



STATUS: APPROVED
APPROVED BY: GOVERNING BODY
DATE: APRIL 2015

Policy on Collective Worship

This policy has been drawn up by the Worship co-ordinator, in consultation with the governors of the school, headteacher and other members of staff.

Legal Requirements:

St Margaret's is a VA Church of England Junior School.

As such it has a trust deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'.

In accordance with legal requirements (Schools Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made following discussions with the headteacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children for children withdrawn from the act of collective worship. In an aided school the staff are expected to attend the act of worship.

Rationale:

Our Mission Statement:

'St Margaret's – enabling children to learn in a Christian Environment'

Because we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils, there is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation reflects the Christian values of our school. These values have been chosen by all school stakeholders. Collective Worship allows children to develop their

own level of spirituality. Acts of worship are Christian based, although the beliefs of children from other faiths are respected.

The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

Aims of Collective Worship:

At St Margaret's School Collective Worship aims to:

- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique member made in the image of God.
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the value of the school community.
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to:
 - Praise and reach out to God
 - Experience stillness and quiet
 - Understand and respond to Christian language and symbolism
 - Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation
 - Develop, strengthen and nurture their spirituality
 - Understand the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, his person, life and teachings
 - Grasp an overview of the teachings of the bible.

Spirituality starts with where children are and where they'll be when they move on. Spirituality is a life-long journey.

Structure:

In St Margarets C of E Junior School, worship is organised in the following way:

Monday HT/DHT	10.30 2 year rolling programme of weekly themes that explore the school values and SEAL program. This includes celebration of Christian festivals, moral/spiritual teaching, famous Christians (including St. Margaret, St. George and Saint's days.) This programme is closely followed by St George's Infant School.
Tuesday S.L.T.	10.30 Celebration/Hymn Practice

Celebration of God given talents, hymn practice, instrument playing.

Wednesday Staff/clergy	10.30 2 year rolling programme of weekly themes that explore the school values and SEAL program. This includes teachings of Jesus, celebration of Christian festivals, moral/spiritual teaching, famous Christians (including St. Margaret, St. George and Saint's days. This programme is closely followed by St George's Infant School.
Thursday Visiting speakers	10.45 Emphasis on Jesus and stories from the Bible – Open Book Group Worship
Friday Family Group worship	10.30

Planning:

In planning worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the church's year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost), recognising the central significance of the Eucharist.
- How worship reflects the Anglican Heritage, i.e.
 - Using the Bible as a source book for inspiration & learning
 - Reflecting upon Christian symbols & their use in worship
 - To experience worship in school and church.
- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum.
- Context of biblical text in terms of time sequence, geography and relationships between people and people groups.
- Creating an atmosphere by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols
- Using the whole range of creative arts (including ICT) to appeal to the pupil's imagination.
- There may be special services from time to time e.g. welcoming new pupils to school, or acknowledging the departure of older pupils.

Recording and Evaluation:

All acts of worship are planned, and recorded. Evaluations are obtained to see how worship is received; this is achieved by asking a selection of children from each class to reflect on worship (RE interviews/Ethos group meetings). Monitoring of acts of worship is also obtained by observations by the Worship co-ordinator. At St Margaret's C of E Junior School all acts of worship are planned and recorded, a list of weekly themes can be obtained in the staffroom.

Monitoring:

The Collective Worship will be monitored by:

1. Discussion between Collective Worship leaders from St. Margaret's and St. George's. This discussion will include:
 - Review of content and methodology;
 - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, ability of styles, groupings, leadership;
 - Links to curriculum and classroom experience.
2. Discussion between S.L.T, governors and Worship leader. To discuss:
 - Resources and budget;
 - INSET
3. Ethos group members (minutes of meetings held in staffroom)
4. Review of the role of collective worship co-ordinator
5. Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes
6. Asking are the requirements of law being met?