are planned to include a variety of opportunities for children to engage in prayer and reflection. In order to provide the right atmosphere, we use elements from the Anglican traditions such as the Bible, candles, artefacts and liturgical colours. These elements help children to have something to focus on as they are invited to move closer to God, for example, a lit candle helps children to reflect on Jesus as the light of the world. Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer and prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet.

The school is actively developing the children's confidence in reciting simple liturgy. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Head Teacher or Assistant Head, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed above the altar table in our mural and mosaic.

At the end of morning lessons before lunch, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. Prayers are also said at the end of the school day. We also encourage it at times when children need comfort or have suffered loss so that they can turn to prayer at any time in their own lives. All of this contributes towards an understanding of personal prayer as a part of an individual's own spiritual development.

Leadership and Management of Collective Worship

The academy councillors of St. Mary's C of E Primary, in consultation with the Head Teacher, are responsible for Collective Worship. Worship is co-ordinated by the Head Teacher but the whole school is encouraged to take ownership of it because of the central place of it in school life.

The collective worship cycle is organised on a two-year rolling programme. Each term focuses on one Christian Value which links to the season of the Church year. These are rooted in bible teaching and the twelve values represent the fruit that grows as the teaching is lived out in everyday life.

The worship team is a group of children (changed half-termly) to discuss the planning, resourcing and development of worship. They alongside other pupils evaluate our worship. These children work towards an award of Bronze, Silver or Gold to support children in becoming confident leaders of collective worship. It will also support children's understanding of their own and others' spirituality.

Every year group will plan and lead worship yearly for their families. Each half-term, the children will also visit St. Mary's Church in Long Newton to take part in GodZone. This is an interactive event where children take part in interactive activities as well as an act of worship.

Withdrawal of pupils from Collective Worship

In accordance with legal requirements, parents have the right to withdraw their children, from acts of collective worship on religious grounds. Parents should make their wishes known to the Head Teacher who will ensure that any pupils, who are withdrawn, are appropriately supervised while the act of collective worship takes place. Collective Worship time is not used to withdraw pupils to take part in other activities.