



St. Margaret's C of E Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Written: September 2021

Date for review: September 2024

Head Teacher's signature

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Chair of governor's signature

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## Rationale

Our school's mission statement is:

***Loving God ~ Serving others ~ Fulfilling our potential***

Our vision is:

St Margaret's is a welcoming church school where we learn how to love God, one another and ourselves.

We foster a Christian ethos and develop positive relationships with our church, Ifield and the wider community.

We provide the highest quality of teaching and learning. We challenge pupils to meet their full potential academically, spiritually and socially.

As part of our Christian values work in school we have identified 18 values and these values underpin all that we do. In accordance with this and with statutory requirements, collective worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life. The spiritual, social, cultural and moral welfare of all children is of prime concern to us. Christian values are integral in our ethos and teaching and our daily acts of worship reflect this.

## Values

	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
Year 1 2021-2022	Responsibility	Peace	Thankfulness	Compassion	Wisdom	Humility
Year 2 2022-2023	Hope	Respect and Reverence	Trust	Creativity	Truthfulness	Friendship
Year 3 2023-2024	Generosity	Justice	Perseverance	Forgiveness	Courage	Service

## The Legal Requirements

Schools are bound by the requirements of the 1988 Educational Reform Act, which charges them to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and of society;
- prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The basic requirements are that all pupils shall take part in an act of collective worship every day.

The arrangements for collective worship in this school are made by the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

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.

In recognition of the particular affiliation and ethos of this school, all staff and pupils are expected to take part in worship though the right to withdraw exists. The Governors would hope that parents and staff having chosen this school would wish to support its ethos.

The aim of collective worship is to:

- provide children with an opportunity to worship God;
- give children experience of Christian acts of worship within an Anglican framework;
- provide opportunities to explore different Christian Values.
- give children the opportunity for reflection and thought in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity;
- provide a special, quiet, focused time where children are invited to explore issues for themselves and reflect and learn from their own experiences;
- provide an experience where children can consider moral and spiritual issues;
- provide worship which is appropriate for children's needs and interests and to encourage their participation;
- be an activity distinct from, but linked to and supportive of, other school activities;
- provide experience which enables children to develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are a part;
- provide opportunities to ask and answer 'Big Questions,' related to our worship.
- provide an opportunity for celebration of the school community, its life, its work and its ethos at which staff and pupils can come together as a family;
- develop children's skills, for example, music, drama, ICT.

### **Delivering collective worship at our school**

A daily act of collective worship is provided for all pupils. This will be held in various ways – whole school, class groups or phase groups – giving an opportunity for all children to take part.

All collective worship is time-tabled for the afternoon.

Collective worship should:

- be inclusive and involve children;
- relate to children's experiences;
- build on the school's shared values;
- provide an opportunity for prayer and reflection;
- be curricular and educational.

Acts of worship should be carefully planned and records kept. Themes are planned for each week and a schedule for each term and year, but will also be responsive to current affairs and the needs of children.

Worship themes may link to the half termly value.

Acts of worship will be held in the school hall, classrooms, the Parish Church or appropriate outside venues, for example, Worth Abbey for the Diocesan Year 6 Leavers' Service.

The setting for acts of worship should be attractive and welcoming with a focus for all attending. Children should enter and leave in an orderly manner. Music will be played on entry and departure. Hymns and songs will be sung and there will be a quiet time for children to reflect. The visible focus may include a picture, slides, artefacts or the lighting of a candle.

Acts of worship will be led by members of the Senior Leadership Team or other staff members, whole classes, groups of children, local clergy or visiting speakers.

A place is given for the celebration of the school and individual achievements – including reference to pupils demonstrating the school's values in action.

IT will be used where appropriate.

Children will be able to participate in a number of ways including worship, planning, setting up the hall or room, working the data projector/CD player/computer, singing, reading, responding, reflecting, spending time in prayer and evaluating.

Parents, friends and governors are invited to the year group Eucharist worship starting with Year 2 and the annual class worship where they celebrate their learning as well as special events including harvest, carol service, Easter and leavers' services.

The school will support the Diocesan Leavers' Service.

All visiting speakers will have access to the Collective Worship Policy.

Acts of worship will be evaluated.

## **The Anglican Tradition**

The faith and practice of the Church of England is explored in collective worship through a child's time in school.

The areas covered are:

- using the Bible;
- taking part in the set order of Anglican worship;
- reflecting on Christian symbols;
- observing the cycle of the Church's year and holy days;
- using the Parish Church and its priests as resources;
- building up a collection of prayers, hymns and songs for worship;
- learning traditional responses and prayers;
- providing the opportunity to discover the value of silence within worship;
- recognising our strong commitment to ecumenism;
- welcoming all pupils of whatever faith (or none) and celebrating shared values and beliefs.

## **The Bible**

The use of the Bible is central to worship and is used to enrich worship, to enhance the theme and to give context to the worship. Bible readings and stories are a regular focus during worship. In addition, children are presented with Bibles (by the local vicar) at the end of Year 6 and the pupils take these on with them when they leave the school.

## **Prayer**

Prayer is an important part of collective worship and a natural part of school life. Children can be helped to understanding through a flexible approach to prayer.

We use different methods of prayer such as:

- prayer and music;
- prayer and silence and quiet time;
- postures for prayer such as hands together or hands in laps;
- ways in which pupils can make prayer requests such as our reflective areas in classrooms and prayer spaces

We also use the Lord's Prayer, and our own collection of prayers and graces for use at lunchtime and at the end of the day.

## **Hymns and Music**

Music plays an important part in our worship and helps to create an atmosphere that sets the tone for worship.

We have a large repertoire of hymns and songs from all traditions of Christian worship.

Hymns and songs are selected for the appropriate age group and are practised regularly.

Music is chosen to start and end our collective worship.

### **Planning**

Worship is planned in advance. The themes ensure a balance by considering special occasions in the school's life, the use of the Church Calendar, the leadership of the worship and special services.

The planned worship for the term provides opportunity to be flexible, offering invitation to reflect, be responsive to local and national situations and current affairs, to be responsive to children's needs, and appropriateness for our school.

### **Resources and Review of Policy**

The worship plan is accessible to staff on the school's network. Music resources are kept in the music room and there are other worship resources to be found in the cupboard in the workroom and in the Headteacher's office.

This policy will be reviewed every three years.