

**Collective Worship Policy**

**This is a Trust Policy– details specific to individual academies and their procedures are added by the academy in the *Appendices.* (*For a copy of the policy for a specific academy which includes the Appendices – see the individual academy website).***

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| **March 2022**  |
| **Date for Next Revision – March 2024** |

**Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (the Trust) and all its academies (the Academy / Academies) is committed to the flourishing of all, and the Trust’s vision is:**

**‘*For every child, within our Trust, to experience an excellent education and to realise their God-given potential to flourish.’***

# Rationale

The Trust understands collective worship to be an essential component within an educational experience that enables all pupils to flourish. It provides an opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter and appreciate the relevance of faith in the world today. Collective worship involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering. In Community Schools in line with the 1988 Education Reform Act collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”. Collective worship in our Church Academies is required to reflect its Anglican status as expressed in their trust deed, and so will be based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the academy.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the Christian ethos of the Trust. In doing so, it seeks to provide an inclusive, invitational and inspiring experience for all members of our academies by providing opportunities for each Academy to:

* Explore its Christian vision and underpinning values and virtues;
* Deepen a sense of community through sharing its common aims, values and morals;
* Consider current national and world events as they occur;
* Celebrate achievement and special times;
* Explore together the world in which we live;
* Develop a community spirit.

# Aims for Collective Worship

The aims and purpose of collective worship are based on the *Church of England Education Office’s Inclusive Invitational Inspiring: A Statement of Entitlement and Expectation* (a copy of which is attached at *Appendix 1*), that it is:

Inclusive by:

* Ensuring it is accessible to pupils and adults of different faith backgrounds, those exploring their own beliefs about faith and those of no faith;
* Providing time for reflection so nurturing the awareness of life as a spiritual journey;
* Involving pupils in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship;
* Reflecting the cultural backgrounds of the local context.

Invitational by:

* Enabling all to be present whatever their faith or beliefs;
* Recognising that pupils and adults are free to engage with integrity;
* Providing optional invitations for prayer and space to reflect.

Inspiring by:

* Enabling pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we are here;
* Motivating pupils and adults into action and into the possibilities of thinking and behaving differently;
* Encouraging pupils to become courageous advocates for change.

For further details of an individual Academy’s aims and purpose of collective worship – see *Appendix 2.*

# Practicalities of Organisation

Our Academies hold a daily act of collective worship.

For Academy specific details – see *Appendix 2.*

# Content

A plan of themes is produced annually reflecting the values an Academy has chosen.

Our Academies also consider and reflect on the festivals and special times of the Christian calendar.

For academy specific details – see *Appendix 2.*

**Resources**

For details of resources individual Academies use – see *Appendix 2.*

# Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of the Academy Governance Committee (AGC) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

Any Academy specific details in relation to evaluation, monitoring and review are set out in *Appendix 2.*

# Right of Withdrawal

As our Academies are Church Academies, we expect all pupils to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents / carers at the time of admission. However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the academy will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned. Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Headteacher keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

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**Appendix 1**







# Text  Description automatically generatedAppendix 2

[The Church of England Education Office, *Inclusive, Invitational Inspiring: A Statement of Entitlement and Expectation (*The Church of England Education Office 2021)]

**Name of Academy: St Mary’s Ce Primary Academy**

## Academy specific details

***[NB – use the guidance in ‘Collective Worship - Accompanying Notes on Formulating a Collective Worship policy’******to develop your own approach, involving staff, parents, pupils and governors.]***

‘**Everything is possible for one who believes.’ Mark 9:23**

**Dream, believe, achieve.**

**Our vision, underpinned by Christian values:**

**Enables each child to flourish within a creative curriculum in order to develop confidence and curiosity through high expectations**

**Widens horizons and raises aspirations within a Christian community, which celebrates and respects everyone's uniqueness.**

## Aims for Collective Worship

In addition to the aims already stated, at St Mary’s CE Primary Academy collective worship has a special place in our school life and work. We provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to experience worship in a range ofChristian style, which is consistent with the traditional beliefs and practices of the Church of England.

## Practicalities of Organisation

Our daily act of collective worship forms part of each morning assembly. The format for these is agreed annually and an example is in Appendix 2.

We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage pupils to think of worship as a special time when the school community comes together for a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching. We invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a cross and candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils*.*

The Headteacher, Deputy Head and other members of staff conduct collective worship, in addition to regular visit from a range of Christian organisations. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between the Academy and the local churches. Parents / carers are invited to Friday collective worship and other special services, e.g. at Christmas, Easter and the end of the academy year. This promotes the community spirit of the Academy. In addition to whole school collective worship there are opportunities for class collective worship and collective worship planned by the children. We welcome governors’ attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each academy day.

Worship opportunities are also offered to staff, children and their families as we attend services (e.g. Family Service, Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end of year services in St Mary’s Church).

**Content**

The values we have chosen as an Academy are Respect, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Trust, Kindness, Friendship, Peace, Honesty, Hope, Justice, Truth and Acceptance].

A daily record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered and songs / music used.

We also hold collective worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in collective worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the Academy. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the Academy, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

Resources

School Assemblies website

St Barnabas resources

CAFOD

Bible based assemblies

You Tube

Twinkl

TES

Song words and PowerPoints are kept electronically on the staff/shared drive.

Useful websites to be used include:

www.worshipworkshop.co.uk

www.barnabasinschools.org.uk www.imaginor.co.uk www.assemblies.org.uk/

**Appendix 3**

Children enter in an orderly fashion assembly listening to the song/music. They are invited to listen to the music and reflect on the words they hear. Children are welcomed by the adult delivering the assembly and the theme for the assembly is shared with the children.

All worship follows a similar pattern: gather, engage, respond and send. Each terms the assemblies are linked to our school values, Christian events or PSHE themes. The main part of the collective worship can take on different forms including a stimulus of some sort which could be a story, a bible reading, a picture, art work, video clips, music or a child led activity; the different stimulus provide opportunity for discussion to ensure involvement from the children throughout the collective worship. Bible readings or quotes are usually used at the as part of worship to help the children secure the connections of the lessons learnt and the lessons within the bible.

After the main part of the assembly, the children are invited to participate in a moment of reflection thinking about what they have learnt from the main worship – they are welcome to close their eyes, sit quietly and reflect. The adult will lead the children through their reflection time asking questions to further deepen their understanding and to guide them to think about themselves. As the time for reflection ends, the assembly is closed with a prayer that builds on the message from the collective worship. Children are asked to leave quietly to music and encouraged to reflect on the day’s worship as they leave.