



St Mary's CE Primary Academy

Policy for Collective Worship

"Everything is possible for one who believes." Mark 9:23

Dream, believe, achieve.

Head Teacher:	Erica Holt
Chair of Governors:	Mike Lovett
Date:	January 2021
Date of next review:	January 2022

Rationale

At St Mary's Church of England Primary, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as a fundamental and essential part of school life. The worship introduces and promotes a key set of Christian values, which are further embedded throughout all areas of the school curriculum and daily life of the school.

Aims

- To provide an opportunity for the children to worship God
- To share the Christian values of the school and develop these values within each child in school and at home
- To enable children to explore spiritual and moral issues as well as their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in children a sense of community spirit
- To teach children the central attributes of Christian worship
- To celebrate the students individual/group talents and achievements
- To enable pupils to pray and reflect on key messages
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity for the beliefs and values of others

Legal Requirements

Daily collective Worship at St Mary's Church of England Primary school is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act of 1998. The 1988 Education Act requires schools to offer collective worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Collective Worship is not accounted for in curriculum time and is distinctive from other parts of school life. Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises though the school also takes part in services at St Mary's Church, Burton Latimer throughout the year.

Right of withdrawal

The expectation is that all children and staff attend acts of worship. However, parents can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The right of withdrawal from religious worship also extends to staff and adults in this Voluntary Controlled school.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship which involves the whole school. Each act of collective worship is conducted in a manner which encourages children to participate respectfully, offering time for reflection and learning as well as more active singing and drama. The Head teacher, Governors, visitors and members of staff may conduct Acts of Worship.

Format of Collective Worship

Day	Leader	Context
Monday	Headteacher	Our value of the month and themes around that value (see CW rota)
Tuesday	Tracey Sanders	Singing Worship
Wednesday	Deputy Head	Visitor or achievement worship
Thursday	KS2 School Staff / children	Class/ Child led collective worship
Friday	Headteacher/Deputy Head	Celebration Assembly – parents invited

Collective Worship at St Mary's always provides time for prayer. The use of candles, music and stillness creates an atmosphere to develop the ability to reflect and encourages participation. Collective worship regularly includes Biblical material and Christian teaching, learners are encouraged to relate this to the school's Christian values and their own lives.

Collective Worship is planned termly, shared with all staff and includes:

- Celebration of major Christian festivals
- Themes appropriate to the seasons of the church year
- Bible stories and readings from the Bible
- Topical matters from the news or the locality
- Literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- Appreciation of children demonstrating our Christian values, their talents, and achievements
- Sharing and celebrating the Christian values demonstrated at home
- Visitors and speakers with appropriate experiences or messages
- Lives of memorable Christians or Values heroes
- Work of appropriate charities
- Themes relating to topics that are taught in the curriculum

Where children lead the CW, they are supported to plan worship effectively and to include elements of the above list.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluating the policy and practice of collective worship is the responsibility of the RE Subject Leader, the Foundation Governors, pupil evaluators and the Head teacher. Formal records and evaluations are kept and reports made to the Governing Body. The views of staff, pupils and parents will be regularly sought and these inform future planning.

