



## St Mary's and St Peter's C of E 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 and staff. 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 and staff 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 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 an integral part of collective worship at St. Mary's and St. Peter's school and will be explored through assemblies. Our school values are: **compassion, creation, endurance, forgiveness, friendship, hope, humility, justice, koinonia, peace, reverence, service, thankfulness, trust and 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 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 whole school or key stage assemblies. Children in the foundation stage are gradually introduced to assemblies. During collective worship,

the children will reflect on a story or other stimulus, which explores the theme of the week. Each assembly will include an opportunity for reflection or prayer. Often the school prayer will be used.

The pattern for assemblies in the school is as follows:

		<b>Led by</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Head teacher's assembly	Head teacher/Deputy
<b>Tuesday</b>	Clergy Assembly	A member of our clergy team
<b>Wednesday</b>	KS 1 Singing assembly  KS2 Singing assembly or fortnightly values assembly	Music Specialist Teacher  Values assembly led by Kick London coach
<b>Thursday</b>	Key stage assemblies	Class teachers
<b>Friday</b>	Achievers Assembly	Member of SLT

**Weekly themes** for collective worship are established at the start of each year by the SMSC Leader and head teacher. A rota for collective worship themes is produced by the SMSC Leader making links to events in the school calendar, the school vision and values. Suggestions for Bible stories/references are also provided.

#### **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.
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. When Ash Wednesday falls during term time, members of the clergy team will lead a special service in school for KS2.

**Monitoring and evaluation**

The Head teacher 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.

**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 Date: September 2021**

**Review Date: September 2022**