



St Mary's C E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Live, Love & Learn Together in The Light of the Life of Christ

"For once you were in darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.

Live as children of light." (Ephesians 5:8-11, 13-14)

Approved by: St Mary's C E Board

Date: September 2023

Last reviewed on: Autumn Term 2023

Next review due by: Autumn Term 2025

Contents

Philosophy..... 3

Aims 3

The contribution of Collective Worship to the life
of the school 4

Inclusion 4

Organisation/Leadership and weekly pattern of
Collective Worship..... 4

Content 5

Displays, Prayers and Reflection Points 5

APPENDIX 1

Guidelines for visitors for Collective Worship..... 6

APPENDIX 2

School Song 7

The Lord's Prayer 7

Philosophy

St Mary's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School and as such, Collective Worship forms a central part in the life of the school, helping to uphold the religious character and Christian distinctiveness which are so intrinsic to everything we hold dear. It is a time in the day when we are able to explicitly explore our Christian faith and as such, it plays a major part in creating the special ethos and identity which form the backbone of St Mary's; inspiring and impacting the lives of children, staff, governors and parents and enabling their spiritual growth. The calm, peaceful, reflective, special atmosphere of Collective Worship provides members of the school community with opportunities to:

- Raise and reach out to God
- Experience stillness and quiet
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation
- Acknowledge the wider world and raise pupils' curiosity
- Be touched by the awe and mystery of the world
- Appreciate that we are the 'stewards' of God's world
- Understand justice and responsibility
- Ask fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances
- Begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship and to build a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- Learn and celebrate values we hold to be important

Collective Worship is attended by all pupils and classroom staff and it is an important part of our school's ethos that we all meet together in assemblies. Any visitors in school are very welcome to join in Acts of Collective Worship.

Aims

It is our aim at St Mary's that worship should enable opportunities for the whole school community to:-

- Pray and express praise and thanksgiving to God;
- Reflect on the attributes of God;
- Reflect on the teachings of Christ;
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes;
- Foster respect and unity;
- Share each other's joys and challenges;
- Celebrate special times in the Christian Calendar;
- Deepen spiritual awareness and reflection.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance
- Develop our understanding of Anglican tradition

All Collective Worship at St Mary's is Christian and broadly reflects the Anglican traditions and practice. We strive to ensure that it is of the highest quality and that it has a clear impact on all aspects of school life, with the messages which are delivered being reinforced and lived out throughout the school building and beyond.

The contribution of Collective Worship to the life of the school

As well as explicitly providing the opportunity for the school to worship together, Collective Worship contributes to a wide range of different aspects in the life of the school.

- Anglican tradition – Daily Collective Worship includes distinctively Anglican features (such as the opening and closing responses and the use of Anglican prayers and songs) and this reflects local practice. Services are regularly held in church to mark special Christian festivals (e.g. Harvest, Christmas, , Easter, Pentecost) as well as special times in the life of the school (Beginning of term, End of term) and special days in the year. Collective Worship has a strong focus on Jesus Christ and God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the central role that this has to Christian teaching.
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC) including British Values – Collective Worship provides the opportunity for children to be spiritual every day. Carefully selected themes inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and seek to promote thoughts in children and staff for their own spiritual journey.
- PSHE links are made in Collective Worship with common PSHE themes and with topical issues (Anti-bullying, E-safety). This promotes the Christian teaching behind the issue and encouragement that faith can support the messages delivered in PSHE.
- School Values- As part of Collective Worship during the year opportunities will also be given to link to the school Christian values. This is to ensure that all children have a deep and developed understanding of what these mean and how they should influence their daily life, both in and out of school.

Inclusion

Worship is planned and led so that all pupils have equal opportunity to take part and to benefit from the experience. We seek to be an inclusive community and we aim to ensure that our Collective Worship is sensitive so that all pupils (whatever their belief system) feel that they can participate and contribute in an act as well as being inspired. When parents/carers choose to send their child to St Mary's we expect that they understand that being part of the school community means all children will take part in whole school routines (which especially includes Collective Worship). Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective. However, St Mary's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum.

In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in Religious Education and Collective Worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Head Teacher before their child is admitted to the school. The school does not provide suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship and parents/carers should provide appropriate alternative activities for their child.

Organisation/Leadership and weekly pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship occurs during assemblies as a way for the whole school community to come together. The range of Collective Worship styles includes; Whole School worship based on a half termly theme, Singing Worship, Celebration Worship where children's achievements are recognised and celebrated together, and class assemblies led by classes which parents are encouraged to attend. It is led by a range of leaders including members of staff, Governors, the parish priests and visitors from neighbouring parishes. A wide range of visitors from different Christian and multi faith traditions

lead the acts of worship. This is particularly powerful because it provides children with a rich and wide range of experience of worship. Any new visitors are carefully briefed and invited to attend an act of worship led by a member of staff or an experienced visitor to ensure they are well inducted to the expectations for worship and therefore a high quality of worship can always be maintained. Members of the Senior Leadership Team monitor the quality of worship to ensure that a consistently high standard is always maintained.

Content

Each half term there is a Value for Collective Worship. These are published to the whole school community at the beginning of the term on the school newsletter. Those leading worship each week (including visitors) relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad so as to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders may feel that they need to respond to local or national events. A number of different styles/ techniques are used during Collective Worship. These may include use of

- Film clips
- Stories
- Drama/ Role play
- Artefacts
- Pictures/ images
- Music/songs
- Words/ key questions
- Bible stories (including OT and NT)
- Audience involvement
- Opportunities for personal reflection

When marking special days/ celebrations Collective Worship is held in church as part of a service. Some services are marked with a Eucharist service. As in all aspects of school life, high expectations of behaviour are held for all children throughout worship. It is important that pace is maintained through each act of worship so that children remain engaged and interested. Techniques such as use of talk partners and no hands up/lolly stick questions for different year groups help to ensure that all children are engaged and actively participating in the worship.

Displays, Prayers and Reflection Points

The display boards in the hall are allocated to classes each half term and are designed to reflect the termly theme. There is a prayer and reflection point in the communal corridor which also reflect the current theme for Collective Worship. There are prayer and reflection areas in each classroom. There are prayer and praise boxes in all classrooms. These displays have prompts for the children to either think about or something for them to do. This is to encourage children to continue reflecting on the Collective Worship theme throughout the day and to show them how it can relate to different areas of their lives.

APPENDIX 2

School Song

We are a team of honesty, Love, faith,
generosity
Since the year 1818, In a school of victory,
Eight hundred hours we spend
We are a team of bravery, Hard work,
positivity,
We have everything that we need Happiness
and equality,
We are St. Mary's children till the end

And if you cry out,
Then together we will fly out,
Stormy weather,
We will dry out.
We are stronger together (together)

We are a team of dedication
Tall dreams and aspiration
We will follow our vocation
Politics or aviation
We will prove it to you.

We are a team of responsibility
Ours head high for all to see
If we don't wake up happy
We live, love and learn to be
We are St Mary's children through and
through

And if you cry out
Then together we will fly out
Stormy weather,
We will dry out
We are strong
And if you cry out
Then together we will fly out
Stormy weather,
We will dry out
We are stronger together (together)'

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the
glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen

