



St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

To be a caring, inclusive, Christian environment, nurturing a life-long love of learning where we can work together to learn, to grow, to serve. We are proud to support the whole community and by collaborating will enable all children and adults within it to live fully whilst 'shining brighter and brighter' Proverbs 4:18.

"St Mary's is an inclusive school where we believe that all people are of equal value, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, ability or sexual identity. We recognise and respect their differences."

Collective Worship Policy

This policy is GDPR compliant.

Date of issue: July 2018

Last reviewed/adopted: October 2020 (Ethos Committee)

Next review date: Summer 2021

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Policy Statement

At St. Mary's School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote:

“Excellence together, Learning through faith”

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

The over-arching Christian values of forgiveness, fairness, respect and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, honesty and self-worth are at the heart of the school ethos and collective worship. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”. (John 13:34-35)

They are used in collective worship and are promoted throughout school life and in the actions of the school community. We focus on each value for one half term in a two-year cycle. The two-year cycle is as follows:

First year 2020-2021:

Term	Value
Autumn 1	Hope
Autumn 2	Friendship
Spring 1	Endurance
Spring 2	Thankfulness
Summer 1	Forgiveness
Summer 2	Courage

Second year 2021-2022:

Term	Value
Autumn 1	Justice
Autumn 2	Peace
Spring 1	Trust
Spring 2	Humility
Summer 1	Love
Summer 2	Compassion

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3) which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

Organisation, Content and Detail

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children lasting for between approximately 15 – 30 minutes. The worship begins with the children entering the hall often accompanied by a piece of music. Often, the title of the piece of music will be displayed for the children to see and should come from a variety of cultures. Sometimes music is chosen and played by children on their own instruments. Monday's Collective Worship sets the theme for the entire week and begins with the candle on the altar table being lit. The children are involved in the worship throughout and this finishes with a prayer and, often, the singing of a hymn. The candle is then blown out before any notices are given. This allows for us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday 09.10am, Hall Year 1-6: worship led by the Headteacher or another adult reflecting on our school values. Bible stories are used to enhance and complement the school's values

Tuesday 09.10am, Hall Year 1-6: worship usually led by the Rev. Jonathan Gordon and based on the church calendar, Christian values and current events. These assemblies build on the Sunday sermon, which links the church's collective worship to the school's. On occasion the Tuesday Collective Worship session may be led by an adult

from another Christian denomination or representatives of another faith.

- Wednesday 09.10am, Hall Year 1-6: worship led by class teachers. This can be based on: JIGSAW PHSE programme, our current value, important events in British Life (e.g. St George's Day), current events and Christian and multi-faith stories which support the ethos of the school.
- Thursday 09.10 am, Hall Reception-Year 6: whole school hymn practice, with prayer/reflection time, led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. This includes the lighting of a candle to focus the children's attention and aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns as well as learning them. The session ends with a time for reflection or a prayer before the candle is blown out and messages are given.
- Friday 09.10 am, Hall Celebration Assembly. Reception-Year 6: whole school worship led by the Headteacher, celebrating good deeds and achievements. This assembly celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school, especially those linked to the value of the month. Normally, teachers choose two members of their class to receive a special mention and sticker. Certificates gained are also presented in this assembly. Once the children have received a round of applause, a prayer is said.

Monthly services at St Mary's reflect the church calendar and significant events in school life. Parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. The service starts with the lighting of the candle and a welcome prayer. Pupils deliver a bible reading which is followed by a sermon or pupil presentation. Other pupils write and lead the prayers, which are followed by the Lord's Prayer. Hymns are sung throughout the service and the service ends with a blessing.

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. The local Baptist Minister leads an assembly each half term.

Foundation Stage

Nursery will attend class assemblies and Thursday's collective worship once a month for the autumn and spring terms. In the summer they will attend every Friday. Collective worship will take place in the setting on other days, including a visit from Rev. Gordon each week.

Reception will attend Thursday's collective worship for the autumn and spring term as well as event assemblies and all church services. In the summer they will attend two assemblies as well as event assemblies and all church services.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, extempore prayers, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of the candle. A cross is also displayed above on the wall and on the altar table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. A prayer is said in class at the end of the school day.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting the faith stance and culture of others, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the community in and around the school as well as the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

A file is kept, recording Collective Worship coverage and Diocese termly plans. Evaluation by pupils takes place annually to ensure pupils are engaged, motivated and value collective worship. Foundation governors are invited to evaluate collective worship annually.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Mary's School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship.

Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. We have weekly visits from Rev. Jonathan Gordon and half-termly visits from the local Baptist minister.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of Collective worship. Leading teachers/visitors will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the school.

Collective Worship Lead: Ceris Taylor (RE Subject Leader)

Appendix 1

Collective Worship is an integral part of the life of St Mary's School. If the school is closed for unforeseen circumstances (e.g. national emergency, building problems) Collective Worship will continue to be delivered via video and made available to all children and adults. If, for any reason, it is not possible to deliver whole school Collective Worship then daily worship will be provided via a video streaming platform such as 'Zoom' or within class. This worship will reflect the themes and values usually delivered through Collective Worship at St Mary's.