

St Mary's C of E Primary School



Worship Policy

Approved by:	Faith Group Committee	Date: 17.10.19
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Worship Policy

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Worship Policy

Worship at St. Mary's is at the heart of our school: supporting children of all faiths and none to experience Christian beliefs and practices, and understand how these enhance our lives.

1. AIMS

We aim to provide children with an opportunity to:

- express praise and thanksgiving to God
- reflect on the attributes of God
- reflect the traditions of The Church of England
- provide an opportunity for children to develop a knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith and explore the traditions, values and beliefs of the Christian Faith
- learn about and experience major Christian festivals
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- explore and reflect upon spiritual, moral and wider world issues
- take time to think, contribute to and reflect on human values and what it means to be human
- assist children in developing their own values
- share each other's joys and challenges

2. Organisation and planning

Each day the children take part in an act of worship-formerly known as assemblies. Children are introduced to a range of bible and other stories, through which life and human issues are discussed. Children are given time to respond to and reflect upon how such situations may affect them and what they can learn. The act of worship may take place in the classroom, hall, Oasis or in church.

The themes for collective worship are drawn up by the RE leadership team. These themes are underpinned by Christian and British values, which are at the heart of our school. In addition, special celebrations and festivals in the liturgical year are also explored. (See Appendix 1)

The person leading the worship may include a variety of methods to convey/explore the theme:

- Drama/role-play
- Artefacts
- Music
- Pictures/PowerPoint presentations
- Bible stories

The pupils enter the hall quietly whilst music plays. The leader welcomes everyone and worship begins with, 'We come together in His light' to which the response is 'Jesus be with us'. Candles are then lit. This reminds that we are welcoming God in to our hearts and lives. The act of worship usually includes a hymn and prayers which may be led by staff or children.

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Worship Policy

Every class is given the opportunity to highlight their learning and how it links to our Christian Values through a class assembly every year.

Our collective worship follows the Anglican tradition. A member of the Clergy regularly leads the act of worship. Anglican prayers, liturgy, songs and the importance of the Bible are used. Special services are held in church or in our Oasis. These may include; Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost. These services may be led by church members, staff or pupils. Parents are welcome to attend many of our services.

There are opportunities for prayer and reflection throughout the school day. As well as being part of the act of worship prayers are used at other times. Pupils are given the opportunity to reflect during RE lessons and in Class Acts of worship.

The Christian teachings and encouragement to faith underpin worship. They are an integral part of pupils' SMSC development. Our Christian values support attitudes in Life Skills and Well-being/PSHCE lessons and when dealing with social and emotional issues.

Collective worship provides opportunities to share each other's cultures, to hear about charity projects and overseas links, for pupils to lead and share with each other in expressing their spiritual lives and understanding.

Inclusion

Worship is planned and led so that all pupils have equal opportunity to take part in worship and benefit from that experience. A variety of Christian songs and translations of the Bible are used from the range of Christian traditions represented in the school. A variety of multi-cultural material is also drawn upon encouraging engagement, respect and understanding.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. St. Mary's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School where Christian values and principal underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of school life. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Headteacher before their children are admitted to the school.

Monitoring Arrangements

The impact of collective worship is monitored by the RE leadership team and the Faith Team. Pupils are asked for their responses to the worship via the Worship Monitoring Folder which each class contributes to on a regular basis. This is then fed into judgements made in the school's SIAM toolkit. It may also help to identify training requirements.

Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Equality information and objectives

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Worship Policy

- PSHCE/Life Skills and Well-being policy
- SMSC policy

The governor's Faith Team committee will review this policy every two years. At every review, the policy will be shared with the full governing body.

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