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*Empowering school leaders to confidently articulate the distinctive Christian character of worship in the context of serving the needs of their school community and meeting statutory requirements*

**Collective Worship Policy School – St Mary’s CE Primary School**

Government guidance (circular 1/94):

* ‘Collective worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs’ (para 50).
* ‘An act of worship which reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief need not contain only Christian material. It must, however, contain some elements which relate specifically to the traditions of Christian belief and which accord a special status to Jesus Christ’ (para 63).



1. **Rationale**

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school’s aims and ethos and will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values.

At St Mary’s CE Primary School, we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the school’s distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well being of all learners.

Therefore Collective Worship at St Mary’s CE Primary School is planned:

* to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
* will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school’s core Christian values
* will have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
* will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
* will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
* will contribute significantly to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with “something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to”
* will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the nonreligious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at St Mary's CE Primary School include opportunities for:

* the whole community to celebrate;
* sharing and experiencing differences;
* developing a culture of learning;
* building a sense of group identity;
* encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
* a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
* learning how to behave in a large social group;
* exploring feelings and emotions;
* learning how to perform in front of an audience;
* learning how to respond to a performance;
* making visible the school’s leadership;
* developing inner awareness;
* learning about fundamental British Values;
* learning about currents news and events across the world;
* reinforcing the values of our Rights Respecting Schools’ status.

1. **Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school’s Trust Deed and foundation.

The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

**Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

All parents may withdraw their children from worship providing they have notified the headteacher of their desire to do so. This is stated on the school website and in the annual guidelines for parents document. If a child is withdrawn, the school is required to provide a safe alternative.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents, contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is on the school website.



1. **Planning a Collective Worship programme**

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by asking the children to enter hall quietly and with respect and by lighting a candle. We begin our worship with our school prayer.

We also make ‘space for the spirit’ by using class reflection time where we reflect on the current term’s value or partake in Bible study. These also offer specific opportunities for reverence or veneration according to children’s own beliefs and traditions.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. There should also be space for evaluation.

Each worship leader should have the same expectations of pupil behavior and follow the routine set out in Appendix 2.

A worship-planning group meets annually led by the worship co-ordinator. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last year’s Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next year.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council and dialogue with the children. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning, leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

School has a worship floor book in which the views of staff, children and visitors are recorded.

Mrs Judith Hayward, one of the school’s foundation governors has a role in monitoring Collective worship.

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by Miss Emma Grunnill.

1. **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

**Monday 10.30am:** Values worship (Taken from Roots and Shoots)

**Tuesday:** Key Stage reflection sessions.

**Wednesday 10.30am:** PHSE worship (A Teachers’ dozen)

**Thursday 10.30am:** Rights Respecting Schools/Current affairs/British values/ Monthly worship in the church for KS2 and Vicar leading the worship in the hall for KS1

**Friday 10.30am:** Rewards and celebration worship

Regular visitors include:

Daniel England from Youth Vine Ministry, Open the book team, Open air campaigners and the team rectors.   
  
The acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school’s values but include a recognition of the church’s year and make space for other national events. See worship themes. Appendix 1

**Key Stage Reflections**

Each week pupils meet in key stages for this act of worship which follows on the learning about the half termly Christian value. Pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. A response may be made on paper. Subject to usual disclosure procedures these responses are confidential between the pupils and his/her teacher. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives.

**Class sharing worship**

Each class will take a worship which may contribute speaking, music, drama and dance. Parents are invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

**Spirituality days**

The school plans a spirituality day once a term. This begins with an introductory worship on a Bible story extends into a variety of practical and creative classroom based activities and culminates in a sharing worship with the whole school.

**Visitors**  
Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

**Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship**Certain named individuals, Miss Grunnill and Mrs Hayward, are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

Reviewed and amended by LGB 13th December 2019

Appendix 1

Planning of worship themes

**Worship themes 2019-20**

**MONDAY/TUESDAY – Values**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Theme** | **Led by** |
| Term 1 | Generosity | Miss Grunnill – whole school  Miss Langdon KS1  Mrs Morton KS2 |
| Term 2 | Compassion | Miss Grunnill - whole school  Miss Langdon KS1  Mrs Morton KS2 |
| Term 3 | Courage | Miss Grunnill - whole school  Miss Langdon KS1  Mrs Morton KS2 |
| Term 4 | Forgiveness | Miss Grunnill- whole school  Miss Langdon KS1  Mrs Morton KS2 |
| Term 5 | Friendship | Miss Grunnill - whole school  Miss Langdon KS1  Mrs Morton KS2 |
| Term 6 | Respect | Miss Grunnill - whole school  Miss Langdon KS1  Mrs Morton KS2 |

**WEDNESDAY – PHSE Junior Worship team – taken from a Teachers Dozen**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Theme** | **Led by** |
| Term 1 | New beginnings | Mrs Middleton |
| Term 2 | Getting on and falling out – say no to bullying | Mrs Middleton |
| Term 3 | Going for goals | Mrs Middleton |
| Term 4 | Good to be me | Mrs Middleton |
| Term 5 | Relationships | Mrs Middleton |
| Term 6 | Changes | Mrs Middleton |

**THURSDAY – Rights Respecting schools and news/events**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Term |  |  |
| Term 1 | British values – democracy  Harvest  Rights respecting article 12 | Mrs Newton |
| Term 2 | Individual liberty  Rights Respecting article 13, 15, 19  Remembrance  Guy Fawkes  Christmas | Mrs Newton |
| Term 3 | Rule of Law  Rights Respecting article 4, 40  Lent  St Valentine’s day | Mrs Newton |
| Term 4 | Tolerance  Rights Respecting article 24, 27  Comic relief  Easter | Mrs Newton |
| Term 5 | Rights Respecting article 13, 15  St George’s day | Mrs Newton |
| Term 6 | Mutual respect  Rights Respecting article 29  Transition | Mrs Newton |

**FRIDAY – rewards and celebration taken by Mr Simpson.**

Appendix 2

**Worship expectations:**

* Year 6 put chairs out for staff, put the music on and get the screen ready.
* Children and staff enter the hall without speaking and sit quietly. Music should be played. A candle is lit and the school prayer is said together. The concept of mirror, window and door should be used when appropriate.
* Children should be involved in worship.
* At some point during the worship, there should be a time for reflection, a song and then a closing prayer. Children can be invited to say a prayer if they like.

**Recording:**

* All worship themes need to be recorded in the black folder in the hall.
* Tuesday values reflections also need to be recorded but can be passed to the Headteacher at the end of a half term
* Children will be asked for their reflections in a whole school assembly at the end of each unit. Those observations will be recorded and used for evidence as part of our SIAMs work
* At the end of each half term, the children will complete an assessment on the value they have been learning to determine their progress.