



Collective Worship POLICY

We aim, within our small school, to develop thoughtful individuals, confident and resilient children of all ages who understand the positive contribution which they can make to the world and their status as God's precious children.

We are all God's children: learning together; looking after His world and each other.
Show love; act justly; give thanks.

Our mission; the way that we will live. Rooted in the Bible's teachings and Christian values of *dignity, love, forgiveness, endurance, justice and thankfulness*, we will live and work in the context of God's boundless love for us all. In this way St. Mary's Church of England School will be what we believe He intends us all to be....

'See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands,' Isaiah 49 verse 16.

.... a community of learners who flourish; who, grounded in the dignity and knowledge of God's love for each one can say, 'I am happy to be me'.

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you,' Ephesians 4 verse 32.

..... a community who, confident in the hope of the Gospel message feel safe to be inquisitive, to challenge themselves; who know that difficulties are opportunities to 'bounce forwards', strengthened by the grace of God.

'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.....And God saw that it was good,' Genesis 1 verse 1, 10

..... a community of service; individuals who understand and are committed to act out their responsibilities not only to and with each other, but as stewards of God's creation; from the doorstep of Sherwood Forest to a world-wide impact.

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, ' JEREMIAH 29:11

..... an enthusiastic community, whose learning, rooted in the Christian values of justice, love, forgiveness, dignity, endurance and thankfulness will equip all to take their place in society, making wise choices both now and in the future.

'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'. John 10:10.

..... a community who take with them into an ever-changing world, the humble confidence which comes from knowledge of the constancy of God's all-encompassing love; awareness of the broad opportunities available to them and determination to live the life which God intended for them; life in all its fullness.

Collective Worship

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of our Church school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. We believe that collective worship should provide a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, we intend that collective worship should be inspirational and transformational.

The aim of Collective Worship in our Church of England School is to provide the opportunity for those present:

- to experience and respond to the presence, power and peace of God
- to evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- to enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- to provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- to explore a variety of ways of praying, giving the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving at other times, such as before mealtimes.
- to strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- to develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual as God's child, made in His image.
- to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything
- to foster a concern for others and spirit of courageous advocacy within the school community and wider world.
- to deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment as stewards of God's creation.
- to encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.
- to offer opportunities to members of the school community to develop skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.

Statutory Duty of School

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the head teacher.

We aim to distinguish between collective worship and assembly as distinct activities. Although they may take place at the same gathering, we aim to make the difference between the two clear.

Organisation

- daily worship is led in turn by either the head teacher, a member of staff a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors
- worship takes place as a whole school community, to which all, including adults, are invited.
- worship is planned by the staff, who discuss and then follow a theme; by the clergy or by the pupils themselves.
- we use Christian signs and symbols, some of the liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year, candles, music, a focal point, ritual and liturgical responses and how the children are seated to make our space special and to create an atmosphere for worship
- the cycle of the Church year and the Christian values of the school are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship
- where it is appropriate, explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school
- Collective worship is held each day in the hall and will usually last for fifteen minutes. Collective worship also takes place regularly in St Mary's Church, including class attendance of Liturgy of the Word or Eucharist on Wednesdays.

Note: Classes 1 and 2 will attend Morning Praise; Classes 3 and 4 will attend Eucharist with Class 3 receiving a blessing only and Class 4 being offered the opportunity to receive the sacrament. This will be preceded by an initial input from Rev. Ian, during which the children will learn the meaning and significance of the Eucharist service. After consultation and with permission from parents and legal guardians, children who express an interest will then, provided they have been baptised, take part in preparation classes. Children will complete an activity to demonstrate their understanding of and readiness for receiving the Sacrament. Materials used will be published on both Church and school websites. This will culminate in reception ~~receipt~~ of communion in both kinds in accordance with the Rite of Admission to Holy Communion before Confirmation (2006)

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The strategies we use to monitor and evaluate the impact of worship include discussion, more formal questionnaires and observation.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship includes the pupils, staff, foundation governors and formal inspection of the SIAMS framework

We anticipate that the monitoring and evaluation of worship will lead to its strengthening and development over time.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the head teacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

Reviewed: Spring 2020