



Love Learning. Love Each Other.

Policy for Collective Worship

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28

Approved by: IEB	Date: 13 March 2026
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St Mary's School Vision

One family: school, church, home and community.

At St Mary's we believe in a culture where:

- Everyone is special, unique and valued: diversity and difference are celebrated. We are all God's treasure.
- Education is holistic; spiritual and moral growth is nurtured. *Life in all its fullness* – John 10:10.
- Inspirational and reflective worship enables all in the school community to encounter the risen Christ.
- Wisdom, knowledge and skills are a focus in everything.
- Everyone does their best at all times with a culture of the highest expectations, respect and consideration for all.
- Everyone can succeed and achieve. Aspiration and inspiration are central to all that we do. *I know the plans I have for you. Plans to make you prosper* – Jeremiah 29:11.
- Creativity and joy in learning is valued.
- The spiritual and emotional well-being of all members of our school community is a priority. Resilience and perseverance are developed in all.
- A community of global citizens of God is created.
- Social action is at the core of our community – on local, national and global levels.

All of these are underpinned our spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and experiences; respect of our British values and through our core Christian values of endurance, peace, trust, forgiveness, compassion and hope.

Collective Worship at St Mary's C of E Aided Primary School

Schools are required by law to have a daily act of collective worship that is wholly or mainly of Christian character.

Collective Worship at St. Mary's is central to our school life. We aim to make it as accessible and enjoyable as possible for all our children, staff and visitors. It is a spiritual occasion, a time for pupils and staff to contemplate and reflect upon the meaning and mystery of life. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion which enables pupils to learn about Jesus Christ and to praise God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in worship. We expect everyone to take an active part in collective worship. We conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of our school community. Education at St Mary's is rooted in the belief that LOVE OF LEARNING. LOVE OF EACH OTHER must come first in all we do. Each child has the right to develop morally, spiritually, academically and physically to his/her full potential and will do so, given the right educational context.

Aims and Purpose:

The aims and purposes of collective worship at St Mary's are to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

- Invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Inspiring and creative, impacting the whole community and motivating them into courageous advocacy and action.
- Inclusive, where all are included, have a voice and are listened to.
- A valued part of the culture of the school, breathing life into every aspect of the school day.
- Gaining a deeper understanding of our Christian faith through different acts of collective worship.

Organisation and Delivery:

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This is done through a planned combination of whole school, key stage, and class worship. Collective worship is a special time and children are expected to engage and contribute to it. We expect them to be thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate respectfully in prayer, hymns and songs. We use sung praise, story, drama, music, hymns, prayer, reflection and silence in our school worship.

We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, candles or other artefacts as a focal point for the attention of the children. Each person responds as a unique individual. No-one's faith or integrity are compromised, and everyone

should find some gain from their presence there. The Head teacher and teaching staff normally conduct worship; local clergy, representatives of local religious groups and community members are also invited to lead worship. Class worships, celebration and special acts of worship also take place throughout the year.

The RE and Collective Worship Lead provides staff with a half termly plan of worship linked to the core Christian value for each half term and to our liturgical year – providing opportunities for awe and wonder and reflection through our “I wonder Questions”. These are planned for to ensure we offer opportunities for pupils to reflect and grow spiritually. Records of collective worship are kept centrally, along with any additional resources and delivery notes for all staff to access. Pupil work produced during class worship is displayed in class reflection areas. Sung Praise occurs weekly, and hymns are carefully selected in advance with the Music Lead to ensure pupil participation and quality. Pupil Leaders (Ethos Group/School Council/ Eco Council/ Sport Leaders) are engaged in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship throughout the year in order to improve practice.

Prayer is a natural and valued part of the culture at St Mary’s. All who wish to are given regular opportunities to pray and reflect. Pupils are involved in the writing of our prayers for class worship and whole school. Children use prayer to reflect on our school values and communicate with God as part of our school community. Pupils recognise that worship provides meaningful opportunities to contribute to their spiritual development.

Worship Pattern:

The pattern of worship is mainly based on the Church’s year, the seasons, feelings and emotions. There is a thematic base to each half term and appropriate bible stories and passages are chosen to support this.

Each act of worship is based around hymns, stories, acting, time for reflection and prayers.

Throughout the year, there is a pattern of worship which links St. Mary’s Primary School with St. Mary’s Church. The main Christian Festivals are celebrated as part of this pattern, which is outlined in Appendix 2.

Monday: Whole school worship is led by the headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The idea of the week is introduced. A bible story or verse is shared and prayers are said for the week ahead. The act of worship includes a song or a hymn.

Tuesday: In KS2 this is class-based and continues with the theme of the week. It will include a bible story or bible verses; big questions to reflect on; a song or hymn; and prayers. In EYFS and KS1 it is linked to Wiggle Worship.

Wednesday: The whole school meets in the hall and the worship is led by the deputy head teacher. These services are linked to singing and hymns, it is child-centred and will look at a bible story or verses linked to the theme or the week.

Thursday: The children have the opportunity to worship with the clergy.

Friday: Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate children's achievements both in and out of school. Pupils celebrate together as a whole school their star of the week which is focused around the Christian value for that half term. There is the opportunity to reflect and bring the theme of the week to a close.

Right of Withdrawal:

Our Christian values and principles are like a golden thread that is woven through every aspect of life at St Mary's, it is understood that staff, governors, parents and pupils will endorse and support such beliefs, and so participate enthusiastically in this valued element of school life.

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. A record is kept of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship. Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship.

At present no parents at St Mary's withdraw their children.

Planning and resources provision.

All planning for any acts of collective worship is completed by staff and included in their planning files.

An annual budget for worship is allocated for the purchase of relevant books and artefacts for use during collective worship.

The Ethos Group create a worship experience each half term for pupils from different key stages. This may take the form of an act of collective worship, an interactive learning experience, prayer stations or other type of experience. The Ethos Group meet weekly with staff and sometimes with members of the clergy team to plan these events.

Thematic approach to collective worship.

The worship and bible references are collated at the start of each term and are available to staff. The reflection area in each classroom will link to the thematic

value underpinning our collective worship each half term and the liturgical time of the year.

School and Church Worship

During the academic year, each class contributes to a Church service at St. Mary's Church. The pattern of worship for the academic year is worked out through the involvement of the Parish Priest, school staff and IEB members.

School led services at St. Mary's Church also take place at Harvest, Candlemas and Easter. There is a KS2 led Christmas Nativity service and a service of thanksgiving for Y6 at the end of the academic year.

The school and church worship arrangements foster strong links between St. Mary's Church and St. Mary's School and are an important part of the cycle of worship.

Evaluation of Worship (see Appendix 1)

The impact of collective worship is evaluated as follows:

- Children are asked about their experiences of worship at regular intervals through the school year. Their ideas are taken into account for future themes or individual acts of worship.
- Ethos Group carry out pupil voice questionnaires.
- Visitor evaluation forms. Comments inform the future structure and approach to collective worship.
- Worship Lead and RE Lead join collective worship and collect pupil voice to inform future structure and approach to collective worship.
- Reports to the IEB via the Headteacher Report. The content of this report is discussed and any recommendations acted upon.
- Worship is built into parental, pupil and staff questionnaires that may be distributed.

Policy Review

This policy is subject to bi-annual review and will next be reviewed in March 2028.

Appendix 1

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St Mary's Church of England (Aided) Primary School

Children's reflections on worship.

Date:

Children:

Year group –

What do you remember about this morning's worship?

What will you do because of this morning's worship?

Is there anything that you would like to think or pray about in future worship?

Appendix 2

Core Christian Values

These values were chosen through consultation with pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors.

Term	Value	Links to the Church's Seasons
Autumn 1	Endurance	Harvest
Autumn 2	Peace	Remembrance, Advent, Christmas
Spring 1	Trust	Epiphany, Candlemas, Lent
Spring 2	Forgiveness	Lent, Annunciation (links with our patron Saint) Easter
Summer 1	Compassion	Easter, Ascension, Pentecost
Summer 2	Hope	Pentecost