

St Mary's C.E Aided Primary School. **Collective Worship**

Mission Statement

Our aim is to provide a caring Christian environment where everyone is special. We all work to ensure that children are happy and secure. We create a stimulating environment where children can achieve their full potential. We aim to develop the children socially, morally, spiritually and culturally by promoting attitudes of mutual respect and responsibility.”

Rationale

At St Mary's CE Primary School collective worship is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England.

We believe that one of the most important marks distinguishing church schools from others should be the importance placed on the spiritual life of all members of the School Community. This shows itself in the attention paid to the Ethos of the school, the careful planning and delivery of the R.E curriculum, but above all in the quality of the worship offered in school

Collective worship can take place at any time of the school day but it cannot be designated as teaching time.

Philosophy

The challenge to us as a Church Primary School is to ensure that the legal requirements are met in ways which also reflect the needs of the child and the ethos of the school.

School worship is the place where we acknowledge the infinitely larger world we inhabit and where we are touched, however fleetingly by its mystery and wonder which informs the children and helps them interpret their journey and experience. It should be regarded as something separate to ordinary school activities but should provide the foundation on which all school life rests. In our school the process of worship takes place through a variety of media including song, story, drama, music, poetry etc... It takes place through class assemblies as well as adult led worship time.

Entitlement

At St Mary's School we believe that collective worship is an important part of every child's spiritual development and all pupils regardless of race, gender, physical or academic ability are entitled to participate. Every attempt is made, therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities and interests.

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, however it is made clear to parents before their child attends the school that St Mary's is a CE School and that worship will follow the teachings of the Church. Also that Collective Worship is an important part of School life.

Withdrawal does not guarantee exclusion from the religious character of the school and the Governors hope that in choosing a Church School, parents are hereby committing themselves to their child's participation in the religious life of the School.

Children who are withdrawn from worship will be supervised and given appropriate work.

Aims:

Collective Worship in St Mary's CE school will:

- Meet the legal requirements.
- Highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experience of worship.
- Be an experience which is enjoyable, meaningful and educational value to all its pupils.
- Enable pupils to make use of silence as a time for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To celebrate and express those Christian beliefs and values which bind all within the School Community.
- Enable pupils to become aware of the many questions which relate to life.
- Provide a common focus for the school and community.
- Celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school and to the wider Community.
- Explore and share the beliefs of others.
- Encourage respect and care for God's creation.
- Allow children an opportunity to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief.

Objectives

Collective worship in St Mary's will be a stimulating and enjoyable experience in which children can develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes. We intend to achieve this by providing children with opportunities to:

- Develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them.
- Develop a spiritual dimension to their lives and personal relationships.
- Experience thanks giving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing love, joy, hope, friendship, acceptance, anguish, fear and forgiveness.
- Develop awareness and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs.
- Encounter beliefs, prayers, symbols and songs from the Anglican tradition in an appropriate manner.
- Reflect on and think more deeply about important issues.
- Respond through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- Celebrate the Festivals and Saints days of the church year.
- Share in church life and Christian practice.
- Affirm values and commitment and re-inforce positive attitudes throughout the School.

Staff Development

Training is provided from a number of providers including: LEA, Diocese, National Society.

Special Educational Needs

Collective Worship at St Mary's is totally inclusive. All ages and abilities are provided for in planning and delivery of Collective Worship.

Links with Spiritual Development

Collective Worship can contribute to spiritual development as follows:

- It can celebrate all that is good and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive.
- It can provide an opportunity to reflect on experience and to search for meaning in that experience.
- It can stimulate a sense of awe and wonder.

- It can give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space.
- It can provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the 'darker' side of life.
- It can help value a non-material dimension to life.
- It can give time for reflection on their own beliefs and values, and those of others.

Collective Worship can contribute to Moral Development as follows:

- It can help promote an understanding of the difference between right and wrong.
- It can promote respect for people and property.
- It can help pupils to appreciate how their actions can affect others.

Collective Worship can contribute to Social Development as follows:

- It gives the opportunity to celebrate together.

Collective Worship can contribute to Cultural Development as follows:

- The celebration of own and others' religious and cultural traditions.

Assessment and Review/Evaluation

The acts of worship will be evaluated by the headteacher and staff on a termly basis. Worship will be monitored to ensure that:-

- Agreed and planned content is being covered.
- A variety of approach and methodology are used.
- High standards and quality are maintained.
- Staff have been well supported by the worship team – headteacher, worship co-ordinator and school clergy.
- Worship has been led by a variety of leaders.
- Evaluation of parent and pupils reactions.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Guidelines

The timing and organisation of collective worship can be flexible – it may take place at anytime of the school day. Sometimes Collective Worship can be a single act of worship for all pupils or separate acts for pupils in different age groups. It always reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief and is wholly Christian in character.

- The content of daily Collective worship at St Mary's Aided school is Christian, following the church calendar with one worship a week concentrating on achievement and particularly concerning social and moral development.

Objectives of our Acts of Worship

- To provide opportunities for silence, for reflection, for experiencing and expressing awe and wonder
- To contribute to each child's spiritual development
- To emphasise our Christian identity

- To provide opportunities for individuals, groups and classes to present all or part of Collective Worship.
- To develop contacts with our parish, involvement of the clergy in worship.
- To encourage sensitivity towards other people's beliefs and values.
- To participate in praise to God by providing opportunities to celebrate in songs, hymns, readings and other ways.

Content

The children are expected to come into the hall, or other worship area, quietly. Music is used to help create a reflective atmosphere. The title of the music and the composer is displayed for the children. A candle is lit and there may be other objects to act as a focus for the children.

There will be times when the worship is quiet, contemplative and serene and at other times it will involve loud music, laughter and dance. A balanced programme will provide a varied format of prayers, readings, songs, drama and other activities as well as drawing on the wealth of liturgical material which is part of the Christian tradition of worship. The Bible is used as a source book for inspiration and learning. A clear end to the time for worship is indicated by the worship candle being extinguished. Any 'assembly' notices or announcements are kept separate from worship.

Collective Worship follows the pattern of the Anglican year.

Components:

- Story:- from Christianity, other faiths, novels, storybooks, children's fiction, biographies, true life.
- Music:- Song – traditional, hymns, carols, folksong, children's songs
 - recorded music – anything and everything
 - performance – as accompaniment – 'recital'
- Drama, dance:- prepared and improvised
- Art:- slides, picture, sculpture
- Prayer:- formal, traditional – Lord's Prayer, prayers learnt or listened to from the Christian tradition, collects, Celtic, other school/pupil prayers arising from work or thoughts prepared in advance or elicited during worship
 - silence, meditation, reflection
- Pupil involvement:- taking a lead, musical, drama and role play.
- Prayers are also said in the classrooms at the end of the morning (grace) and at the end of the day.

Organisation and Management

The governors, in consultation with the worship co-ordinator are responsible for Collective Worship. Worship is co-ordinated by the headteacher and is led by members of staff, local clergy and visiting leaders.

Worship takes place in school every day and in church on special occasions.

Planning and Record Keeping

The planning sheet is completed termly in consultation with the staff and clergy. The themes used are linked with the curriculum wherever possible and take into account the church calendar and changing seasons.

Records are kept of all acts of worship and comments recorded to evaluate the worship. The worship team meets termly to evaluate the topics.

Visiting Speakers

Visitors bring different perspectives into the school and they can participate by:

- Leading the worship
- Introducing their charity work
- Providing a personal viewpoint on faith and life issues
- Linking the school to the community

Visiting speakers are encouraged to lead worship, if appropriate. Speakers are made aware of the school policy on Collective Worship, arrangements agreed with the headteacher and the content agreed.

The vicar provides guidance to American Christian students when they visit school.

Visitors will therefore know the parameters in which they can work and know what exactly is required of them. These may include:

- The theme of the week
- Freedom with the format of worship
- Attendance at a previous worship
- A brief on ages and background of pupils
- Duration of time of worship
- Equipment and resources available

Resources

Books, resource material, candles, cross, prayer books and hymn books are available to anyone leading worship. These resources are kept in the resource room. Music and words may be copied in accordance with Christian Copyright Licence which is displayed in the school office.

There are three dedicated Sunday Family Services – Leavers', Christingle and Education Sunday.

The school also visits St Mary's Church for services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest, end of the summer term and other special occasions; children, staff and the vicar prepare these services. Year 6 attend the Leavers Service in Durham Cathedral to share worship with other Diocesan schools; this is led by the Diocesan Board of Education.

SUBJECT AREA: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

NAME OF CO-ORDINATOR: Mrs E Robertson

The following responsibilities form part of the role of co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Taking responsibility for planning, recording and evaluation of acts of worship.
- Developing and organizing a resource bank of books, artefacts, music and visual aids and the ordering of these items.
- Playing a lead in managing the Collective Worship team and co-ordinate planning.
- Monitoring and reviewing acts of worship.
- Will ensure the provision of INSET for members of staff.

- Developing and updating Collective Worship so that policy reflects practice and is kept up to date with current changes.
- Will keep up to date by attending courses and reading current literature.
- Ensure all acts of worship include essential elements such as stillness, reflection, opportunities for spiritual development and meet legal requirements.
- Will ensure provision is made for children who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.
- Develop links with clergy and local church.
- To take a leading role in organizing special events of worship
- Providing various points of focus for worship and ensuring care of the worship table.
- Reporting to the Governing Body on Collective Worship.
- Assisting with preparations of the School Improvement Plan in relation to Collective Worship

This job description may be amended at any time after discussion, but in any case will be reviewed annually.

DAY	PARTICIPANTS	LEADER	TIME
MONDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL	A member of St Mary's Church	10.15-10.30am
TUESDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL	A member of staff	10.15-10.30am
WEDNESDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL	Mrs E Robertson	10.15-10.30am

THURSDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL	MRS D Hird	9.10-9.30
FRIDAY	WHOLE SCHOOL AWARDS	HEADTEACHER	9.05am-9.20am

- THERE WILL BE OCCASIONS WHEN CLASS WORSHIP WILL TAKE PLACE

Themes For Collective Worship- please see Collective Worship plan
Class Worship- see Class Worship Plan

AIMS

Week beginning: -			Music: -		
	Participants	Leader	Theme	Content	Points for reflection
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					