



Mission Statement

Within our tradition as a Church of England (VA) Primary School, we are committed to making St Mary & St John an inclusive environment, fostering curiosity, spirituality, creativity and respect. At our school we want everyone to be valued, to explore the joy of learning, and to achieve their full potential.

Collective Worship Policy

Statutory Requirement

St. Mary and St John is a Church of England Voluntary Aided school. Collective Worship is an important part of our school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect and celebrate together. It is attended by all pupils, staff and any visitors in school are welcome to join in with our collective worship. All schools should have a daily act of collective worship which is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' as required by the Education Reform Act, 1988. As a Church of England Voluntary Aided school, this act of worship should be distinctively Christian and inclusive for those of all ages, abilities and faiths, to meet the requirements of the Oxfordshire Diocese.

Responsibility

Responsibility for the collective worship policy lies with the school's Governing Body.

Purpose

The school sets aside time for collective worship for our whole school community to gather, celebrate and reflect on our values and beliefs. We celebrate the fact that our children and staff come from a variety of faith backgrounds by incorporating stories and festivals from different faiths. During collective worship we aim to develop a sense of belonging to our school, the society and the world in which we live and to provide an opportunity for children to develop a sense of spirituality.

Aims of collective worship at St Mary and St John Primary School

Spirituality

To develop an awareness of inner self and what it is to be a human being.

To consider the big questions in life.

To help children think about religious writings, beliefs, teaching and festivals.

To enable those pupils with a religious commitment to have their experience of worship deepened and broadened.

To provide the opportunity for everyone to begin to feel something of what worship means.

Celebration

To celebrate the successes of the school and individuals and the wider community.

Contemplation

To respond to worship and provide an opportunity for calm reflection.

To create a sense of occasion and something which is separate from the rest of the school day.

To ensure an environment conducive to worship, and invite a variety of responses.

Community

To develop a sense of community within the school and understand what it means to be part of a wider community

To encourage links with our church St. Mary and St. John and with our local community.

Respect

To give children something to consider and reflect on which is relevant to them and their beliefs.

To recognise the wide variety of beliefs within our community and respect the faith position of each child.

To enable children to explore their own beliefs.

Approach

To use a variety of approaches including drama, dance, poetry, story, film, audio.

To encourage participation and response.

Planning for collective worship

The themes for collective worship are chosen by pupils, staff and clergy from St. Mary and St. John. They reflect the values of our school, the Anglican Church calendar, particular world events, things to celebrate and anniversaries or festivals to mark. They include regular celebrations of learning and achievement with parents and friends invited.

Organisation

Acts of collective worship may include the whole school or groups of children and are held in the school hall. We have services at St Mary and St John's church three times a year, at Harvest, Christmas and at Easter.

Collective Worship timetable:

Meadow Lane:

Monday	Whole school, Biblical theme	Led by clergy
Tuesday	Whole school, Biblical theme	Led by Headteacher
Wednesday	Key Stage assemblies with a PSHE/Values theme	Led by all staff
Thursday	Whole school, singing assembly	Led by Headteacher
Friday	KS1 sharing assembly KS2 sharing assembly	Led by a KS1 class with their teacher Led by a year group team

Withdrawal

At St Mary and St John School we seek to be an inclusive community and in our acts of collective worship we aim to respect the faith position of each individual. However we acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship. We expect that withdrawal will only be made following a conversation between parents and the Headteacher, followed by written confirmation of the parents' request to withdraw their child.

Evaluation of impact

Responsibility for evaluation and monitoring lies with the governing body and specific monitoring is through the curriculum committee on an annual basis. Parents' views are invited periodically at the governors' post it note exercise during parent consultations. Children's views are invited through verbal feedback and through a pupil questionnaires.

Date reviewed: March 2020

Next review date: March 2021