



# St Mary's CE Primary School

Date of policy: Autumn Term 2024

Review date: Autumn Term 2026

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### Our Mission Statement

***'Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you'***. These words are taken from one of our favourite songs and are inspired by Joshua 1:9. Our mission is to help our children to develop the skills of an effective lifelong learner, build successful relationships, have clear Christian values and principles and live by them. We don't give up; we learn by our mistakes and we are kind to each other.

Our three school rules are: Be ready, be respectful, be safe.

### 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.



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## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY** (continued)

### **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.

### **Organisation**

Worship is usually held at the end of the school day for twenty minutes. During the week each key stage will have a worship session in the hall led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or a class teacher. A member of the clergy will also lead worship around twice per half term. Each class teacher will also lead a class worship. On a Friday afternoon the school comes together again to celebrate and share in achievement, attitude awards and birthdays.

Throughout the year each child will get the opportunity to be a worship leader and parents will be invited to attend class worship once per half term.

### **Class Worship**

Over the 6 week half term the class will use bible stories that explore our chosen value to focus on for 4 of the weeks. The class teacher will lead these worship sessions. Another week will focus on a story from another faith. The children will lead a 6<sup>th</sup> session and will invite their parents to attend. This format may be adapted to suit term lengths, class themes and events but will always include a week when the children lead and parents are invited in. Over the course of the year all children will get an opportunity to lead worship.

### **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



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## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY** (continued)

### **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.

Years 5 & 6 deliver the Christmas service in church and Years 3 & 4 deliver an Easter service in church. All parents are invited to attend.

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.

### **Resources**

Resources for whole school worship are kept in the Head's Office. A range of material is available through Roots and Fruits forms the base for our worship schedule. 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 clergy from St Nathaniel's 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 \_\_\_\_\_