



St Mary's C of E Primary School Collective Worship Policy – Autumn 2018

Statement of purpose

The Collective Worship Policy at St Mary's School as a Church of England school, seeks to provide a daily experience of worship for all pupils. This worship is Christian. All pupils are encouraged to participate in worship, but the school is committed to respecting the integrity of individual's faith. Events and festivals of other major religions are discussed or shared in our assemblies. The Collective Worship Policy of St Mary's School is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common values, concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Objectives

- To plan in advance weekly themes for each school year so that staff can promote the Christian values promoted in the act of worship at other times in the classroom.
- To keep weekly plans of actual assemblies.
- To provide opportunity for all children to participate.
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of a range of faith songs through the singing of hymns and religious / faith songs.

Aims

For the School

Collective Worship is a valued part of the school day and underpins the whole ethos of St Mary's School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- Share common aims and values.
- Celebrate achievement and special times.
- Engender the feeling of belonging to St Mary's.
- Explore together the world in which we live.
- Develop a community spirit and responsibility to each other.

For the Pupils

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Worship that which is considered worthy.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Explore their own beliefs.
- Develop their own spirituality.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.
- Participate and respond.
- Reflect on valuing other's opinions and feelings.

Methodology

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils. The assembly theme sheet lists topics, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Visitors are welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance in this from Head. The



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participation of staff and pupils is highly valued and as such staff and pupils lead parts of the collective worship. Individual classes lead two assemblies per year, one for parents and the other a 'showing assembly'. Pupils are also often involved in other assemblies.

We celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter at St Mary's Church. The children take an active part in these services. There is a Leaver's service in the church at the end of the summer term led by the Year 6.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. There will be an opportunity for pupils to reflect in silence or in prayer. Each Class should participate in a daily act of worship, whether in class or together as a Key Stage or as a Whole School. These should be predominantly Christian with stories and examples from other world religions (Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism).

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act of Collective Worship, when the theme is of a particular religious nature, may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Staff also have the right to withdraw from School gatherings for religious reasons. Any member of staff intending to withdraw must inform the Headteacher well in advance of the event, as adequate supervision of pupils needs to be arranged.

Collective worship should be time to reflect, celebrate and strive for inner peace and spiritual understanding.

The policy is believed to be generally in accord with the Diocesan policy on worship in voluntary schools.

Policy written by: Bronwen Drewery (RE Co-ordinator)

Next review due: Autumn 2019