



St Mary's CE Primary School

Date of policy: Autumn Term 2020

Review date: Autumn Term 2022

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Mission Statement

We want our children to develop the skills of an effective lifelong learner, build successful relationships, have clear Christian values and principles and live by them.

Rationale

The Trust Deed informs the policy and practice of collective worship in St Mary's School. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation values and ethos of the school.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and will reflect the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. These will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

Aims

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:-

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow children to respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- Introduce children to Christian Language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- Strengthen and support the school community giving expressing to and reaffirming the Christian values of the school
- Celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God
- Encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and the mystery of the world around them
- Foster a concern for others within the school and wider world
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a church school, however, worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.



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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY (continued)

Organisation

Worship is usually held at the end of the school day for twenty minutes. During the week there will be a whole school worship led by the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher. Each class teacher will also lead a class worship. Teachers also take it in turns to deliver key stage worship each week. On a Friday afternoon the school comes together again to celebrate and share in achievement, attitude awards and birthdays.

Throughout the year parents will be invited to worship with their child's class.

Content

The following may feature in our collective worship:

- Using the Bible, either a source book, or as an inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the church's year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints Days
- Learning and saying traditional prayers, in particular the Lord's Prayer
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs
- Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, candles, ash, palm crosses
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection
- Using the response – The Lord be with you/and also with you - Amen

Christian Festivals:

Harvest is celebrated in school.

A Remembrance service is held in school each year for parents, staff and children and is led by year six.

At Christmas or Easter the whole school attends St Nathaniel's church for a service led by children from Years three, four, five and six. One of these services may be held in school on a rota basis.

A Christingle service is held in school each Christmas and is led by a visiting member of the clergy.

Year six hold a service in school for their parents to remember their years at St Mary's. End of term services held in school on the last day of term. Groups of children also lead worship across the year.



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Resources

Resources for whole school worship are kept in the Head's Office. A range of material is available and websites such as www.cowo.culham.ac.uk (National Society) and www.assemblies.org are used to supplement this. The school also uses Roots and Fruits of Big Start Assemblies to develop our worship offer. Artefacts and resources to support class worship are stored in the headteacher's office and classrooms.

Plans

Worship is planned to follow the cycle of the church year and the agreed Christian values. It is generally planned a term in advance.

Visitors

Visitors are welcome to participate in or lead worship. Rev'd Rachel and Rev'd Stan attend worship occasionally throughout the year.

Visitors linked to our chosen charities lead worship during the year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher evaluate and monitor whole school worship and liaise on themes and broad content.

Every class and the school council evaluate worship each year and offer suggestion for improvement.

Parents' views are sought at a range of events throughout the year.

This policy and its practice was compiled with due regard to the Equality Act 2010.

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date _____