



St Mary's and St Peter's C of E School

Collective Worship Policy

Aims of Collective Worship

We believe high standards of care and love are an integral part in the quality of teaching and learning across the whole curriculum. Our Christian vision of 'Life in all its fullness' is at the heart of our school and our collective worship gives us many opportunities to celebrate these words of Jesus and to realise the four key areas of our vision:

Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
Hope and Aspiration
Community and Living Well Together
Dignity and Respect

Our values, **wisdom, hope, community** and **dignity**, are an integral part of collective worship at St. Mary's and St. Peter's school. Each value is exemplified by a parable or an encounter with Jesus that enables children to understand its meaning and significance.

We are committed to offering high quality collective worship. Meeting together 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.

Our community is diverse and our collective worship aims to be inclusive, invitational, inspiring and respectful of individual beliefs.

Through our collective worship we aim do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

We value wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

As well as contributing to the spiritual development of pupils, our collective worship 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.

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 Anglican status of the school. Collective worship can take place at any time of the day, and in any sized group.

As a school we recognise that a partnership with parents/carers is essential to help pupils flourish. Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity.

We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, however, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw pupils from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

The Organisation of Worship

Collective worship in our school generally takes place in key stages or in class. Children in the foundation stage are gradually introduced to collective worship. During collective worship, the children will reflect on a story or other stimulus, which explores the theme/s of the week. Children

have an opportunity to think and ask questions. Each collective worship will include an opportunity for reflection or prayer. Often the school prayer will be used.

When planning acts of worship, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- Inclusive – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- Invitational – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so.
- Inspiring – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

All our collective worship is rooted in our Christian vision and values, yet each day has a different focus.

The pattern for collective worship in the school is as follows:

Monday	Vision and values	Head teacher/Deputy
Tuesday	Bible focus	A member of our clergy Team or Church Group
Wednesday	Singing/music	Music Specialist Teacher
Thursday	Community	Key stage Class teachers
Friday	Achievers or Year Group	Member of SLT

Vision and Values Collective Worship

This collective worship is led by the headteacher and inspires wonder through setting a reflection for the week based around our vision and values, or a given theme.

Clergy Collective Worship

This collective worship is firmly rooted in the Bible and how Christians live because of it. Led by a member of the clergy, it is a valued opportunity to worship as part of a wider school community.

Singing / Music Collective Worship

Led by our music teacher, this collective worship is an opportunity for worship, stillness, and experiencing joy and creativity, through songs old and new, as well as children playing instruments.

Community Collective Worship

Led by a key stage class teacher, this collective worship is an opportunity to ponder the current affairs of the school, the nation and the world, as we reflect on our place in a global community. We are invited to pray for issues that may be geographically distant but which are close to our hearts. This inspires and supports our values of wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

Achievement Collective Worship

Led by the headteacher and deputy headteacher, this collective worship provides an opportunity to celebrate all that we have achieved, as individuals, teams, classes and houses. We give thanks for the many opportunities we have to grow and find our passions; to live life in all its fullness.

Year Group Collective Worship

A chance for each year group to shine, parents are invited to these collective worship where children showcase their wonderful academic and creative achievements in lively performance. We are invited to give thanks to God for the classroom cultures that give our children the confidence to flourish.

The elements of collective worship

Gather – We welcome the community with music, liturgy and lighting of candles.

- **Entry-** Teachers will escort children into collective worship quietly and calmly. It is the school's expectation that children will sit quietly and wait for the collective worship to begin, listening to music and looking at appropriate stimuli.
- **Introduction-** The collective worship leader will lead the liturgy and 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 collective worship.

Engage - We share, for example, a Bible reading.

- **Activity-** The collective worship will contain a story or activity, which develops the theme. The children will be given opportunity to think and ask questions.

Respond - Children, for example, will discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing.

- **Response-** There will usually be an opportunity for prayer or reflection. The children will be invited to join in with this.
- **Music-** There will usually be an opportunity for the children to sing an appropriate song/hymn.

Send – We share, for example, the message of the worship again.

- **Message** - Children will be asked to think about how they might apply the key message throughout the day, through their learning or play.
- **Leaving-** Children will be asked to leave the collective worship quietly by their teachers. Music will be played as children leave the collective worship.

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

On special occasions the school may hold acts of worship in the local parish church, St Mary with St Alban, for example the Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost services. When Ash Wednesday falls during term time, members of the clergy team will lead a special service in school for years 5 & 6.

At times, we invite outside agencies and church groups, such as Tearfund and Insight, to facilitate our collective worship.

Each year, a special service for Year 6 Leavers takes place. Leavers are invited to “tell their story” and are also presented with a Bible. They are reminded that the Church (as well as the school) will continue to be there for them in the years that lie ahead.

Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on children and adults within the school community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, the RE leader and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. Children and staff are also asked to evaluate collective worship. This feedback plays an essential part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

Pupil Involvement

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

Families

Families can also expect to be partners in collective worship. They are invited to services held at St Mary with St Alban Church as well as Year Group Collective Worship.

Safeguarding

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 contributes to 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.

Policy Date: September 2023

Review Date: September 2024

Appendices:

1. Clergy Guide for Collective Worship
2. School Prayer
3. The Lord's Prayer



Appendix 1

Clergy led collective worship

Tuesday mornings

9-9.15am Key Stage 2 10-10.15am Key Stage 1

9am/10am Gather

Teachers will lead children into the hall. The children will sit quietly and wait for the collective worship to begin. Calm music will be played on entry and appropriate stimuli will be displayed on the screen.

Welcome

The head teacher will open worship by using the following liturgy:

Head teacher: *This is the day that the Lord has made.*

Children: *We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

The head teacher will welcome and introduce the clergy member.

9:03am/10.03am Engage

Introduction

The clergy will light three candles to focus the children and direct their thoughts towards people to reflect on or pray for. Each candle will have the following focus:

Candle 1: Prayer for the world

Candle 2: Prayer for our local community

Candle 3: Prayer for ourselves, friends and families

Presentation

The clergy will present the theme for the week which can be found on the collective worship rota for the term. There will be an opportunity to consider a Bible passage or a story related to the theme using a variety of ways including discussion, questioning, role play, pupil participation and videos.

Use of visuals is encouraged. PowerPoints should ideally be emailed in advance to

info@smsp.richmond.sch.uk

Guidance for PowerPoints: Ensure that the font is large enough and that visuals are clear.

Reflection and Response

The clergy will give the children an opportunity, without compulsion, to reflect and respond to the theme. This might include stillness, questions or music. The reflection will finish with a prayer which could be the Lord's Prayer or the School Prayer. If not using a given format, the prayer should be concise, child friendly and inclusive.

School Prayer

This is our school,

Let peace dwell here,

Let the rooms be full of contentment,

Let love abide here,

Love of one another,

Love of people,

Love of life itself and love of God,

Let us remember that as many hands build a house so many hearts build a school.

Amen

9.13am/10.13am Sending

The head teacher will invite the children to sing a closing song. After this, teachers will lead children out of the hall. The children will sit quietly and wait for their teacher to lead them out. Calm music will be played and classes will leave silently.



School Prayer

*This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,
Let the rooms be full of contentment,
Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of people,
Love of life itself and love of God,
Let us remember that as many hands
build a house so many hearts build a
school.
Amen*





The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.*

