



## Collective Worship Policy

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Approved by	<u>Headteacher</u>
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Related policies	Religious Education Spiritual development

### Version History Log

Date	Version	Comments/Summary of changes
<u>06/01/2023</u>	2	No changes
<u>14/01/2025</u>	3	<u>No changes</u>
<u>21/01/2026</u>	4	<u>Addition of the Principles of Nurture</u>



# St. Mary's CofE Primary

## 'Learning for Life'

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*'Learning for life' with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' is at the heart of St Mary's.*

*At our school, children are seen as unique and will feel loved, safe and empowered to flourish so they reach their full potential both academically and personally.*

### **Philosophy**

St Mary's C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Therefore, worship is very much an important part of the school day and we work closely with St Mary's Church to create an environment which is caring and where the children feel secure and loved. Worship creates, nurtures and sustains a sense of community and spirituality whilst creating an opportunity to bring to life the core values of our school: Kindness, Courage and Trust.

At St Mary's, we consider collective worship to be an important part of the school day. An opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

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 and is not distinctive of any particular denomination. All pupils are encouraged to participate in worship, but the school is committed to respecting the integrity of individual's faith. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times. 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 the majority of which should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. 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.

### **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:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Share common aims and values.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements and special times.
- Engender the feeling of belonging to St Mary's.
- Incorporate the Principles of Nurture (Learning, Safety, Wellbeing, Behaviour, Language and Transition) whenever appropriate and possible.
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future.
- 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 is considered worthy.



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- 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.
- Provide members of the school community opportunities to experience stillness and quiet
- To develop an awareness and appreciation of a range of faith songs through the singing of hymns and religious / faith songs.

### **Methodology**

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 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 content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and it is expected that those leading worship that week will relate their worship to school's vision and values. The themes chosen will be broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective, allowing for the students to reflect upon the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Collective Worship should always 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 participation of staff and pupils is highly valued and as such staff and pupils lead parts of the collective worship. Individual classes lead one collective worship per year, for parents. Pupils are also often involved in other collective worship opportunities.

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**

At St Mary's we seek to be an inclusive community however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. 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 however, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship. 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.

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