



St Mary and St John Church of England Primary School

'Let all that you do be done in love.'
1 Corinthians 16:14'

Collective Worship Policy

As a Church of England 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 feel valued, to explore the joy of learning, and to achieve be the best that they can be.

As a richly diverse school, we aim to invite all children to celebrate our core values, providing them with time to reflect during our gatherings. To be inclusive for all faiths and world views, we have chosen to name our collective worships as 'Celebrations'.

Our core values:

Love – love of learning, love of others, love of the world around us.

Respect – developing positive relationships and a desire to protect the environment. We respect and value differences.

Empathy – through restorative approaches to relationships, we want to show kindness and compassion as we seek to understand others.

Courage – being brave as we model risk taking and mistake-making.

Aspiration – being ambitious in all we do, with no ceiling on learning.

Curiosity – through creative approaches, we are encouraged to ask questions, fostering a desire to explore the world around us, to develop our learning further.

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:

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| Monday | Whole school Celebration Assembly, Biblical theme | Led by Headteacher |
| Tuesday | Whole school Celebration Assembly, Biblical theme | Led by clergy |
| Wednesday | Key Stage assemblies with a PSHE/Values theme | Led by Senior Leadership Team |
| Thursday | Whole school Celebration Assembly, singing assembly | Led by teachers |
| Friday | Sharing Celebration Assembly | Led by Phase Leaders |

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.

Respiratory Outbreak

Collective worship celebrations will continue to take place daily in school. When necessary, they will be conducted remotely, with classes joining together via Google Classroom. This will continue to provide a sense of community for the whole school, while reducing risk.

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 pupil questionnaires.

Date reviewed: November 2022