

# Collective Worship Policy



Date agreed: June 2021

Review date: June 2024

## **Our vision**

Our vision statement 'Explore, Enjoy, Excel together; be amazing' captures the ambition that we have for our children to be the best that they can be. We believe that every child is created uniquely and so it is our role to make sure that their individual gifts are nurtured so that children can reach their aspirations, believe in themselves and work together to achieve great things.

Our vision finds its root in Psalm 139, verse 14: 'I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made'.

Our vision motivates us to be a school community who through our vision and values create warm, supportive, positive relationships, allowing every person (staff, pupils, parents, governors and more) to 'be amazing' and 'be the best that they can be.'

Statement/Principles

## **Legal requirements:**

St Mary's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary 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 (School 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worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents.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 head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from act of worship.

## **Rationale:**

At St Mary's VA Primary School we always seek to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its care for all who work here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be able to share in it and those of different faiths or of no faith will reach the 'threshold of worship'.

As a Church of England School, our Collective Worship follows the customs and practice of the Church of England and recognises the historic links between the contributions of the Anglican Church to education.

**Aims:**

Through our Acts of Collective Worship we aim to:

- give opportunities to reflect on the Christian faith
- consider the importance of prayer, meditation and silence
- develop a respect and tolerance for each other's beliefs and opinions
- encourage a sense of unity and personal identity
- build a concept of individual self-worth and 'specialness'
- realise our commitment to each other; staff and pupils alike
- encourage Christian personal, social and moral values
- think about the needs of others
- provide a richness and variety of experiences

**Our Practice**

During Collective Worship all our children will be given opportunities to reflect, share, listen and sing. Throughout each term these opportunities will occur through poetry, story telling, Bible readings, visual aids, drama, shared experiences, prayers, silence, meditation, songs and hymns.

Within this variety of medium we recognise, affirm and celebrate:

- an appreciation of our world
- matters of truth, goodness and beauty
- the highest achievement of which we are capable
- a recognition of the interdependence of human beings – especially those in need
- our belief in God as Creator, Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- the Bible as the unique authority as God's word for Christians

Different staff members lead Collective Worship and these are planned and recorded as part of our school's spiritual and moral development. The local ministers are invited to lead our Collective Worship once a week and special events in the church calendar are held in St Mary's Church. Visitors representing local churches also lead Collective Worship on a termly basis. We also welcome other visitors to take assemblies on different themes.

**Organisation: ( see Appendix 2 for CW timetable during Covid)**

The Collective Worship at St Mary's follows the 'Values for Life' scheme. The Collective Worship takes place either in class or the school hall. During Terms 2, 3 and 4 Thursday's Collective worship takes place in school and then during Terms 1, 5 and 6 the worship takes place in St Mary's Church.

Day	Staff	Pupils
Monday	Head Teacher	Whole School
Tuesday	Worship through Song Teachers	Key Stage 1 and 2
Wednesday	Class Based Worship Class Teacher	Key Stage 1 & 2
Thursday	Clergy	Whole School Terms 5,6 and 1 in Church Terms 2,3 and 4 in School
Friday	Head Teacher	Whole School - celebration

### Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

### Monitoring

The coordinator will monitor collective worship by observing children's attentiveness and level of interest, seeking feedback from children, staff, governors and parents and observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school.

Appendix 1 – Timetable of Values over a 2 year rolling programme with related Bible story link.

Appendix 2 – Covid Collective Worship timetable.