



Collective Worship Policy

Policy Purpose

This policy is intended to promote consistently high standards of worship which create a positive school ethos and ensure successful learning. A whole school collective act of worship happens every day. Worship is a very important part of our school day and we aim that this should be evident in our daily worship assembly.

Aims

- To enable the children and staff to have a time for quiet and reflection
- To encourage the children to discover a sense of awe and wonder at the natural world and human life
- To illustrate chosen aspects of spirituality
- To emphasise moral, social or cultural issues
- To actively involve the children and staff through prayers, drama, readings and singing

The planning of collective worship is thorough and creative, involving a range of stakeholders.

Worship is *planned* half termly by the collective worship co-ordinator in partnership with clergy and the Headteacher. These themes may be related to particular festivals that occur throughout the church calendar or those of other faiths. They are related to areas of curriculum focus e.g. for PSHE or SEAL.

Each term we hold a service in church and also a service for the main Christian festivals, which the RE Co-ordinator and Church Clergy/members lead. Parents are invited to join us for these services and other assemblies throughout the year.

Worship at St. Mary's is Christian

Worship format

- Entrance to music - this may be quiet and reflective or praise, or music from different cultures.
- Welcome and introduction to the theme of the day and sometimes a song
- Main presentation that may include contributions from the children or other adults
- Reflection and prayer, including the Lord's Prayer
- Exit music

Prayer and reflection are an important feature of collective worship. Everybody is invited to prepare themselves for the way in which they want or pray, and join in with 'Amen'.

The school community has developed our own Prayer Book, which remains on the Worship area in the hall and is used during collective worship and assembly time.

There will be opportunities when, in silence or to appropriate music, everyone is able to reflect.

The *atmosphere* at assembly is very important, the way that we speak to children, the way they are expected to behave and the way in which they come in sets the tone.

Rota for worship

- **Monday** – Headteacher Values and Worship
- **Tuesday** -- Singing and Praise
- **Wednesday** -Singing and Praise
- **Thursday** – Clergy
- **Friday** -Celebration

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from collective worship. A request to pursue this right must be given in writing to the Headteacher.

Parents are welcomed into our assemblies at any time and receive specific invitations when their child's class is leading the worship, and to church services.

We aim to promote a consistently high standard of spirituality by ensuring that our school environment makes a major contribution to the spiritual development of the whole school community.

We achieve this through Reflection areas in every class, a dedicated Worship area in the hall, a communal prayer station in the Courtyard and a Spiritual garden in the centre of our playground.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Worship is regularly evaluated which is taken into account to shape future planning and lead to improvement.

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher and the worship co-ordinator. Useful strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

Records are kept of themes, rotas and resources in an assembly file in the Head teachers office, as are worship resource books and prayer books.

As part of the planning process, the Collective Worship Coordinator/Headteacher/Clergy discuss the impact of worship for the previous half term.

