



ST. MARY'S

Worship Policy

St Mary's CE (A) Primary School

2017-2018

The purpose of this policy is to outline the schools rationale for worship; provide an outline of how worship is organized, roles and responsibilities and how the impact of worship is monitored and evaluated

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLE

*Collective Worship at St Mary's plays an important part in the life of our school.

As the "living centre" of the work, worship and worth of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to participate in Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican foundation. Our school values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

* Our act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be **consistent with** the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of all pupils. Almost always worship takes place in the hall where all pupils and staff gather together for worship. Worship always takes account of the cultures and beliefs represented in school and British Values.

We recognise the right of withdrawal from Worship for pupils at the request of parents, **but** currently enjoy the full support of the whole community.

All Asian children and families are encouraged to join the whole school worship. However their beliefs are respected in that children are not expected to participate in any aspect of ritual related to Mass. Children of Muslim faith that prefer not to join the school for mass either in school or in Church are supervised by a teacher.

3. AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As a school we wish to enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils; to foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence; create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural and to foster a reverential attitude to God.

We also would want for the school community to enable pupils to participate in a variety of ways fostering empathy and imagination. We also feel it important to explore and enjoy praise, prayer, and the rituals of Christianity. And through this to affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God.

It is important that the children learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community.

To worship together is seen as an opportunity for all to share in Christ's love.
Assembly

Celebration Assembly each week is a vehicle for everyone to recognise the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community. It also enables us to develop a sense of community and shared values; to consider the needs

of others and to foster charitable work and to celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth.

4. MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The Governing Body has responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured. In conjunction with the Head teacher, staff, and school community. The worship policy created articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum.

The worship co-coordinator has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Records of content are kept centrally for whole-school worship and it is the responsibility of the key stage co-coordinators to liaise with the worship co-coordinator, so that full records and knowledge of the actual implementation of the worship programme are ensured.

The worship co-coordinator also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources (see Appendix 2) and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate.

The worship co-coordinator also keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Improvement Plan, to allow for INSET and resource development.

Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an on-going process. This is managed on a termly basis to ensure that effective review can take place. At present the following arrangements are in place: Children are encouraged to reflect on worship and share comments with class teachers or the Head teacher.

Visiting worship leaders are encouraged and children's view on the content of the worship again is shared with staff or the Head teacher.

5. SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The weekly themes are linked to the contents of the long term plan for the teaching of RE. This enables the Head teacher to input into teaching and learning and emphasise the spirituality and message within Christ's message and the link to British values.

Resources for use during worship are stored centrally and the termly review enables needs to be identified and resourced via the budget.

The Diocesan advisor provides ongoing advice and support and training needs are identified during the Annual Review.

6. CURRENT PRACTICE

a) Organisation

The pattern for worship each week at present is as follows:

	Grouping	Time	Place	Leader	Content	Resources
Monday	KS1	11:00	Class	Teacher	News round	
	KS2	10:40	Class			
Tuesday	KS1	11:00	Hall	Teacher/ visitor	Theme link	
	KS2	10:40	Hall			
Wednesday	KS1	11:00	Hall	Teacher/ visitor	Theme link	
	KS2	10:40	Hall			
Friday	KS1	PM	Hall	Key stage manager	Theme link +Celebration Assembly	
	KS2	AM	Hall			

In addition the school worships in Church some terms on either Saint Days or significant Church celebrations i.e. Ash Wednesday.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship on a regular basis.

No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be the spontaneous moment or occasion when it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experience.

Methodology for delivering the worship programme

The constraints of the timetable limit worship to 15 minutes each day with the exception of Mass.

Children are encouraged to write their own prayers for either class worship or for Mass. The use of Christ's teachings and the meanings behind stories told by Jesus are used to teach and instill the awe and wonder of Gods word and to teach moral and spiritual values.

This policy is reviewed annually.

Date: September 2017

Review date: September 2018

Date ratified by Chair of Governors:

Signed by Head teacher: