

St Mary's and St. Peter's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



We believe high standards of care and love are an integral part in the quality of teaching and learning across the whole curriculum. Our school Christian vision of **'life in all its fullness'** applies to all areas of our school. The two great commandments given by Jesus will underwrite the life of our school; they are to 'love God' and to 'love your neighbour as yourself'. It is our aim for both of these instructions to be evident in the whole life of the school, in the relationships between all members of the community, pupils, staff and parents, and also in our safeguarding responsibilities.

St Mary's and St. Peter's school fully recognises its moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. Our Collective Worship Policy is one of a range of documents which set out the safeguarding responsibilities of the school. We wish to create a safe, welcoming and vigilant environment for children where they feel valued and are respected.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Our school vision **'life in all its fullness'** underpins all of school life at St. Mary's and St. Peter's school. Our collective worship is one way we celebrate these words of Jesus. It gives us many opportunities to realise the four key areas of our vision statement:

- 1) **Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills**
- 2) **Hope and Aspiration**
- 3) **Community and Living Well Together**
- 4) **Dignity and Respect**

Meeting together as a school community to worship together is a central part of the life of the school. As a Church of England Voluntary Aided School our worship is essentially Christian, but conducted within an educational context in which inclusion of the whole community is a key focus.

Worship in an educational context seeks to serve three main purposes:

1. To provide a meeting point for the school community to focus on and reaffirm those common principles which are considered of extreme worth and importance. Principles such as care, commitment, courage, forgiveness, friendship, loyalty, responsibility, sacrifice and self-worth are central to the Christian faith, as well as being common human values. We celebrate these and our school values within our acts of worship.
2. Collective Worship gives us opportunities to deepen our spiritual understanding. It provides us with opportunities for reflection on issues of supreme importance and worth. It allows children to approach the 'threshold of worship' and through quiet reflection, as well as lively

St Mary's and St. Peter's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

celebration, to develop an understanding of worship within the Christian community and to reflect and celebrate alongside people of other faiths.

3. It allows children and adults the opportunity to enter into worship, as well as the opportunity to be observers of that worship if they so wish.

Our community at this school is diverse and our collective worship aims to be inclusive and respectful of individual beliefs. As well as contributing to the spiritual development of pupils, it also contributes to the following areas:

Moral Development, providing opportunities to:

- reflect on matters concerning right and wrong
- hear and respond to situations where goodness and right are exemplified
- learn about Christian and other teachings on right and wrong

Social development, providing opportunities to:

- gather with others for a common purpose
- share times of joy and sadness with others
- learn the importance of responsible social behaviour

Cultural development, providing opportunities to:

- hear and respond to music and stories from a range of times, places and cultures
- reflect upon ideas concerning the concept of beauty. Particularly through the wide use of the arts
- appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond

Intellectual development, providing opportunities to:

- develop their thinking through questioning and engagement
- have ideas concerning values confirmed or challenged
- consider the power of words and other forms of communication

At St Mary's and St Peter's School it is hoped that one or more of these areas are touched upon in our acts of collective worship.

School Values

Our school values are at the heart of collective worship at St. Mary's and St. Peter's school. As such, acts of worship including class based assemblies will explore one of the values each week. Our school values are: **compassion, creation, endurance, forgiveness, friendship, hope, humility, justice, koinonia, peace, reverence, service, thankfulness, trust, wisdom.**

The Legal Background

Our school complies with the legal requirement to hold a 'daily act of collective worship'. The arrangements for collective worship are agreed by the governors

St Mary's and St. Peter's CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

and reflect the trust deeds of the school. Collective worship can take place at any time of the day, and in any sized group.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, although this would be unusual given the religious character of the school. If children are withdrawn, the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child.

Teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship, although this again would be unusual and in most cases in breach of contract.

The Organisation of Worship

Collective worship in our school generally takes place in school and key stage assemblies. Children in the foundation stage are selectively introduced to whole school and key stage assemblies. On days when they do not attend, teachers organise class-based worship. This worship includes the use of symbols, such as a candle to separate this activity from the normal activities of the day. Children reflect on a story or other stimulus, which explores the value/theme of the week. Each class assembly will include opportunity for reflection or prayer.

The pattern for assemblies in the school is as follows:

| | Grouping | Time | Led by |
|------------------|---|-------------|--|
| Monday | KS2 | 9.00am | Headteacher/Deputy |
| | FS/KS1 | 10.10am | Headteacher/Deputy |
| Tuesday | KS2 | 9.00am | Clergy |
| | FS/KS1 | 10.10am | Clergy |
| Wednesday | KS2 singing assembly or fortnightly values assembly | 9.00am | Music Specialist Teacher Values assembly led by Kick London |
| | KS2 class worship on week of singing assembly | 10.45am | Class teachers |
| | KS1 singing assembly weekly | 10.00am | Music Specialist Teacher |
| | Class worship weekly | 10.45am | Class teachers |

St Mary's and St. Peter's CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------|---|
| Thursday | Key Stage 2 | 9.00am | Key Stage Teachers |
| | Key Stage 1 | 10.10am | Key Stage Teachers |
| Friday | KS2 Achievers assembly | 9.00am | Assistant Headteacher/Head of Key Stage |
| | FS/KS1 Achievers assembly | 10.10am | |

Weekly themes for collective worship are drawn up at the start of each year by the Head teacher and SMSC Leader. A rota for collective worship themes is produced by the SMSC leader making links to events in the school calendar as well as giving suggestions for Bible stories and songs.

The elements of collective worship

1. **Entry-** Teachers will escort children into assembly quietly and calmly. It is the school's expectation that children will sit quietly and wait for the assembly to begin, listening to music and looking at appropriate stimuli.
2. **Introduction-** The assembly leader will light the candles to focus the children and direct their thoughts towards people to reflect on or pray for. This might be for example their friends and families, people in their local community or those affected by current natural disasters. They will then introduce the theme of the assembly and relate it to the overall weekly value/theme.
3. **Music-** There will usually be an opportunity for the children to sing an appropriate song/hymn.
4. **Activity-** The assembly will contain a story or activity, which develops the theme.
5. **Response-** There will usually be an opportunity for prayer or reflection. The children will be invited to join in with this.
6. **Leaving-** Children will be asked to leave the assembly quietly by their teachers. Music will be played as children leave the assembly.

On special occasions the school may hold acts of worship in the local parish churches or other venues for example the Christmas Carol Service and Easter Service.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Headteacher and local clergy are involved in regularly reviewing and developing assemblies and collective worship. Review of collective worship is part of the work of the Curriculum and Standards committee.

All our collective worship and assemblies are underpinned by our fundamental British values including the principles of inclusion, equal opportunities and race equality.

St Mary's and St. Peter's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Pupil Involvement

We encourage our children to take part in acts of collective worship. As such, our assemblies and class worship sessions are inclusive and will involve questioning and pupil participation. For special events such as our Harvest assemblies and Ash Wednesday Service, the children will be involved as much as possible. This may include Junior and Senior choir singing, musicians playing, children giving readings, children leading prayers and children taking part in a drama.

Policy reviewed and updated by Sue Tucker: April 2018

Date of Renewal: April 2019