



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

All Schools in the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership offer pupils the opportunity to develop and celebrate their awareness of themselves, others and their world through themes and activities of a spiritual and moral character during Collective Worship.

Where relevant please refer to additional individual School Policies added as appendices:

[Clutton Primary School](#)

[Critchill School](#)

[Dundry Primary School](#)

[Farrington Gurney C of E Primary School](#)

[High Littleton C of E Primary School](#)

[Shoscombe Church School](#)

[St John's Primary School](#)

[St Julian's Church School](#)

[St Mark's Secondary School](#)

[St Mary's Primary School](#)

[Trinity Church School](#)

We recognise the value to our students of exploring ultimate questions, sharing a sense of community and recognising things of worth and value.

This will be presented in a broadly Christian context engendering the values of morality, compassion, humanity, tolerance, justice, charity and community. These values are also found in other belief systems which should also be appreciated and treated with respect. Examples of these values should be drawn, where appropriate, from the Christian tradition.

In exploring these values pupils will be able to take part in activities which:

- are relevant to the age, experience and family background of the pupils
- respect the integrity of all who are present
- have variety in approach by the range of styles and activities adopted and involve a variety of people, including visitors
- enable all pupils to take part by, for instance:
 - listening
 - watching
 - joining in
 - reflecting
 - responding
- include the opportunity for reflection. There should be occasional "teaching" about the purpose of reflection in Collective Worship (which can be linked to the opportunity to "pray" or direct any thoughts if pupils believe in a God).

FREQUENCY

Primary Provision

Since September 2020, primary aged children will still meet daily for collective worship, but often within class groups or bubbles. Under present conditions, whole school assemblies are unlikely to happen unless they are held outside or remotely. As a result of Covid-19, singing within collective worship is only allowed in class bubbles and parents and carers will not be allowed to attend celebration assemblies.

Under normal conditions, children will meet daily as a school, key stage or in class groups. Each week there will be at least two whole school collective worship sessions. The collective worship sessions within the school will usually include a session linked to school values led by the Headteacher or member of the SLT, a session which draws on current affairs and issues, a session which includes an element of singing (i.e. learning and practicing songs and hymns) and a celebration assembly, led by the Headteacher or member of the SLT.

Over the course of the school year many primary schools require classes to produce a class assembly, led by the class teacher, to which parents/carers and friends are invited. A local vicar or minister will often lead whole school assemblies and a range of guest speakers are invited to take assemblies including representatives from charities and environmental organisations.

Secondary Provision

The range of facilities does not allow for each child to have an Assembly every day. Assemblies will be held in the Main Hall (when not in use for examinations or other events).

The Sixth Form will have an Assembly every other week (Year 12 one week, then Year 13).



CLUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Rationale

The Collective Worship Policy at Clutton Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements. The Collective Worship Policy of the school is consonant with the philosophy and aims of the school as expressed in the school prospectus.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship for the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of Clutton Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in Clutton Primary School Collective Worship will at times feature aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich class-work through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives. The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The head teacher is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to take place in the school hall.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Leadership

Members of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

The Headteacher is legally responsible for collective worship. The Collective Worship Coordinator plans weekly themes for the whole school throughout the year. Class teachers are responsible for their own plans for class assemblies within this planned framework.

The programme contains themes which during the course of the year centre around:

- religious festivals and special days
- annual events and anniversaries
- aspects of the school curriculum eg SEAL themes
- developments from classroom activities
- published assembly books and other literature.

In order to prevent too many restrictions the full plan leaves room for the more topical and spontaneous acts of worship (for example, exploring current affairs and responding to events in the life of the school).

Visitors will be welcome to lead Collective Worship from time to time and will be given guidance. Leaders from Faiths within the area will increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these Faiths.
The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc)

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

The Pattern of Worship

Children will meet daily as a school, key stage or in class groups. Each week there will normally be four whole school assemblies. The first, on Monday, led by The Headteacher, the second on Wednesday led by a class teacher, the third on Thursday (which takes the form of a hymn/singing practice) and the fourth on Friday (which is a celebration assembly) led by the Headteacher. Over the course of the school year each class will produce a class assembly, led by the class teacher, to which parents/careers and friends are invited. The local vicar leads a whole school assembly at least once a term. A range of guest speakers are invited to take assemblies including representatives from charities and environmental organisations.

Collective Worship Timetable

Monday	-	Whole school (Headteacher)
Tuesday	-	In Class worship
Wednesday	-	Whole School/Class Assembly
Thursday	-	Whole school (hymn/singing)
Friday	-	Whole school ("Well Done Assembly")



CRITCHILL SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Purpose

To ensure:

- All Students meet the legal requirement of collective worship whilst at Critchill School.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils

Roles and Responsibilities

All Teaching Staff:

- To ensure policy and procedures are followed when undertaking collective worship

Deputy Headteacher:

- To ensure all staff plan collective worship opportunities into their daily timetable.

School Business Manager:

- To ensure staff are advised of policies and procedures are these are included in the induction programme
- To ensure policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated.

Procedure

At Critchill School we believe that collective worship both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our school ethos and the values we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally, and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this time in the school day for the space it gives to students to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

It is a legal requirement that a school provides a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. Collective worship in special schools is regulated under the Education (Special Schools) Regulations 1994. Regulation 10 says “Arrangements shall be made to secure that, so far as practicable, every pupil attending the school will attend daily collective worship and receive RE...”

At Critchill School we provide daily opportunities for collective worship. We have decided that remaining in class groups for the majority of our collective worship will provide our pupils with the best educational opportunity and learning experience.

Parents can, if they wish, remove their child from Collective Worship. A parental request should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Collective worship at Critchill School is intended to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils;
- be consistent with the aims and values of the school;
- provide a time for reflection
- provide opportunities for pupils to consider and explore their own beliefs and those of other people
- promote respect for the integrity of individuals and faiths
- encourage participation and response
- provide opportunities to celebrate such things as achievement and special occasions and to share feelings such as thankfulness, joy, friendship, sadness or hope.

Collective worship at Critchill School may include:

- Stories, songs and music
- Objects of interest
- Creative arts
- Mindfulness activities
- Local and national news stories

Themes for Collective Worship can be found on our whole school Curriculum Overview



DUNDRY PRIMARY SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for children to create and participate in shared experiences of celebration, praise and thanksgiving to God in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988. This policy should be taken and used as part of Dundry Church of England school’s overall strategy and implementation within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a Church of England school. This policy takes account of worship guidelines and legislation (DfES Circular 1/94 & SIAMS) and is consistent with the Trust Deeds and the overall aims of the school and ethos statement:

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in Partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

AIMS

Collective Worship is an experiential medium offering a major contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils:

To encourage children’s natural sense of awe and wonder of God’s creation and to develop their qualities of curiosity, celebration and gratitude which form the foundation of worship.

To offer children an opportunity for experiential understanding of the adoration of God in a way that is individual and appropriate for them, and which allows them to function comfortably in Christian worship.

To explore and celebrate the broad Christian beliefs in a way which reflects and complements the values and attitudes being fostered in the classrooms, and the principles which are communicated through the school aims and general ethos, thus reinforcing positive attitudes.

To explore and reflect on the meaning and purpose of important life issues and to ponder ultimate questions.

To provide opportunity to discuss and recognise the diversity of religion, yet through experience develop the skills of handling difference responsibly and with respect.

To encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in with the worship offered.

To provide some of those ‘special moments’ which make a substantial contribution to the spiritual well being of all members of the school community (see Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy).

Our Christian Values

As a school we have chosen six Christian Values which we feel are most pertinent to the ethos and vision of the school. These are:

Creativity	Compassion
Friendship	Community
Hope	Trust

RESPONSIBILITIES

The RE leader acts as the Collective Worship coordinator and is responsible for the day to day organisation of worship and the planning of the annual cycle of worship themes, church services and visiting speakers. This is carried out in liaison with the Assistant Head teacher and the incumbent of the Parish Church of Dundry. Professional development of all staff is promoted and attendance at relevant Diocesan courses is actively encouraged. The coordinator is responsible for the purchasing of resources, offers guidance to those who are charged with the delivery of acts of worship and regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of provision across the school. All class teachers have the responsibility to ensure that their pupils participate in a daily act of worship. The School Improvement Plan reflects the distinctive nature of this Church of England School and its content seeks to promote and protect the Christian ethos.

GUIDELINES

1. An act of worship will take place each day. Sometimes these will involve the whole school but on some days separate acts will be held for individual classes.
2. The worship will be planned to be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of all and will allow for a variety of responses, from awareness and appreciation through respect and commitment to devotion and adoration.
3. The act of worship will be taken by members of staff, the Reverend, various members of the Lakeside Group, or by carefully chosen visitors. All those responsible for arranging an act of worship will be given a copy of the Worship Calendar for the term and will receive due notice of the times they are required to lead the worship.
4. Worship will be shared with the wider Church family both at the parish church of Dundry and at our own Diocesan Cathedral at Wells.
5. Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals of the church year and with due consideration of the school's curriculum plan. The worship plan offers a four year cycle with additional themes and issues explored, allowing an opportunity for children to develop spiritually over a period of time.

The Act of Worship will follow a recognisable format:

- The worship should be for about twenty.
- During whole school worships, there will be a hymn in an appropriate place which, wherever possible, will relate to the theme of worship.
- There will be a time for quiet reflection or a prayer.
- The worship will have a clear focus and will often involve pupil participation. The theme will be developed over a period of time.
- Elements used in the worship may include music (tapes, singing, bands, recorders etc.) listening to stories, Bible readings and other relevant passages, use of movement, mime, drama, stilling exercise, artefacts and audio-visual material.
- The rich traditions and aspects of the Church of England liturgy will be used, as appropriate, to enhance the quality of worship.
- Themes based on the Bible and Christian values provide pupils with a meaningful experience where, God, Jesus and the Trinitarian nature of Christianity is openly explored.
- When the whole school meets, a table draped with the school cloth and supporting candle in front of an appropriate backdrop will be used as a focus. This has a focus on the colours denoted at differing times of the year in the Church calendar. Class worship will also contain a focus of a candle and a worship sign will be displayed on classroom doors to avoid disturbance.
- Seating will be as comfortable as possible in order to aid a worshipful experience. This will change to effectively meet and support the type of worship being used.

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from collective worship. This is endorsed by the principles contained in the schools Equal Opportunities policy and parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Headteacher.

CONCLUSION

Children should see the Act of Worship as a place where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community and the Christian Church of which they are a part. Collective worship at Dundry clearly reflects and demonstrates its distinctive Christian beliefs and makes a positive contribution to the life and wellbeing of the school.



FARRINGTON GURNEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rationale:

We believe a daily act of worship, of a mainly Christian character, is a valued time in the day to come together to affirm a sense of belonging and share those things which we hold to be important; to celebrate, praise and give thanks. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Aims:

- to encourage children's natural sense of wonder of God's creation and to develop their qualities of curiosity, celebration and gratitude which form the foundation of worship
- to heighten their awareness, and respect for, a range of religious traditions and beliefs
- to respect and value the different beliefs of teachers, parents and children and create an atmosphere in which everyone is included and achievements are celebrated together

Guidelines:

- Collective worship takes place every day.
- On Wednesdays and Thursdays the whole school meet for collective worship, focusing on the term's value on Wednesday and the Biblical story on Thursday. These are led by one of the foundation governors and the local vicar retrospectively. On every other Friday the whole school also meets for a celebration assembly in the local Memorial Hall. On the other days each class holds its own worship, including a planned collective worship that focuses on current affairs.
- The act of worship will be led by members of staff, children, the vicar or by carefully chosen visitors. Visitors will be supplied with the information needed to plan a relevant, meaningful and inclusive act of worship. This will include details of the current theme and Christian value.
- Worship will also be shared with the wider Church family at the Parish Church of St. John's, the local Methodist churches and at our Diocesan Cathedral at Wells
- Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals in the Christian calendar, the curriculum framework, including the PSHE programme 'Jigsaw', the Christian value of the term and current affairs. Selected festivals from other religions will also form part of the programme. The Collective Worship coordinator, foundation governor and the vicar aim to meet regularly to link school assemblies to the Church Lectionary. These plans should provide continuity and progression, and an opportunity for children to develop spiritually.
- Worship will follow a recognisable format:
 - it will last about 15 minutes
 - there will often be a hymn or song which, wherever possible, will relate to the theme
 - there will be a clear focus and theme developing over time, often involving pupil participation. It may include a story or other kind of presentation such as music, drama or audio-visual
 - there will be a quiet time for reflection or prayer
 - any notices will be clearly separated from the act of worship
- Collective Worship will be inclusive, invitational and inspiring, as outlined in the Church of England guidance document <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>
- Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship - any wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Head.

Conclusion:

Children should see the act of worship as a time when pupils and staff may express joy and thanks, share experiences and concerns, and affirm the values and beliefs of the Church of England school community of which they are a part.



HIGH LITTLETON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At High Littleton Church of England Primary School our Christian values are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. These values are embedded in the daily life of the school and have a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all members of the school community.

These Values are:

- Appreciation
- Peace
- Respect
- Faith
- Endurance
- Hope
- Trust
- Friendship
- Courage
- Compassion
- Tolerance
- Equality

Rationale

It is every child's entitlement to participate in shared experiences of celebration, praise and thanksgiving to God. We distinguish between assembly and worship by recognising that the gathering of the school community in an assembly is educationally important but doesn't have to take place every day, whereas, there does need to be a daily act of worship.

Aims

- To encourage the development of spiritual awareness
- To encourage feelings of awe, wonder and elation
- To develop a sense of community
- To develop a sense of meaning, value and purpose
- To give an opportunity to respond to questions relating to life and beliefs
- To encourage aesthetic awareness
- To explore a variety of forms of worship
- To celebrate differences and diversities

Guidelines

- The worship should be broadly Christian and spiritual.
- Where appropriate the first Collective Worship of the week should take place at Holy Trinity Church
- On occasions, other members of the community should be invited to lead the act of worship. This could be the local clergy or a member of the Parochial Church Council.
- Collective Worship should be educational. It should add to the pupils' learning and reflect the purposes and the ethos of the school. It should contribute to the pupils' moral and spiritual development.
- It should have a sense of occasion. A candle is lit throughout the service and a low table displaying a cross and, on occasions, a focus for the theme.
- Each term, one of the school's Christian values is used as a focus for that term.
- An appropriate hymn is sung during Collective Worship.
- There should be a quiet time for reflection and prayer.
- There is a new theme for each week that forms part of a two-year cycle of themes. These themes are a guide and can be added to or amended as circumstances demand. Reference should be made to the theme or to a major festival in the church year.
- Pupils should be helped to see Collective Worship as a special part of their day. They should behave appropriately by coming into the hall, sitting and leaving the hall quietly. Music will be played on entry and exit of pupils.
- The timetable of themes and those leading Collective Worship will be displayed in the Staffroom.
- Each class are encouraged to lead Collective Worship once a term. The worship is based around the Christian value for that term.
- The traditional version of the Lord's Prayer is said at the end of Collective Worship.

- During Collective Worship on Fridays, the children's achievements are celebrated by the awarding of certificates for achievements inside and outside school.
- Hymn Practice, when it occurs, should not replace Collective Worship but should follow a short reference to the theme and an opportunity for reflection and prayer.

Conclusion

Children should see the act of worship as a time when both adults and children may express thankfulness, joy, share concerns and experiences. It is a time to reaffirm the beliefs, values and ethos of the school community and the Christian church of which they are a part.

The Education Reform Act (1988) makes provision for pupils to be withdrawn, and for staff to withdraw, from Collective Worship. Parents/Carers wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wishes to the Headteacher in writing.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Personal, Social, Spiritual and Moral Development Policy.



SHOSCOMBE CHURCH SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction

The Church of England vision for education is for all children to, 'Have life, life in all its fullness.' [John 10:10]. Shoscombe Church Primary School's ethos is built on our core Christian values (Creativity and Wonder, Respect, Aspiration, Joy, Empathy and Resilience) which are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. These values are embedded in the daily life of the school and have a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all members of the school community.

Rationale

We believe a daily act of worship, of a mainly Christian character, is a valued time in the day to come together to affirm a sense of belonging and share those things which we hold to be important; to celebrate, praise and give thanks. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education. We ensure that all assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members on our school community.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in our school and the wider community.

Aims

We aim to enable pupils to reflect on our core Christian values and other values and beliefs to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Jesus
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Encourage the development of spiritual and moral awareness
- Encourage feelings of awe and wonder
- Develop a sense of community
- Develop a sense of meaning, value and purpose
- Give an opportunity to respond to questions relating to life and beliefs
- Encourage aesthetic awareness
- Encourage participation and response
- Explore a variety of forms of worship
- Celebrate differences and diversities

Collective Worship

- Management

The head teacher is legally responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1988) for arranging the daily collective worship in consultation with the governing body. The collective Worship co-ordinator plans termly themes for the whole school throughout the year.

- Organisation

At Shoscombe Church School we meet as a whole school for collective worship at the end of each school day.

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when appropriate.

The act of worship is led by members of staff, pupils, local church representatives or guest speakers; they are supplied with the information needed to plan a relevant, meaningful and inclusive act of worship. This will include details of the current theme and Christian value.

Pupils are encouraged to see Collective Worship as a special part of their day. There is an expectation that they enter the hall respectfully, engage in the worship and leave the hall quietly. Music is played on entry and exit of pupils. A table, adorned with the appropriately coloured liturgical cloth (white, purple, red or green), hosts three candles (representing the Holy Trinity) to provide a focal point for reflection and contemplation. At the close of worship there is a quiet time for reflection and prayer. The contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer is used at Shoscombe Church School.

Weekly Timetable

Monday – reflecting on our school core value of the term

Tuesday – led by members of our local church

Wednesday – reflecting on British values and current affairs, sometimes led by classes or pupil voice groups

Thursday – alternate weeks are led by our singing teachers or the 'Open the Book' team who lead pupils through a bible story using drama

Friday – celebrating our achievements of the week both inside and outside of school life

Every term classes also offer sharing assemblies where parents and carers are invited to find out more about the class' learning.

Class Teachers are responsible for organising and delivering their own class assemblies in line with the Collective Worship Programme.

Right to Withdraw

All pupils are expected 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.

Monitoring and Review

The head teacher will liaise with the school governor responsible for religious education and collective worship.

Pupils will monitor the impact of worship time on a weekly basis by completing a simple questionnaire to feed back to individual classes.

All members of the school community are encouraged to contribute to and provide constructive comment on the Collective Worship Programme.



ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL– COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction

The Church of England vision for education is educating our children for 'life in all its fullness'. At St John's Church of England Primary School our Christian values are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ; Love, Peace, Wisdom, Hope, Friendship and Honesty. These values are embedded in the daily life of the school and have a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all members of the school community.

Rationale

We believe a daily act of worship provides an opportunity for children to create and participate in shared experiences of celebration, praise and thanksgiving to God in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1998.

Aims

We aim to enable pupils to reflect on our core Christian values and other values and beliefs to:

- Encourage children's natural sense of awe and wonder of God's creation
- Develop the qualities of curiosity, celebration and gratitude which form the foundation of worship
- To develop a sense of community
- Explore and reflect on the meaning and purpose of important life issues and give an opportunity to respond to questions relating to life and beliefs
- Develop a sense of meaning, value and purpose
- Celebrate difference and diversities
- Explore a variety of forms of worship
- Encourage participation and response
- Encourage the development of spiritual and moral awareness
- Provide aspirations for our children

Management

The Headteacher is legally responsible (under the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1988) for arranging the daily collective worship in consultation with the governing body. The collective worship coordinator plans termly themes for the whole school throughout the year.

Guidelines/Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. At St John's we gather for collective worship at the end of every day. Acts of worship usually last for approximately 20 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when appropriate.

Acts of worship are led by SLT, local clergy, staff, pupils and guest speakers.

Weekly Timetable

	Act of Worship	Led By
Monday	Whole school collective worship reflecting on our Christian value of the term	SLT and Pupils
Tuesday	Whole school signing	Staff and Pupils
Wednesday	Whole school collective worship - Theme of the week	Local Clergy and Pupils
Thursday	Class worship reflecting on British values, current affairs and big questions	Staff and Pupils
Friday	Whole school collective worship - theme of the week and celebration Presentation of Christian value awards and stars of the week	SLT

The Act of Worship will follow a recognisable format -

1. Gather

Quiet music is played as the children and staff enter the hall. Pupils should be helped to see collective worship as a special part of their day. They should behave appropriately by coming into the hall, sitting and leaving quietly.

Worship candle is lit

Candle lighter - "We light this candle in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Whole school response "The Lord is here. The Spirit is with us."

Welcome/greeting by lead adult

2. Engage

Introduction/development of the theme. This may include; storytelling, Bible readings, drama and film clips.

3. Respond

Answering questions

Relating theme to elements of their own lives

Music

4. End

Time of reflection and prayer

Quiet music as pupils leave the hall

Conclusion

Children should see the acts of worship as a time when both adults and children may express thankfulness, joy, share concerns and experiences. It is a time to reaffirm the beliefs, values and ethos of the school community and the Christian family which they are part of.

The Education Reform Act (1998) makes provision for children to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. Parents/Carers wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wishes in writing to the Headteacher.



ST JULIAN'S CHURCH SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction

The Church of England vision for education is for all children to, 'Have life, life in all its fullness.' [John 10:10]. St Julian's Church Primary School's ethos is built on our core Christian values (Creativity, Respect, Aspiration, Joy, Kindness and Resilience) which are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. These values are embedded in the daily life of the school and have a significant impact on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all members of the school community.

Rationale

We believe a daily act of worship, of a mainly Christian character, is a valued time in the day to come together to affirm a sense of belonging and share those things which we hold to be important; to celebrate, praise and give thanks. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Education. We ensure that all assemblies are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of our school community.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in our school and the wider community.

Aims

We aim to enable pupils to reflect on our core Christian values and other values and beliefs to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Jesus
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Encourage the development of spiritual and moral awareness
- Encourage feelings of awe and wonder
- Develop a sense of community
- Develop a sense of meaning, value and purpose
- Give an opportunity to respond to questions relating to life and beliefs
- Encourage aesthetic awareness
- Encourage participation and response
- Explore a variety of forms of worship
- Celebrate differences and diversities

Collective Worship

- **Management**

The head teacher is legally responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1988) for arranging the daily collective worship in consultation with the governing body. The collective Worship co-ordinator plans termly themes for the whole school throughout the year.

- **Organisation**

At St Julian's Church School we meet as a whole school for collective worship at the end of each school day.

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when appropriate.

The act of worship is led by members of staff, pupils, local church representatives or guest speakers; they are supplied with the information needed to plan a relevant, meaningful and inclusive act of worship. This will include details of the current theme and Christian value.

Pupils are encouraged to see Collective Worship as a special part of their day. There is an expectation that they enter the hall respectfully, engage in the worship and leave the hall quietly. Music is played on entry and exit of pupils. A table, adorned with the appropriately coloured liturgical cloth (white, purple, red or green), hosts three candles (representing the Holy Trinity) to provide a focal point for reflection and contemplation. At the close of worship there is a quiet time for reflection and prayer. The contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer is used at St Julian's Church School.

- **Weekly Timetable**

Monday – reflecting on our school core value of the term

Tuesday – led by members of our local church

Wednesday – reflecting on British values and current affairs, sometimes led by classes or pupil voice groups

Thursday – alternate weeks are led by our singing teachers or the 'Open the Book' team who lead pupils through a bible story using drama

Friday – celebrating our achievements of the week both inside and outside of school life

Every term classes also offer sharing assemblies where parents and carers are invited to find out more about the class' learning.

Class Teachers are responsible for organising and delivering their own class assemblies in line with the Collective Worship Programme.

Right to Withdraw

All pupils are expected 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.

Monitoring and Review

The head teacher will liaise with the school governor responsible for religious education and collective worship. Pupils will monitor the impact of worship time on a regular basis by completing a simple questionnaire to feed back to individual classes.

All members of the school community are encouraged to contribute to and provide constructive comment on the Collective Worship Programme.



ST MARK'S SECONDARY SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

1. Rationale

Collective worship in the School is to do with the fundamental recognition of worth and worthiness. It is concerned with ultimate questions and values. It is about identifying, affirming and celebrating those ideals and values held to be of importance in the worshipping community. Through reflection and response, it should be an important stimulus towards spiritual development. For many, but not necessarily all, spirituality finds its most comfortable expression within the context of belief in God.

2. Aims

Collective worship will be of a predominantly Christian nature, reflecting the Schools Anglican foundation and the traditions of the Church. Students thoughts and understanding about social, cultural, moral and spiritual issues will be stimulated, encouraged and extended through a broad range of themes and variety of approaches.

3. Objectives

- 3.1. To take account of worship guidelines provided by the Anglican churches and other relevant legislation.
- 3.2. To maintain a planning matrix which can be developed in a predominantly Christian nature and provide opportunity for reflection, so that collective worship can be conducted in combinations of Whole School, Tutor Groups and other groupings as appropriate
- 3.3. To recognise the contribution made by other religions and philosophical thinking to human experience.
- 3.4. To provide guidance on acts of worship in tutor groups.
- 3.5. To encourage a variety of speakers from both within the School and the local community to lead acts of collective worship.
- 3.6. To arrange a special act of collective worship at Christmas, Easter and Harvest as appropriate

4. Procedures and Practice

- 4.1. The Headteacher with Chaplain will be responsible for organising and managing collective worship and the planning matrix.
- 4.2. A termly programme of themes and speakers will be published.
- 4.3. Pastoral team leaders and others will supervise the entry to and exit from acts of collective worship in the Main Hall.
- 4.4. Tutors will implement the guidance on acts of worship in tutor groups.
- 4.5. Requests to withdraw from collective worship should be made in writing to the Headteacher.
- 4.6. The chaplain and Head of Religious Education will oversee the organisation of special services when they are arranged.
- 4.7. Guidelines for all Collective Worship and Assemblies will be kept and updated to help the Procedures, Practice and organisation of these events. Appendix C

APPENDIX A

Spiritual – the big questions

- ✓ Collective worship
- ✓ seeks to reflect its Anglican Foundation and instil a Christian ethos throughout the School;
- ✓ can help pupils ponder on the many ultimate questions life presents, and know that others of all ages ponder these too;
- ✓ may provide an opportunity for pupils (and staff) to come close to God and reflect on the most important directions and values for their lives.

Space and Reflection

- ✓ Collective worship
- ✓ gives both body and mind time to breathe, offering space and stillness, before or during a hectic and pressured day to be oneself, to reflect or just to sit and rest;
- ✓ may provide a time which pupils may make their own;
- ✓ is one of the few occasions in a week of schooling that offers, or should offer, space for the spirit.

Personal/Community concerns and support

- ✓ Collective worship
- ✓ enables individuals and groups of staff and pupils to share their interests, concerns and reflections;
- ✓ can enable the joys and sorrows of those present to be reflected upon and shared in a way which is otherwise not possible in schools.

Understanding and Sharing

- ✓ Collective worship
- ✓ can be a time to present genuinely alternative views of life and lifestyles for pupils to consider;
- ✓ can offer insights into religious and other beliefs and commitments in an open way;
- ✓ can be a time of sharing those things that unite, whilst acknowledging or celebrating the diversity of beliefs and values within and beyond the Academy.

School Ethos

- ✓ Collective worship enables the overall personality and ethos of the School to come across to everyone;
- ✓ is an opportunity to share and reinforce the values the School seeks to live by;
- ✓ Provides staff to pray for the community, the wider community and its members.

APPENDIX B

ACTS OF WORSHIP IN TUTOR GROUPS

Guidelines for Tutors

To ensure a consistent approach throughout the School, it is suggested that tutor group acts of worship adopt the following format.

- The act of worship should mostly follow the weekly theme. Each week you will be supplied with resources to use and develop for the Tutor group
- There will also be occasions when tutoring issues arise which need to be dealt with. It is suggested therefore that all pupils have a reading book available at these sessions to enable the tutor to deal with these matters.
- It is important that these sessions are used constructively and that there is a quiet orderly atmosphere.
- An act of worship should include some aspect of worship which could be a prayer or a time of quiet reflection. You may like to use a focus for this such as the lighting of a candle, showing an artefact or picture or playing music.
- Resources will be kept on the school network and each tutor group will have access to Praying Each day of The Year books.

APPENDIX C

St Mark's Collective Worship Practical Guidelines

Rota and Themes

Our Collective Worship rota can be found here:

P:\WORSHIP RESOURCES\A Tutor Time and Collective Worship planning matrix\18 19

You can view it here however changes should be made through JPA to avoid clashes etc. This includes any meetings with students happening in tutor time please. Please look at it prior to asking for something to be added. Please note other information, like the lighting the candle and putting chairs away rota

Themes

Please try and keep to the themes including our Bible verse. We have added in a Bible verse for most weeks, some going over 2 weeks. Please ask Jerry for the text if you can't find it, I have a selection of Bibles here in the sanctuary OR look on this web site: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

This is not a Bible study but we should be rooting things more than we do in the Bible. Our students need to hear and understand where it is from.

Please could all Collective Worship start and end with a prayer.

The lighting of the candle and the prayer signify the start of our Collective Worship. The prayer is to be read while the candle is being lit and is included at the back of this document for information. Prayer at the end will normally be done either by the person taking the assembly or the Chaplain. Our 'Praying Each Day' books that should be available to us are useful for this, in the brown one at the back there are written prayers for 'all occasions' If in doubt, ask.

PowerPoints

Once you have your PowerPoint and have used it please can it be saved here

P:\WORSHIP RESOURCES\ASSEMBLIES DELIVERED\2018 2019

This will enable us to draw on it if needed in preparation for or during our inspection. Or send it to me and ask me to save it there. If you are able to embed your video clips and or sound this helps our Tech Team no end. If you would like to learn how please ask.

Assembly Tech Team

To further support our tech team we would ask those using PowerPoint, showing videos or anything else that needs to be on the screen or heard to:

- Get your items to the tech team at least a day before – They could then be loaded on to the laptop in advance. (techteam@st-marks.org.uk)
- On the day please bring the items to the team in the hall as soon as you can and stay with them while they locate and load what you need.
- Please then check it is running correctly.

Any queries on the tech to use and what we have available please ask well before hand. If you are planning an extra event OR Assembly please let the tech team know. Our Tech team will be expanding and we will be training some new members.

They have an e mail address - techteam@st-marks.org.uk



ST MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

“Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” Luke 2:19

Like St Mary we are a warm, nurturing safe place for the children who attend our school.

We are an inclusive school that welcomes children of all faiths and none. We celebrate difference and diversity, and all individuals are valued.

We seek to inspire a lifelong love of learning, through nurturing all abilities, enabling every student to prosper and fulfil their potential.

We are at the heart of Timsbury village, serving local families, but we also reach out to collaborate with our partners in the wider educational community.

We are proud we share our patron saint with our parish church and we have an excellent relationship with our church.

This is a school that cares passionately about our environment, protecting God’s creation, and all decisions we make are made with that in mind.

- Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God’s Creation -

Introduction

At St Mary’s our daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. It is a time when we come together to worship God, reflect, celebrate and share all aspects of our lives, including our spiritual journey. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contribution of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors is highly valued.

Our core Christian values are: **Compassion, Courage, Creativity, Koinonia, Service and Truthfulness.**

We follow the Church of England’s Guidance on Collective Worship, ensuring that it is **Inclusive, Invitational** and **Inspiring** - [Collective Worship Guidance 18052021.pdf \(churchofengland.org\)](http://www.churchofengland.org/collective-worship-guidance-18052021.pdf)

Aims and purpose

The aims and purpose of collective worship are: to provide an opportunity for the school community to worship God together; to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues; to enable children to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response; to develop in children a sense of community spirit; to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes; to teach children about Christian worship practices and an understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinity.

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school, as detailed below:

	Focus	Leader
Monday	Whole school worship: Linking our value of the term with current affairs, using the ‘Picture News’ resource	SLT
Tuesday	Class worship - based on value of the term	Class teacher
Wednesday	Whole school worship: Based on value of the term (using Values for Life resource), and finishing with a ‘Big Question’ to be discussed back in class.	SLT
Thursday	Singing Worship	Music Specialist
Friday	Celebration Worship - an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements, both in and out of school.	SLT

We start each Collective Worship by lighting the candle as a symbol of the special time that we spend together. The person leading the worship then says ‘Living Together’, with KS1 saying ‘Learning Forever’ and KS2 saying ‘Loving God’s Creation’.

We use a four-part structure to our worship: Gather together, Engage together, Respond together, Leaving together.

We have ‘Worship Champions’, which consists of 1 child from each class who have a special badge and sit on chairs in worship, making notes about what they are learning/is being discussed, in their Worship Champion books. The member of staff delivering the whole class worship will also provide the champion with something to add to their books, which may be an image used, a biblical quote, or the prayer which was said. Over time, the class worship books build up a record, which the children can look back through to remind them of the worships they have taken part in.

Each term, a different class volunteers to lead collective worship for the whole school, with their parents invited into school for this occasion. Reverend Blewett joins us each month to lead our collective worship, and we also invite in other visitors.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and to reflect upon them, and to participate in prayer, hymns and songs in a manner appropriate to the occasion and their individual identity. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using a cross, music and candles and other objects and spiritual aids which act as focal points for the attention of the children.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship - any wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Head.

The Collective Worship lead ensures regular and appropriate training for those that lead collective worship.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and the school prayer. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. The prayers are invitational, with pupils and adults only being invited to pray if they wish to do so, and to do so in their own way. Prayer is always accompanied by the option to reflect.

There are Reflection spaces in each classroom, as well as in our nurture room, The Lodge. Children can use these spaces if they wish to write a personal prayer or need a moment to reflect during the school day.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Mary's CE Primary ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge. St Mary's Church in Timsbury is our most valuable and frequently used resource but our children have also visited the other 3 churches within Timsbury, Bath Abbey and Wells Cathedral.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of acts of worship and re-evaluation of Collective Worship plans. The outcome of the review will influence the future school development plan.



TRINITY CHURCH SCHOOL – COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship at Trinity Church School plays an important part in the daily life of our school. It offers the whole school community opportunities to promote and reflect on our Christian values (Respect, Trust, Courage, Compassion, Friendship and Creativity) and celebrate our achievements together. Collective Worship values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion.

The law states that in all schools there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. As a church school, our Collective Worship will be based on the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly.

Aims

- To develop a sense of community in bringing pupils together to celebrate the shared values and ethos of the school.
- Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values (the Anglican tradition in particular), we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.
- To enable pupils to reflect on Christian values and on their own beliefs, offering space for reflection, meditation, prayer and silence.
- To provide opportunities to worship God together.
- To enhance the spiritual, moral, cultural, social and emotional development of pupils, both in school and in the wider community.
- To develop feelings such as awe and wonder and heighten the children's awareness of questions relating to the mysteries of life.

Management of Collective Worship

The RE leader acts as the Collective Worship leader and has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. Roots and Fruits is used to support the planning and delivery of high quality, purposeful worship. Professional development of all staff is promoted and attendance at relevant Diocesan courses is actively encouraged. The coordinator is responsible for: planning the annual cycle of worship themes; the purchasing of resources; offering guidance to those who are charged with the delivery of acts of worship; monitoring and evaluating the quality of provision across the school. All class teachers have the responsibility to ensure that their pupils participate in a daily act of worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. At present, the pattern for worship each week is as follows:

	Focus	Leader
Monday 10:15 Hall	Christian Value and school vision. Biblically based	SLT
Tuesday 10:15 Classrooms	Class Worship reflecting and reinforcing Monday's message	Class teachers and Year 6 presenting to EYFS
Wednesday 10:15 Hall	Hymn Practise	Music Leader and ST Class teachers (rota)
Thursday 10:15 Hall	Current affairs/exploration of different faiths	Class teacher and/or classes - opportunity for children to lead
Friday 10:15 Hall	weekly celebration, presentation of Christian Value and Headteacher Awards	Headteacher/SLT

The worship should last approximately 15 minutes and will follow a four-part structure based around: Welcome, Learn, Reflect, Respond. Elements used in the worship may include music (tapes, singing, bands, recorders etc.) listening to stories, Bible readings and other relevant passages, use of movement, mime, drama, stilling exercise, artefacts and audio-visual material.

In addition, the School Council and digital leaders will also lead some Collective Worship during the school year, largely to share the work that they have been doing. Every class leads whole school worship once a year and parents are invited in to share the experience with the children. These are usually linked to recent learning or to the values that we have been focusing on.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and the school prayer. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. A time of reflection and quiet is facilitated by the lighting of candles.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class. These prayers may be taken from the school prayer book or spontaneously spoken by a child or member of staff.

There are many Reflection Areas in the school, each class has a prayer area as well as reflection areas in the hall and the corridor. Children can use these spaces if they wish to write a personal prayer or need a moment to reflect during the school day.

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, Trinity Church School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St Nicholas' Church in Radstock is our most valuable and frequently used resource but our children have also visited Bath Abbey and St Mary's Church, Timsbury.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly. Its effectiveness will be monitored by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and will be based upon discussions with other members of staff, observation of acts of worship and re-evaluation of Collective Worship plans. The outcome of the review will influence the future school development plan.