

ST MARY MAGDALENE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Agreed Whole School Policy

Collective Worship



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As a Church of England School, we recognise that each person is valuable, precious and **unique** before God. Our school is a community based on **trust, honesty** and **love**. We aim to live in **peace** with each other and to **forgive** those who have wronged us, as taught and demonstrated in the life of Jesus. We seek to foster in our members **wonder** in discovery, **thankfulness** for what we have, **compassion** for others and **hope** for the future. We therefore strive to ensure that our delivery of the curriculum meets the needs of each individual and helps foster an environment where the motivation for all to achieve and reach their full potential is at the core of our commitment.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Vision Statement

Building on a foundation of Core Christian Values, we inspire and equip our children to acquire confidence, encouraging a thirst for lifelong learning.

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,' Philippians 4: 13.

Mission Statement:

All our children will –

- **Be encouraged to do their best**
- **Be enabled to learn and enjoy all school activities**
- **Be confident enough to make choices**
- **Be proud of what they do**

As a Church of England School we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. Collective Worship is at the core of our ethos and Christian Distinctiveness. As a result, all children and staff are encouraged to attend a daily act of Collective Worship. We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special and that Collective Worship is inclusive whilst being clearly Christian based and Anglican denominational.

Aims for Collective Worship at St Mary Magdalene School

- To provide a daily opportunity for pupils and staff to worship God
- To promote a common ethos with shared Christian values
- To provide an atmosphere of trust and develop a sense of community within the school
- To enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues in a Christian context
- To develop an understanding of Christianity within the Anglican tradition
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To provide opportunities for silence, reflection and prayer
- To teach children how to worship and to provide positive experiences of Christian worship
- For children to meet and worship with Christians from the local community
- Teaching from the Bible

Collective Worship

“The daily act of collective worship, required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.” (Education Act 1996)

- We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in Collective Worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in the worship.

- While all acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold Collective Worship that learns from the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Organisation

Collective Worship takes place on a daily basis and is usually attended by the whole school together in the hall and occasionally is class based. (see Appendix 1 for guidance). We conduct Collective Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that Collective Worship is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children and staff to behave in an appropriate way. We teach and provide them with the experience of being quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate as appropriate in prayer and hymns.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by including the following elements within the weekly pattern of worship:

- Music and singing (from a variety of cultures)
- Prayer (traditional, contemporary and spontaneous)
- Bible reading/story
- Reflection and contemplation
- Individual and group activity
- Use of the senses
- Artistic imagery
- Listening and applying the teaching
- A Christian symbol as a focus for worship (cross, candle, picture)
- Symbols and colours and information from the Christian Year
- Sharing good work
- Celebrating success

We take the themes of our Collective Worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Each half term we focus on one of our Christian Core Values (see Appendix 1). Collective Worship is planned well in advance of the day they take place.

Our 'Praise and Share' Collective Worship reflects the achievements, learning and behaviour of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the Collective Worship by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective Worship provides an opportunity to recognise children's achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is encouraging children to **'Be the Best That I can Be.'**

Our 'Silent Prayer' assemblies are an opportunity to have personal space to reflect and contemplate. Their aim is to provide space for all to talk to and listen to God. A variety of media is used to inspire children and adults, including music, pictures, and creative prayer activities.

The school community attend church services led by local clergy to celebrate the main Christian Festivals throughout the year. Our pupils are actively involved through singing, drama and praying reinforcing the RE curriculum. Parents are invited to attend church services for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Year 6 Leavers. We encourage parents to attend as this promotes community spirit and demonstrates a working partnership to support children's spiritual, moral and educational development.

The Head Teacher (Collective Worship Lead) and members of the Leadership Team usually lead Collective Worship. The Vicar of St Mary Magdalene Church leads half termly Collective Worship for the whole school. We also invite governors, local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups to lead Collective Worship particularly during the main Christian Festivals. Visitors leading Collective Worship are carefully briefed about the school's policy. We endeavour to choose visitors who can communicate well to children.

Governors' attendance at our Collective Worship is always welcome.

We work in close collaboration with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) who provide guidance and support for Collective Worship.

The weekly pattern of Collective Worship is:

DAY	TYPE	AGE RANGE	LEADER
Monday	Core Value/Festival	Whole school	Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or Assistant Head Teacher
Tuesday	Class based or class led	Whole school	A specific class
Wednesday	Core Value/Festival	Whole School	Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or Assistant Head Teacher
Thursday	Collective Worship (Singing)	KS1: 2:00 - 2:30 KS2: 2:30 – 3:00	Singing Teacher
Friday	'Praise and Share'	Whole school	Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or Assistant Head Teacher

Prayer Area

Each class has a prayer area to facilitate reflection and prayer which is linked to our Christian Core Value (see appendix 1). Key Stage 1 and 2 classes each have a prayer box in which children can place prayer requests. The class will then pray together during 'Class Collective Worship' or another agreed time. Reception will provide regular opportunities in class for children to make prayer requests and will introduce a class prayer box by the summer term. School prayers are said in class at the beginning of the day and before children go for their lunch.

Contributions to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

At St Mary Magdalene School, we believe that it is important for collective worship to impact on children's development in the following areas:

Collective worship contributes to the **Spiritual** development of children by providing them with opportunities for:

- Engaging in prayer, worship and reflection
- Experiencing artefacts, objects of nature, living creatures - which develop a sense of beauty, awe and wonder
- Discussion and debate

- Intellectual curiosity

Collective worship contributes to the **moral** development by providing children with opportunities to:

- Reflect on matters concerning right and wrong
- Listen to stories or situations which have a strong moral message
Learn about the lives of good role models who demonstrate the difference between right and wrong
- Learn about religious and other teachings concerning right and wrong

Collective worship contributes to the **social** development of children by providing them with an opportunity to:

- Gather with others for a common purpose
- Share times of joy and sadness with others
- Learn how to behave appropriately within a specific social setting
- Increase self-confidence in public speaking/dramatic performance

Collective worship contributes to the **cultural** development of children by providing them with an opportunity to:

- Hear and respond to music and stories from a range of times, places and cultures
- Reflect upon the ideas concerning the concept of beauty
- Appreciate the range of talents and gifts found within the school community and beyond

Resources

Each class will have a small area in their classroom which is a focus for their class Acts of Worship, for example a small display, shelf or prayer table.

There are a variety of specific resources to support class based Collective Worship. These include a variety of candles, artefacts, Bible stories and prayer books and are stored in a central resource area in the stock cupboard.

All hymns, music and CDs are kept in the hall cupboard

The Legal Position

The Governing Body in consultation with the Head Teacher is responsible for the arrangements of daily collective worship appropriate for, and to include, all children in the school.

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do so must make a written request to the Head Teacher and a meeting will be arranged to discuss the request.

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named governor with responsibility for Collective Worship to monitor the policy and practice of Collective Worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Head Teacher before reporting to the governors on Collective Worship. Our children's Faith Group also evaluate Collective Worship. Priorities are put into an action plan and inform the School improvement Plan (SIP). These are also included in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) self-evaluation document. This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Appendix 1

Class based Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school.

It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

We recognise that in our school we have children from a variety of faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

Aims for class based Collective Worship at St Mary Magdalene School

- To provide an opportunity for pupils and staff to be quiet and enable reflection and prayer
- To promote a common ethos with shared Christian values.
- To provide an atmosphere of trust and develop a sense of community within the classroom setting
- To enable children to reflect on spiritual and moral issues in a Christian context
- To enable children to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To teach children how to worship and to provide positive experiences of Christian worship

The class based Collective Worship should provide an opportunity for children to either reflect on Monday's Collective Worship or consider issues pertinent to class in response to our Christian Core Value

Organisation:

- Develop a ritual for the class ensuring that the worship takes place at 10:15am on a Tuesday
- Create an atmosphere by the physical preparation of a space
- Use stimuli to provide a focus for worship and contribute to the overall atmosphere e.g. (thoughtful use of music before, during or after, use candle or Christian symbols as a visual focus and to refer to)
- Use the class prayer box if appropriate

Planning and preparation:

- Have a focus and identify the message you want to convey – Keep it short and to the point and consider how the worship can make a contribution to pupil's spiritual development
- Use visual material e.g. artefacts, photos, pictures or IWB to bring the Christian teaching alive
- Give opportunity for response – either written or through discussion
- Include a time for quiet reflection possibly using music or visual material
- End with a prayer or 'thought for the day'.

Appendix 2**Christian Core Values
Collective Worship Themes****Year 1**

Autumn 1	Love & Harvest
Autumn 2	Anti bullying & Christmas
Spring 1	Thankfulness
Spring 2	Wonder
Summer 1	Honesty
Summer 2	Unique

Year 2

Autumn 1	Forgiveness & Harvest
Autumn 2	Anti bullying & Christmas
Spring 1	Peace
Spring 2	Trust
Summer 1	Hope
Summer 2	Compassion

Appendix 3

Planning Class Led Collective Worship

Here are just a few things to think through when planning your class led collective worship.

Be Creative

Be Imaginative

Encourage your children to have ideas and to be worship leaders – so that they are involved in the planning and take ownership of the time.

Use the Faith Group Representatives to help you.

These are the key elements of Collective Worship:

1. Welcome and Introduction.

- This just needs to be simple, but should include something which grabs everyone's attention and encourages them to be thinking about the theme of your assembly from the beginning.
- You may want to ask a question or encourage us to wonder about something.
- You may want to include other children to respond or you may just want them to think.
- You may want to prepare a reflective Power point or just have one question on Power point up at the beginning and refer to it.

2. Main Content

- This needs to be the main thing that you do. Telling a story, reading poems, looking at a Bible Story etc
- It needs a clear aim of the main point you would like us all to reflect upon.

3. Song / Music

- Remember that it is WORSHIP that we are collecting for so if it can be a song from singing assemblies or from the Church services that would be better.
- You may want us to listen to a song and use a Power point of images. This all brings out the awe and wonder aspect of worship.
- Or you may want some children to perform a dance to a worship song, telling the story of the song/ music.

4. Prayer

- Be careful to introduce the prayer so that everyone can join in – a good way is “It is time for us to pray now – let's close our eyes and be still. If you would like to, please join me with Amen at the end.”
- Be creative! Prayer doesn't have to be:
“Dear God Amen”
You may want to ask God questions or encourage the children to pray themselves with someone introducing different issues or themes for them to pray.