

Collective Worship Policy

2024-2027

APPROVED BY 1:

Name: Jo Gill

Position: Chair of Governors

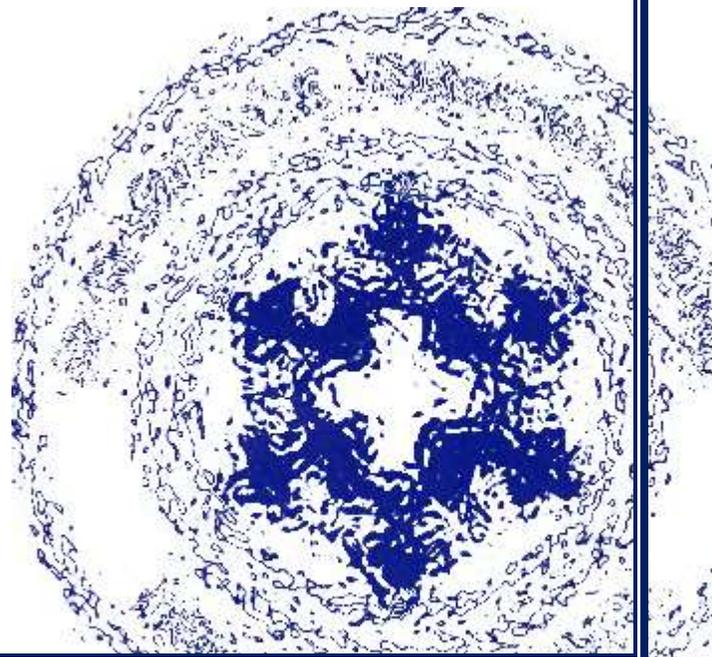
Signed:



Revised March 2024

St. Mary's

Church of England Primary School





Our Christian vision is for all our children and community to flourish together and enable others to do the same, using their talents and gifts to serve and support others, encouraging a sense of care and responsibility to others and the world.

Philosophy

To enable our children to flourish we want St Mary's Church of England School to be at the centre of its community. Worship is an important part of our school's life as it gives us the opportunity to celebrate, as well as encouraging our pupils to think about their place in the world, through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. We will not shy away from our responsibilities in enabling children to think deeply about themselves, the world in which they live and the place that faith has in our society. Collective Worship is one aspect of the school day in which we can nurture creative thinkers.

As a Church of England Primary School our Collective Worship will be in accordance with the principles and practises of the Anglican Church. The daily act of Collective Worship has a special status with a Christian focus, rooted in biblical teaching and is distinct from Religious Education

Importantly, we want our children to develop their sense of spirituality, **waiting, watching and wondering** about the world around them, about faith and exploring their own beliefs.

Aims and Purpose

- To enable pupils to explore and respond to a variety of forms of worship, thus enabling those pupils with a religious commitment to deepen their experience of worship, and to allow those without a religious commitment to begin to appreciate what worship means for others.
- To enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship by fostering in them an attitude characterised by feelings such as humility, awe, wonder, appreciation, thankfulness, respect, and reverence
- To enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues and the many questions which relate to life.
- To acknowledge the things which have meaning, value and purpose for the pupils as individuals, as well as for the school and the wider community.
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school
- To celebrate achievements, special occasions and special events in relation to individual pupils within school, to the school as a whole, or to the wider community.
- To acknowledge and respect difference and diversity.
- To explore and reflect on the school's Christian values and consider how these apply to themselves.

We work towards using the term Worship/Collective Worship rather than term 'assembly'.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship

The structure in our worship is **gathering, engaging, responding** and **sending** to enable the fulfilment of the above aims.

Gathering – It is important to create a sense that worship time is a special part of the day through the use of music, welcome, lighting a candle and creating a special atmosphere.

Engaging – We want those taking part in the worship to connect and engage in the worship. With this we encourage the leader(s) to have a focus e.g. use of table, cloth, Bible, candle, artefacts, ICT, visual, drama. We encourage a sense of awe and wonder and the leader(s) having a presence in the space.

Responding – Crucially those in worship should have an opportunity to respond through active participation, singing, reflection and prayer

Sending – As the time of worship closes those leading should summarise and encourage those participating to reflect and consider the application of the worship in their lives.

Typical timetable:

Day	Person Leading	Place
Monday	Head Teacher	Hall
Tuesday	Assigned Class Teacher	Hall
Wednesday	Class Reflection	Class
Thursday	Headteacher / Visitor	Hall
Friday	Senior Leadership	Hall

*Visitors join us at various times

The school has made alternative arrangements during Covid-19 restrictions using Google Classroom to connect with bubbles within school and visiting worship leaders.

Right of Withdrawal

Our school is based on an inclusive ethos; we expect all children to attend collective Worship assemblies. However we respect the right of any parent/guardian to request permission for their child to be excused. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act. Withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of those children granted withdrawal from assemblies. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education reform Act.

The headteacher keeps a record of all those children withdrawn from Collective Worship.

Resources

We encourage worship time to be creative and varied. There are however some core expectations within a the structure of a period of collective worship including but not exclusively,

Welcome, song, prayer, candle/worship focus, presentation/focus, reflection.

We actively encourage children to be at the centre of our worship including participation and planning the themes and activities. Our Worship Council are integral in planning, preparing and leading worship within school.

Monitoring and Review

Collective Worship developments will be reported to School Governor's once a year.

The themes for Collective worship are published at the beginning of the term. Those leading worship that week 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 students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints.

Evaluation of the worship times is encouraged through reflection activities and recorded in books and through pupil evaluation.

Collective Worship Lead – **Brian Jones**

The Governor Responsible for Collective Worship is: **Rev. Richard Snow**

Policy reviewed

Policy Review:

October 2024

October 2027

Signed

Date

School: St Mary's Church of England School

Collective worship in Church of England Schools should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us.

	Criteria	Aspect
Gathering	Music	Appropriate/random, linked to the theme, created atmosphere, delivers a message
	Welcome	Whether greetings exchanged and introduction made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace be with you • This is a special time of our school day when God can come closer to us and we can come closer to God • We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World
	Atmosphere	Extent to which the act of worship is portrayed as special and important
Engaging	Focus	Table, cloth, Bible, candle, artefacts, ICT, visual, drama, information
	Awe and Wonder	Sense of marvel of world / creation
	Conviction	Extent to which the message is clear and compelling or words lack power and appear as paying lip service
Responding	Participation	Extent to which learners involved in responding, partner talk, opportunities, for some to participate directly
	Singing	Whether there is an appropriate hymn/song, quality, enthusiasm of participation
	Reflection	Learners given time to pause and reflect
	Prayers	Extent to which prayers are appropriate and learner friendly, whether learners are invited to respond
Sending	Dismissal	Whether the person takes charge, smiles, engages with some learners, says 'thank you' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember, although you might be young, you can change the world by what you do today.
Comment	Distinctly Anglican	Clear reference is made to the Bible and Anglican Christian teaching and belief e.g. the Trinity – God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit
	Inclusive	The worship reflects the multi faith / cultural nature of the world and feels inclusive of other and non faith
	Dynamism and Theatricality	Was it a performance or an act of worship?
	Open/Closed	Does the leader give room for the children to build their own image of the meaning / connections/links or are they told what to think?
	Age Appropriate	Are the language, concepts, ideas appropriate? Is it meaningful for the youngest yet appropriate for the oldest?

Observation Form

Leader (s) Inc Pupil Worship Leaders		Observer	
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Worship Theme		Time Allocation	
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	Criteria	Aspect	
Gathering	Music	Is there a real sense of a marking the start of a special time in the day?	
	Welcome	Immediate impact, relevant, welcoming, stimulates interest or dull,	
	Atmosphere		
Engaging	Focus	Does the worship leader capture the attention of the children and staff so they become actively engaged in the content.	
	Awe and Wonder		
	Conviction	Is the leader expressive, stimulating? Is the leader convincing, enthusiastic, warm and creating a rapport?	
Responding	Participation	Does the leader allow for a response from the children and adults – whether active or passive, noisy or quiet?	
	Singing		
	Reflection		
	Prayers		
Sending	Dismissal	Does the leader send us out with a clear ‘thought for the day’, something that changes behaviour in some way.	
		Does the leader send the assembled group with a clear summary, reflection on the learning, a reflection on the message.	
Content	Distinctly Anglican	Was there a clear Christian/biblical focus?	
	Inclusive		
	Dynamism and Theatricality	Did the worship have structure, and Christian focus?	
	Open/Closed	Were all children and staff included?	
	Age Appropriate		

Additional Comments:

Suggestions for next worship sessions:

Signed

Date

Teacher's own reflections on their collective worship and improvement reflections: