St Mark's C of E Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Our Vision Statement

St Mark's…

'A Place where children develop a passion to learn; the skills and knowledge to succeed and the confidence to take Christian values into our diverse society'

Document Control

Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Change Reference
Sept 16	S.Ingram	1	
Jan 18	S.Ingram	2	
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Distribution

Reviewed	Approvers	Distribution
Jan 2018	Governing Body	All staff
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ST MARK'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
Collective Worship Policy

Introduction:
Collective Worship is a daily event at St Mark's School. It sees the coming together of children and staff for a daily act of worship. It is regarded as a 'quality' time together and represents something special or separate from the ordinary school routine. As we are a church school, we view Collective Worship as integral to our ethos and vision statement. We seek to develop the children's respect for and understanding of Christianity, to give them awareness of other faiths and festivals and to nurture their appreciation of the society in which they live. The school has a long and established relationship with the clergy of the local churches. Together, we provide a wide and varied Collective Worship programme.

The main aims of Collective Worship at St Mark's are:

- To provide opportunities for pupils and staff to worship God.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs.
- To promote a common sense of ethos and shared values.
- To help our pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs, culture and values of others.
- To help our pupils and staff to understand the nature and language of worship.
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.
- To maintain and strengthen our distinctively Christian Character
- To provide children with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute towards collective worship
- To provide an atmosphere conducive to prayer and personal reflection
- To reinforce positive attitudes and high expectations regarding behavior and attendance
- To celebrate achievement including academic, attendance and the development of talents
- To provide opportunity for the children to participate in worship with a range of Christian leaders from the local area
- To strengthen our community links through inviting families each week

Principles:
The law states that a daily act of Collective Worship must take place. At St Mark's School, Collective Worship is planned around an overall termly theme, with a different linked focus for each week. This is influenced by Bible passages, our school values, the school vision and mission statements, the promotion of themes outlined in the SIAMs toolkit and topical issues relevant to school and daily life. 'Taking part' in Collective Worship implies that it should elicit a response from pupils, even if some pupils may not be able to actively identify with the act of worship. We endeavour to make our collective worship assemblies inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Organization and Planning

- The headteacher or RE leader is responsible for creating the agenda for collective worship in discussion with the school's Faith Group and Prayer Monitors.
- Our timetable is based on aspects of the Christian calendar, Christian teachings, our school values (Compassion, Hard Work, Accountability, Respect, Trust, Peace, Joy, Kindness, Forgiveness and Self-Control), current affairs and world events.
- Collective Worship has a weekly theme, informed by our values and the termly Collective Worship overview.
- Sessions are led by staff, whole classes or representatives from local churches.
- The content of all acts of Collective Worship are considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds.
- The act of worship will be held for 10-15 minutes each day in the school hall and on occasion in class
- Collective Worship leaders are encouraged to give the children an opportunity to sing an appropriate praise / worship song. Every Collective Worship is closed with a prayer and every child is encouraged to use this time for personal prayer and reflection.
- All children and staff are expected to be involved in Collective Worship and not opt out our be involved in interventions

Implementation

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to the pupil's needs, age and interests by:

- presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts;
- encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs by engaging with the school's prayer stations;
- using devotional materials, artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage children's interest.

Central Attributes of Collective Worship

The central attributes of Collective Worship St Mark's include the following:

- Gathering – Making special and significant this part of the day through an appropriate ceremony to mark our coming together;
- Engaging – Using a variety of available techniques to engage pupils and stimulate interest;
- Responding – Making sure that there is opportunity and time for all individuals to think and reflect, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways;
- Sending – summarising the worship in a meaningful short message which challenges pupils to respond to what they have heard and concludes the worship time with prayer.

Children with SEND

St Mark's will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when organising a collective worship programme, and will ensure that content is thought provoking for every pupil, regardless of their academic ability. One to one support will be arranged for individual pupils if the need arises.

Monitoring and evaluation

- The school aims to ask someone to complete an evaluation once per week. This could include pupils, staff, governors, parents or other visitors. Pupils are also involved in the evaluation of Collective Worship through the Collective Worship Monitors Group.

Resources:

A selection of books is available in the Head of School's office, but any books or stories may be used as a resource. Stories used should relate directly to the theme or have a moral content which allows the leader to encourage the children to reflect and respond, sharing their own ideas and experiences. There are many artefacts, which can support and develop the delivery of Collective Worship, available in the RE cupboard near the main entrance to Key Stage One.

We respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from the act of daily worship, but we hope that they will not. Children of other faiths are encouraged to join in or observe a time of reflection during distinctly Christian prayers.

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors

Signed: _____ Headteacher

Date: _____

Policy effective from: **March 2025**
Review due: **March 2027**

Appendix 1-

Guidance for leading class Collective Worship Assemblies

Each Term we ask every class to lead collective worship, and we invite parents along to watch. Our Collective Worship Assemblies for Parents provide a further shop window through which we give parents an insight into how we work with the children and what goes on within our classrooms.

If you would like to lead a collective worship in addition to the above, it would be more than appreciated.

Below are a list of points that can act as an aide memoir and help with the preparation and delivery of future class assemblies.

- Please try to relate collective worship assemblies to the weekly themes from the Collective Worship Termly Rota. There is a Bible Focus and a World/School Focus to choose from. Alternatively it can be based on your termly RE work. You can also incorporate class work within the theme.

- Begin by welcoming all and clearly introduce the theme of the collective worship "Throughout the week we have been considering …"

- Try to present your assembly using a range of different mediums – E.G. speech, story, role play/drama, song and music.

- Please involve all children

- Feel free to make use of the large screen in order to project words and images that may support the children on stage. This will be particularly helpful for younger children when they can't be heard.

- Give parents as much notice as possible, as some may need to make prior arrangements in order to be present.

- Do provide the children with time to rehearse in class, learn their words and actions at home and become familiar with when and where they need to be, so assemblies are well presented.

- If appropriate try to give the audience thoughts to consider by applying some of the points from the drama or story or other parts of the assembly to school life or our personal lives.

- Please try to teach the children a song that they can share at the end of their assembly. Please select a song with meaning and related to the theme of the assembly and not just a popular song.

- Close with a prayer

Thank you in advance

Sola Ingram

Appendix 2

Worship Observation Record

Notes of Guidance – you may wish to comment on:

Context

- What is the theme of the worship ?
- Who is attending – whole school; Key Stage 1; members of staff
- The setting/ambience in the hall – focus table; music, artefacts
- How far the worship fits in with school planning and reflects Anglican traditions

Gathering

- Is there a sense of reverence – a time set aside from the rest of the day
- How do the children enter?
- The greeting/welcome from the leader
- The attitude of the staff
- A sense of calm, excitement, intrigue

Engaging

- What was collective worship about and how was it shared?
- The effective use of discussion/questioning
- Pupil involvement – is the worship inclusive, relevant and enjoyable

Responding

- Pupil engagement in music/singing
- The effective use of prayer and reflection/silence
- Pupils views encouraged and welcomed

Sending

- Children and adults leave with a sense of purpose or resolve
- What key message will children go away with?
- Is there a blessing before everyone leaves

Remember that all worship has an impact. It is never neutral.