



*Love Learning. Love Each Other.*

## **Policy for Collective Worship**

**Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.  
Hebrews 12:28**

### St Mary's School Vision

One family: school, church, home and community.

At St Mary's we believe in a culture where:

- Everyone is special, unique and valued: diversity and difference are celebrated. We are all God's treasure.
- Education is holistic; spiritual and moral growth is nurtured. *Life in all its fullness* – John 10:10.
- Inspirational and reflective worship enables all in the school community to encounter the risen Christ.
- Wisdom, knowledge and skills are a focus in everything.
- Everyone does their best at all times with a culture of the highest expectations, respect and consideration for all.
- Everyone can succeed and achieve. Aspiration and inspiration are central to all that we do. *I know the plans I have for you. Plans to make you prosper* – Jeremiah 29:11.
- Creativity and joy in learning is valued.
- The spiritual and emotional well-being of all members of our school community is a priority. Resilience and perseverance are developed in all.
- A community of global citizens of God is created.
- Social action is at the core of our community – on local, national and global levels.

All of these are underpinned our spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and experiences; respect of our British values and through our

core Christian values of hope, peace, compassion, forgiveness, trust and endurance.

Worship at St. Mary's C of E Aided Primary School is central to our school life. We aim to make it as accessible and enjoyable as possible for all our children, staff and visitors.

### **The Aims of Worship at St. Mary's Primary:**

1. To enrich and support spiritual development and integrity:
  - by encouraging a sense of awe and wonder in a supreme power and Trinitarian God
  - by providing opportunities to explore and respond to individual emotions and personal values
  - by helping to explore, develop and deepen personal faith
  - to allow for quiet reflection (Apart from music, which plays an important part in setting the atmosphere and guiding reflection.) These will include: closing the eyes to aid thinking and concentration, lighting a candle to provide a focus of attention, using flowers, plants or other natural objects to think about the beauty of the world, using art or artefacts to help thought and reflection on human achievement.)
  
2. To develop an understanding of the Christian faith and the nature of worship through:
  - Being given the opportunity to pray in a variety of different ways including listening to and saying traditional prayers, writing and reading their own prayers and listening to and creating spontaneous prayers.
  - Singing songs and hymns (both live and recorded music can set the scene and help to create an appropriate atmosphere which is relevant to the theme. It can be listened to, to help the children reflect and respond to a theme. It can be played or sung, which can enable pupils to express feelings that are not always easily formulated in words.)
  - Hearing and reading from the bible including stories from the Old and New Testament, listening to the words of the psalms and other books of the bible.
  - Giving knowledge of, and participating in, services in the religious year
  - Participating in Eucharistic worship in KS2 and clergy-led worship in EYFS/KS1
  - Using their class reflection area to build and reflect on the worship that they have experienced as a school and a class
  
3. To promote awareness of beliefs, practices and worship of other faiths through:
  - making worship inclusive by allowing pupils of other faiths to respond to prayer and worship in a way which is appropriate

- learning about and sharing in festivals such as Eid, Diwali, Hannukah and Chinese New Year
  - hearing stories, prayers and passages from Holy Books including making links between the shared stories of the Abrahamic faiths and listening to representatives of other faiths.
4. To celebrate the values of the school community by:
    - sharing ideas and issues of collective conduct
    - allowing for the participation of everyone at whatever level or in whatever form is appropriate
  5. To contribute to moral and social development by:
    - considering appropriate patterns of individual behaviour
    - developing collective responsibility/community cohesion
    - responding to world topical events in order to further our aim to become global citizens of God
    - considering issues of social justice (equal opportunity, charitable giving etc.)
  6. To promote a sense of self esteem in:
    - valuing the contributions that everyone makes to school life, offering up to God special effort, achievement and progress, remembering that we are all God's treasure
    - Pupils leading worship in school and in church both as a whole school, as a class and (where applicable) as part of the Ethos Group.

**Worship Pattern:**

- The pattern of worship is mainly based on the Church's year, the seasons, feelings and emotions. There is a thematic base to each half term and appropriate bible stories and passages are chosen to support this.
- Each act of worship is based around hymns, stories, acting, time for reflection and prayers.
- Throughout the year, there is a pattern of worship which links St. Mary's Primary School with St. Mary's Church. The main Christian Festivals are celebrated as part of this pattern, which is outlined in Appendix 2.

Monday: Whole school worship in led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The idea of the week is introduced. A bible story or verse is shared and prayers are said for the week ahead. The act of worship includes a song or a hymn.  
 .....

Tuesday: This is class-based and continues with the theme of the week. It will include a bible story or bible verses; big questions to reflect on; a song or hymn; and prayers.

Wednesday: The whole school meets in the hall and the worship is led by the head teacher, or deputy head teacher. These services are varied, child-centred and look at a bible story or verses linked to the theme or the week.

Thursday: The children have the opportunity to worship liturgically. Children worship at least twice a half term in the hall with the clergy team (Eucharist for KS2 and Morning Prayer for KS1) and when it is not their clergy week worship in their classrooms using the Morning Prayer liturgy that has been developed for the school.

Friday: Pupils celebrate their star of the week in their classes and bring the theme of the week to a close through class-based worship.

### **Legal requirements.**

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. At present no parents at St Mary's withdraw their children.

Head teachers and teachers retain their right not to participate in acts of worship.

As Christian values and principles are so inherent in the life of the school, it is understood that staff, governors, parents and pupils will endorse and support such beliefs, and so participate enthusiastically in this valued element of school life.

### **Planning and resources provision.**

All planning for any acts of collective worship is completed by staff and included in their planning files.

An annual budget for worship is allocated for the purchase of relevant books and artefacts for use during collective worship.

The Ethos Group will create a worship experience each half term for pupils from different key stages. This may take the form of an act of collective worship, an interactive learning experience or other type of experience. The Ethos Group will meet weekly with staff and a member of the clergy team to plan these events.

### **Thematic approach to collective worship.**

The worship and assembly bible references are collated at the start of each term and are available to staff. The reflection area in each classroom will link to the thematic value underpinning our collective worship each half term.

### **School and Church Worship**

During the academic year, each class contributes to a Sunday service at St. Mary's Church. The pattern of worship for the academic year is worked out through the involvement of the Parish Priest, school staff and governors.

School led services at St. Mary's Church also take place at Harvest, Candlemas and Easter. There is a KS2 led Christmas Nativity service and a service of thanksgiving for Y6 at the end of the academic year.

The school and church worship arrangements foster strong links between St. Mary's Church and St. Mary's School and are an important part of the cycle of worship.

### **Evaluation of Worship (see Appendix 1)**

The impact of collective worship is evaluated as follows:

- Children are asked about their experiences of worship at regular intervals through the school year. Their ideas are taken into account for future themes or individual acts of worship.
- Governors complete a visitor's evaluation form after they have joined school collective worship. Their comments inform the future structure and approach to collective worship.
- Termly reports to Governors via the Headteacher Report for the Board of Governance. The content of this report is discussed and any recommendations acted upon.
- Informal comments from parents, governors and children are also taken into account.
- Worship is built into parental, pupil and staff questionnaires that may be distributed.

### **Policy Review**

This policy is subject to bi-annual review and will next be reviewed in January 2023.

## Appendix 1

*Love learning. Love each other.*

### **St Mary's Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

#### **Children's reflections on worship and assemblies.**

Date:

Children:

Year group –

What do you remember about this morning's assembly and worship?

What will you do because of this morning's assembly and worship?

Is there anything that you would like to think or pray about in future assemblies and worship?

## Appendix 2

### Core Christian Values

These values were chosen through consultation with pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors.

Term	Value	Links to the Church's Seasons
Autumn 1	Endurance	Harvest
Autumn 2	Peace	Remembrance, Advent, Christmas
Spring 1	Trust	Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent
Spring 2	Forgiveness	Lent, Annunciation (links with our patron Saint) Easter
Summer 1	Compassion	Easter, Ascension, Pentecost
Summer 2	Hope	Pentecost