



St Mary the Virgin
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy



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Philosophy

St Mary the Virgin C of E School is a Church of England School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to share in worship, reaffirm and practise our Christian Values. It is attended by all children, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

Collective Worship should be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in both the school and the church.

Rationale

We consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools' distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development, and well-being of all learners. Therefore, Collective Worship at our School is planned to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners, and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school. Collective Worship:

- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools' core Christian values
- will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian World Views found in the UK and worldwide
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should be given the opportunity to understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness thus developing inner awareness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community, and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at our School include opportunities for exploring Fundamental British values and the United Nation Convention of the Rights of the Child. (This is not an exhaustive list.)

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at St Mary's School that worship should: -

- reflect the schools' Trust Deed
- reflect the Vision Statement and motto of the school

- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the Anglican Church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with families, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God-given gifts and talents of the school community.
- enable children to have a voice in and help lead Collective Worship.
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance



Responsibility for Collective Worship

The Head of School is responsible for the overall development and organisation and evaluation of Collective Worship.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily at 9.00 a.m., its position in the school day reflecting its centrality in school life.

In our School, worship is organised in the following way:

Who?

- Collective Worship is led by a member of teaching staff. At the beginning of the week this will be a member of SLT. At least once a week it is led by a member of the clergy.
- Wednesdays are either key stage or 'Open the Book' to enable worship to explore age-appropriate issues or to facilitate different forms of children's interaction.

- All teachers attend Collective Worship each day
- Upper Key Stage 2 children lead worship for Key Stage 2.
- The Anglican Church has a strong commitment to ecumenism which is reflected in the visitors invited to lead Collective Worship.

How?

- Year 6 monitors will set up the hall/venue for Collective Worship.
- We use candles, Bible texts, pictures, visual foci and music to create an atmosphere conducive to worship.
- Every act of Collective Worship contains music, including singing by the children, opportunities for reflection and silence, participation by the children.
- Children are given the opportunity to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship.
- A range of methodologies are used across time, including creative arts, such as drama and discussion.
- The Bible will be used as a source book for learning and understanding, supported by secular stories from a range of cultures.
- Children are encouraged to lead the prayers, read and undertake other parts of the Collective Worship.
- Music should be from a range of genres and cultures, but be suitable to aid reflection, thought and a suitable atmosphere for Collective Worship.

Where?

- It may take place in the hall, classroom or outside.
- When in the hall children will face the altar as a focal point. When Collective Worship takes place in other venues Christian symbols, including candles will be used as a focal point and as an aid to developing understanding and a suitable atmosphere.
- To celebrate Easter and other festivals we sometimes worship in our church and/or invite families and members of the community.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content

and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each term there is a theme for Collective Worship based on the school's Christian Values. Material to support these themes, including Bible references are prepared by the Clergy/Collective Worship Leader and sourced from Roots and Fruits, Values for Life and on occasion other carefully researched materials. Those leading worship 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 pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Once a week worship takes place in the Key Stages. KS 1 works with the Open the Book Team. Reflective Journals and reflective areas are used to support worship and reflection in the classroom.

We also make 'space for the spirit' by using our Reflective Journals and "Food for Thought" cards in some class worship times. These also offer specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children's own beliefs and traditions.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

Our pattern of Collective Worship

Day	Form	Lead	Attending
Monday	Whole school CW	JW	Teachers
Tuesday	Whole school CW	Clergy	Teachers
Wednesday	EYFS – Class based Year 1 & 2 – Open the Book KS2 based lead by KS2 Teacher	Class based staff	Class based staff
Thursday	Whole school CW Worship Through Song	JW	Teachers
Friday	Whole school CW (inc celebration)	JW	Teachers

The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the schools' values but include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events or other relevant issues may be picked up as appropriate. The content of these acts of worship would be varied but still include a significant Christian input.

Rights of Withdrawal

At St Mary's School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

In VA schools teachers including the head teacher don't have the right of withdrawal.

Resources

Resources for worship are kept by the worship co-ordinator in the Head of School's Office and in the resource cupboard opposite Mercury Class. The school has an annual budget determined by the demands of the School Development Plan for Collective Worship to develop these resources. The school can apply to the Bishop Wordsworth Trust for extra funding for Collective worship resources. More details can be found on www.saled.org

