



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY FOR ST. MARGARET'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL



At St. Margaret's Church of England Primary School we seek to develop wisdom, encourage aspiration and promote dignity and acceptance enabling our respectful children to live a life giving back to the community.

John 10:10: 'Live life in all its fullness.'

Aspiration

Wisdom

Endurance

Approved by the governing body on:	Spring 2024
Shared with stakeholders on:	Spring 2024
Next review:	Spring 2025

Introduction

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and the associated values we derive from it. It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is heartbeat of our school, central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. As Collective Worship is so central in the life of our school, all teachers/classroom staff as well as pupils are normally present and participate. We regularly welcome governors and other visitors to attend.

What is Collective Worship?

Legislation requires schools, including Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled and Academy schools, to conduct daily acts of Collective Worship. However, the legislation does not define what is meant by the term 'Collective Worship'.

Corporate Worship assumes a shared set of beliefs and values, i.e. a worshipping congregation meeting on a Sunday, where the worship is confessional and evangelistic (to spread the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness).

Collective Worship, in recognising the collectivity of all participants, can make no such assumption that all have the same beliefs and values.

By Law Collective Worship must:

- Be provided for every registered child every day
- In schools with a religious character, daily Collective Worship must be in accordance with the tenets of its foundation and consistent with the denomination or religious tradition of the school.
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of Collective Worship. Whilst we respect this right, we kindly request that parents initially discuss this with the headteacher. If after this meeting, parents still wish for their child to be withdrawn they are requested to put this in writing.

The intention of our Collective Worship

It is our intention to offer Collective Worship that meets the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection, without compulsion.
- To appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language
- To appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist

- Engage in an act of community
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect for other members of the school community and beyond.
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- To engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of Collective Worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for Collective Worship.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

As part of our Collective Worship Practice we incorporate the following elements fundamental to our Church of England identity:

- Using Prayer and reflection
- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Learning and saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Using Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning

We also use elements which are more distinctively Anglican:

- Using prayers from Common Worship
- Using Anglican liturgy at the beginning and end of worship

Our Collective Worship Pattern and Practice

- Collective worship is planned by the headteacher and can be led by any member of staff or visiting clergy. We use a range of timings and groupings for our collective worship. Some worship is whole school, some is key stage, some is house groups and some is class based. We welcome visitors to join in our acts of worship.
- Our Collective Worship generally has some core elements.
At our 'Gathering', we play soft music as the community enter the worship space. We then welcome the school community with the worship leader saying, "Jesus, Light of the world is here" and the community responding with "Lord Jesus, shine on us" as a candle is lit. At our 'Engaging' we have the leader's main input into the act of Worship. We engage the pupils by sharing a core message. This may be through a Bible reading, video or pupil activity. This is followed with a 'Responding' opportunity. These are opportunities for pupils and staff to reflect upon this message and the impact that it has on their lives today. This may be through prayer, quiet reflection, activity, song or discussion. We conclude our Collective Worship by 'Sending' out. We close our worship through one or more of the following elements – a final message, Bible verse, a challenge, song, prayer, music, liturgy, blowing out of the candle. The messages in our Collective Worship may be followed up on in classes or in further acts of Collective Worship.
- On Fridays we give thanks to God for the achievements of our pupils in across every aspect of our school's life These are acts of worship celebrating God's diverse gifts to every member of our pupil community.

Visitor Leaders to Collective Worship

We welcome visitors to lead and participate in our Collective Worship. A member of the Parish worship team aims to lead worship fortnightly. Visiting Collective Worship Leaders are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. The welcoming member of staff/ headteacher/ Collective Worship Lead will discuss with the visitor, prior to the visitor leading Collective Worship, the content, expectations and practices Collective Worship. The purpose is to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

Pupil Led Worship

Since we believe worship to be the activity of the whole school community, we actively promote appropriate pupil leadership as well as full participation.

Monitoring

Our Collective Worship practice is regularly reviewed and evaluated by staff, governors and the pupils. This is done through observation, discussion and surveys as appropriate. These evaluations feed into the planning and delivery of future worship and our school development and CPD plans as appropriate.

We allocate training and resources to the development of our Collective Worship Practice.