



St Mary's CE Primary School

'Nurturing Success'

Date Reviewed: November 25
Date Due for Review: November 28

Collective Worship Policy

Rationale

At St Mary's Church of England Primary School, our Christian vision shapes all that we do. We are committed to nurturing every child (and every adult) as a unique individual to be the best that they can be, within a safe, friendly and welcoming community rooted in Christian values. Our vision is to provide an education of the highest quality through a rich, broad and balanced curriculum which focuses on the development of the whole person. We want children to develop as happy, confident and articulate individuals who will love learning throughout their lives.

Our Collective Worship Policy is shaped by our vision which seeks to promote and celebrate all that is good and unique in every individual within our community. As it says in Philippians 4:

Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school. It reinforces the school values of friendship, respect, trust, hope, wisdom and perseverance. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and recognises and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective Worship at St Mary's CE VC Primary School is planned to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins the school's shared values.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection, in line with the school's

shared understanding of spirituality

- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, locally, nationally and globally
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners.
- An opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation. As St Mary's is a Church of England School, Collective Worship is in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. It is distinctly Christian and reflects Anglican traditions.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

At St Mary's CE Primary, there are a number of children whose families hold a non-religious worldview or who are members of another faith. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they are hospitable and inclusive to all who they serve in the community. In line with the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts, parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. Contact needs to be made with the Headteacher if parents wish this to happen. Should children be withdrawn from Collective Worship, appropriate arrangements will be made.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Collective Worship

We follow a 4 -stage structure of planning for Collective Worship including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' and 'sending'. The Headteacher, staff and the pupil worship committee support the Collective Worship Leader and the vicar in planning collective worship each term.

Our school regularly monitors and evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and the wider community through our church service evaluations which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. When suggestions

are made, these are shared with our Foundation Committee and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of York (SIAMS).

Our Pattern of Collective Worship

Whole School Worship is held five days per week, taken by the headteacher, our vicar, our Collective Worship Singing Leader, class teachers and other visitors. Visitors include representatives from St Mary's Church, the East Yorkshire Foodbank, our link Christian Aid Teacher and representative from the Beverley Fairtrade Group. Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier as required.