

St. Mary's C of E (VC) Infant School

Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God

Collective Worship Policy

School setting

At St Mary's, the school community come from a wide range of faiths and no faith. We recognise that in asking our children to worship we have to consider their background and it is, therefore, not the practice of this school to indoctrinate or convert children. The faith background of both the staff and the child's family is respected at all times. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from assemblies on grounds of their beliefs or religion. Children who are withdrawn from assembly will be suitably supervised. Staff also have the right to withdraw from assemblies on these grounds.

Legal Requirements

1. A daily act of worship for all pupils, which includes an act of prayer or reflection.
2. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of worship. The Head and teachers also have this right.
3. Collective worship must be "Wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character".
4. The Head is responsible for the fulfilment of the legal requirements.

The Governing Body requires the school to hold an act of worship once per term in St. Mary's Church.

Values – Aims

The aim of Collective Worship at St Mary's Infant School is to introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background, drawing on the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.

It is not the purpose of Collective Worship in Church Schools to actively evangelise. Inevitably, there is an aspect of any worship that encourages those participating to feel part of the Christian faith community. The Christian Values we explore in Collective Worship are those that are also important and evident in all religions and walks of life eg: Trust, Humility, Perseverance and Friendship.

We believe at this school that Collective Worship both supports and strengthens our aims in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious way or any other appropriate manner. For these reasons, all children and staff are encouraged to participate.

Through Collective Worship we aim to provide a caring and supportive environment for children to

- Meet together as a community to bring before God the concern of the school and the world outside.
- Become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and groups within the school and wider community.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations and beliefs.
- Deepen their sense of awe and wonder about the world around them.
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school
- Respond to religious and/or spiritual stimulus, but be firmly based in the Christian tradition.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance whether it be religious or not.
- Share and appreciate the school's Christian Values

Worship both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the whole school. It encompasses all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that every member of staff and every pupil may feel involved.

It is valued as a time in which pupils and teachers seek help in prayer, express care, gratitude and joy and pause and reflect to recollect the presence of God.

Objectives

School worship provides an educational opportunity with clear objectives to encourage our pupils to

- Show interest in, and concern for, members of the school community.
- Celebrate key events in the Christian year, the Christian story and heritage
- Celebrate special occasions together. (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Harvest)
- Show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world.
- Share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards manifested in Christianity, other religions and the wider world

- Reflect upon dimensions of human life, the wonderful beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, and solemn.
- Reflect on the way in which humankind has expressed the deepest spiritual feelings - through the creative and expressive arts, scientific discovery, religious practice, service to God and other people.

Content and Organisation

- Staff participate for the majority of the Acts of Collective Worship
- Collective worship will be Christian. Other religions will be treated with respect but will not provide the basis of worship
- Collective worship, often known as assembly, will take place each day, although the actual time may vary as circumstances require
- Collective Worship can involve the whole school together or individual classes can hold their own acts of worship.
- The Church representative will be encouraged to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, ideally once a week
- Collective worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored, but never be a time for corporate discipline
- Every act of worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending
- Collective worship allows opportunities for corporate information sharing.
- Whilst most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building, at least once a term an act of worship will be held at St Mary's Church with parents and members of the Church invited.

Our organisation for Collective Worship.

Day	Involved	Place	Leader	Aim
Monday	Keystage 1	Hall	KS 1 teachers on a rota basis	Teaching/worship and reflection on Value
Tuesday	Individual classes	Classrooms	Teacher/TA	Topical Theme/ Value Time to think...time to pray
Wednesday	Keystage 1 (Reception join at the start of each Value)	Hall	Head	Teaching/Reflection/ prayer
Thursday	Whole School	Hall	Father Andrew/ Church member	Topical Theme/ Value Time to think...time to pray
Friday	Whole School	Hall	Head	Celebration of achievement, Time to think...time to pray

Parents are invited to special assemblies over the Year including those held at St Mary's Church.

Reception Timetable

Day	Assembly	Delivered by
Monday	Values based story (could use KS1 book)/ Reflection Time	Class teacher
Tuesday	Class Assembly (following theme/content of whole school assembly)	Class teacher/TA
Wednesday	Join in whole class at the start of a new Value 5 min sharing of prayers linked to Value	TA or class teacher
Thursday	Whole school	Father Andrew/ Church member
Friday	Join in whole school Achievement Assembly	CG

At this school we measure the success of Collective Worship by looking for the following to be evident:

- involvement, enjoyment, attention, and engagement of pupils
- the growth of respect and tolerance within the school community
- positive responses to shared experiences
- contribution to individual and community sense of well being
- a sense of occasion and good order
- staff affirmation
- children articulating, understanding and living the Values
- knowledge of key Christian texts

Resources

We aim to use a variety of resources which include:

- Values for Life (Jumping Fish resources by The Church of England)
- The Story Tellers Bible
- The Lion Bible for Children (Murray Watts)
- Tapestry of Tales
- Children's story books linked to Values (as recommended in 'Values for Life' publication)
- 'Islamic Stories', 'Buddhist Stories', 'Jewish Stories', 'Stories from the Sikh World', 'Hindu Stories'.
- Range of Assembly books
- Music
- Multicultural resources
- Materials and visitors from aid agencies and charities
- Parish Clergy
- People in and around our school community

Faith Community Leaders

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring will occur regularly over each term using a proforma (Appendix 1)

The majority of monitoring will be carried out by Father Andrew (jointly with Head when appropriate)

Elements of the Diocesan self-evaluation materials will be used as appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body.

Date: March 2019

Date of next review: March 2020

Appendix 1

Collective Worship Monitoring

Date	Day	Name	
Adults present	Teachers		TAs
Expected start time	Actual start time		Finish time

Structure

Greeting		
Input		
Reflection		
Dismissal		

Song

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Comments

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