



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Collective Worship Policy for St Mary's C.E. School

Approved by Ethos Committee:

January 2017

Date of next review:

January 2020

Collective Worship Policy

Principles

Our school has a Church of England foundation and works in partnership with St. Mary's Church, Twickenham and other Christian churches and groups. We aim to reflect the Anglican traditions and beliefs of the Christian Church and to demonstrate a continuing educational and pastoral concern within the life of the school and community.

Members of our school community are committed to working together in a Christian spirit of co-operation, courtesy, care and consideration.

We see worship as a central part of school life and worship together daily, giving ourselves time to reflect, respond and revere.

This worship can be:

Class Worship	Each class worships together once a week where there are more opportunities for personal reflection
Daily Worship	On all sites
Sharing Assemblies	Where the achievements of the children are celebrated within the daily worship
Services in St. Mary's Church	During the year we hold a range of services at the Church, some led by the children and others by the clergy. There is a Blessing and Bible service at the start of the year, there are Harvest, Christmas and Easter services, Celebration of Life Day and a service at the end of the school year. Parents and Governors are invited to join us
Class Assemblies	Each class shares their topic with the rest of the School and with their parents, once a year
Songs of Praise	Once a week all the children incorporate the learning of new hymns and songs into their Daily Worship
Prayer	We end the school day with a prayer in each classroom led either by a pupil or the class teacher

Aims

The daily worship offers our children opportunities to:

- Explore and share Christian beliefs and to appreciate and understand their significance for those who hold them
- Engage in and experience the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
- See the importance of Bible teaching in our daily life
- Think about the needs of others and to develop a sense of community, providing time to celebrate the example of members of the school and community
- Reaffirm, interpret and put into practice the ethos and values of the school

Although flexible, the format of daily worship should usually include:

- The children coming in and going out to music (chosen half termly by the music coordinator)
- The lighting of a candle to set the atmosphere and indicate a special time for the children to reflect and think. (Any information that needs to be given to the children should take place either at the end or the beginning of daily worship when the candle is not lit.)
- A time for reflection on the theme of the worship
- Prayer
- Singing
- When possible, children being involved in the worship
- Children should have a time of reflection in the classroom after worship
- The timing of an act of worship is expected to be approximately 15 minutes

Expectations of People

Pupils

All children are present at daily worship (unless a parent requests that their child is withdrawn) and the school is committed to respecting each individual's faith and beliefs.

Staff

The Collective Worship leader will prepare a half termly programme of daily worship following the LDBS scheme of work.

Daily worship is led by the Senior Management Team and by class teachers on a rotational basis.

All class teachers are expected to attend Church services, class assemblies and daily worship when led by the Vicar, Chaplain, Christian leaders or Church groups. There should be some class teachers in attendance at most acts of daily worship.

Vicar and Christian leaders / groups

The Vicar, Chaplain, Christian leaders and local Christian groups lead some acts of daily worship. The Vicar is present whenever possible at the services in St Mary's Church.

Equal Opportunities

St Mary's CE School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. We aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents and staff are treated fairly and with respect, and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities.

The Governing Body recognises that it is unlawful to take into account anyone's gender, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious beliefs, age or sexual orientation. Full consideration has been given to this during the formulation of this policy as it is the governors' aim that no-one at St Mary's school should suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, or harassment on any of these grounds.

Monitoring

The TLR leader for Ethos will monitor Collective Worship ensuring that those who regularly lead it are observed once a year. The governors will be given feedback on the effectiveness of the Collective Worship in school on an annual basis.