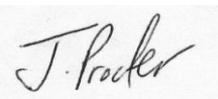




‘Being the best we can be in a thriving community,
following the example of Jesus.’



Collective Worship Policy

Review cycle	1 / 2 / 3 years	Date: September 2024
Approved by	Full Governing Body / Executive Headteacher	
Changes made in this review cycle	November 2024	
Linked policies	R.E. Policy	
Signed		Date:
Position	Executive Headteacher	
Date of next Review	September 2027	

Our School Vision:



The Ethos Statement for Church of England Schools:

Recognizing its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England/Church in Wales and in partnership with the Churches at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils

St Mary the Virgin is a voluntary aided Church of England Primary School. The Church of England therefore retains influence in the life of the school. Within the context of the faith and practice of the Church of England, our Collective Worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, intellectual and social development of the children, thus relating to the day-to-day aspirations and concerns of the school.

It gives all those present time for reflection and prayer, and should be conducted in such a way that the integrity of all those in the group is respected and wellbeing is catered for.

Legal Requirements and Right of Withdrawal

The school must provide daily Collective Worship for pupils. The worship will take place in the Church and in the school and will be wholly Christian in character and in keeping with the school trust deeds. Parents do have a right to withdraw their child/ren from collective worship, although it is assumed that, as a Church School, parents have understood and accepted the importance of their children's involvement in this aspect of school life.

Aims

Collective Worship at St Mary the Virgin CEP is inspiring, invitational and inclusive and aims to:

- ④ enable the school community to explore and celebrate the differences and diversity found in the variety of forms of worship in the Anglican Christian tradition
- ④ share the central teachings of the Christian faith in order for the school community to show strength in making an informed choice about their own involvement and to consider their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- ④ seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'no faith', so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship
- ④ work to ensure children and staff flourish spiritually, including understanding what this means for individuals in the school community
- ④ use celebration, silence, stilling, reflection, contemplation, meditation, prayer, song, symbols and imagery as vehicles for worship and spiritual growth
- ④ provide opportunities for members of the school community to meet regularly in the 'prayer space'
- ④ use a vocabulary of worship that encourages the whole school community to attend, participate and lead worship, developing their own sense of faith and truth
- ④ encourage all present to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework by learning more about the Christian faith and by encountering Christ's love through worship
- ④ raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith
- ④ explore the school's Christian vision and values of Love, Strength and Faith, following the example of Jesus, and celebrate each unique individual member of the school community as made in the image of God
- ④ encourage love, respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally
- ④ seek to provide opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development that is characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, elation, appreciation, gratitude, respect and reverence
- ④ develop a sense of community within the school and locality (e.g. local church/es) and foster the sense of being part of a wider community through the celebration of achievements, festivals and special occasions, developing the wellbeing of all in the school community
- ④ provide a Prayer and Reflection space for children to bring personal needs and those of others, to build on collective worship in school
- ④ help children discover their place in the world, through each class taking on a Courageous Advocacy Project each year

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

All children at St Mary the Virgin CE School are supported and encouraged to participate in Collective Worship. It is part of a balanced curriculum, which aims for the highest standards and promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, physical, intellectual and social development of the pupils, allowing them to achieve fullness of life.

Pattern and Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St Mary's School currently follows this pattern:

Monday: whole school 'value of the term' at 10.20 am – *rota of teachers*

Tuesday: whole school spiritual journal reflection time at 9:30am – *Teachers in class*

Wednesday: whole school worship in church at 9:30am – *Reverend Julie*

Thursday: whole school singing worship at 10.20am – *Senior Teacher*

Friday: Whole School Celebration Worship/Class Assembly at 9:15am – *Head of School/Class*

Setting the Scene

Monitors from Year 5/6 are responsible for supporting the leading adult in setting up for Worship. The 'Our Church School' board in the school hall is updated to include the theme of worship for the term, resources for Worship and information about the school vision and values. This includes celebration of children across the school who have demonstrated the school values in their actions.

Children are encouraged to walk to Church silently, reflecting on what they have heard earlier in the week and preparing their hearts to listen to the message from Reverend Julie. This reflective period enables those present to begin their own conversation with God and invite Jesus into their worship.

We recognise that worship and assembly may have different purposes and sometimes need to be distinct from one another. Notices, reminders, etc, are given out after the act of worship.

A variety of strategies may be drawn on throughout the year to involve and interest the children, but each act of worship will include:

- 🕊 Prayer
- 🎵 Music, including singing and dance
- 📖 Stories, drama or other readings from sacred or inspirational literature (all acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character)
- 🕊 Silence for reflection

Planning

St Mary's school has a shared approach to planning with leaders, local clergy and pupils having the opportunity to contribute. The planning for Collective Worship is laid out in a framework, which reflects the main themes of Christian life and teaching. Worship themes are planned for in the two-year rolling cycle of Christian Values, and teachers and church ministers are consulted in the planning and review stages of this. Planning ensures that pupils have opportunities to encounter the teachings of Jesus. The themes also have resonances with the belief and teaching of other faiths from which material can be drawn. Planning follows the broad pattern of the Christian Year, but it is not restrictive, for there is always a need to respond to local or national/international situations.

Resources

Resources for the Christian Values assembly led by the teacher are largely found through 'Roots and Fruits' as these link directly to our Christian Values and support the school vision. Additionally, some resources are sought from the 'Big Start Assemblies' and SPCK online resources.

Visitors

In order to broaden the knowledge and understanding of the pupils and achieve high standards of learning, we invite visitors to lead worship where possible. Reverend Julie is a weekly contributor to Worship and also links with pupils for specific areas of RE learning. The Youth Leader at St Marys Church attended school weekly and leads a topic based discussion with different classes each week.

Leadership of collective worship and responsibilities

Collective Worship is coordinated by the Head of School. Responsibilities include:

- ④ development of effective and progressive Collective Worship Planning
- ④ feeding back to Governors through leadership of the Ethos Committee
- ④ leading on the evaluation of Worship (delegated to the Senior Teacher)
- ④ ensuring the school vision and values of Love, Strength and Faith are promoted and embedded through Worship

Monitoring and evaluation of worship

Pupils evaluate the effectiveness of Worship on a regular basis and this information is fed back to leaders. The Governors hold leaders to account through the Ethos Committee who observe, monitor and review practice and support development going forwards.