

St. Margaret's C.E.



St. Margaret's C of E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

New Policy – January 2020 (Version 1.0)
To be approved by Governing Body – February 2020
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legislation/Diocesan guidance)

Document History

Version	Date	Recipients	Purpose
1.0	January 2020	All St. Margaret's staff and governors	New Collective Worship Policy

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1. Fundamentals

1.a) In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the ethos statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the trust deed.

1.b) Collective Worship contributes to our Mission Statement 'A Place to BECOME – a learning community sharing God's Faith, Hope and Love', and the aims and ethos of the school and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. In our aim to provide 'A Place to BECOME' for each child, a place where children can BECOME the person they were meant to be – worship is inclusive and invitational, providing opportunities, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. At the same time worship allows the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity

1.c) Collective worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard.

1.d) Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a wide range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

1.e) For Christians, both individually and corporately, worship is a central feature of their life; it is an acknowledgement of God's glory and presence and a response to God as creator and redeemer. As such it is not primarily concerned with the intellect but with our feelings and deepest aspirations, joys and sorrows.

We believe therefore that worship is:

"An expression of a relationship with God and a desire to serve and love God, and others"

1.f) We maintain close links with St Margaret's Church by attending worship, where appropriate, sharing in the life of the church and using it as an educational resource. Many members of the congregations are DBS checked and volunteer in school. Joint events between church and school are an important part of the life of our school and over the last two years have included a joint 'Messy Church' half-termly session in school and Experience Easter and Experience Pentecost Events.

1.g) The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and

announcements. Such 'assembly' times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' right to withdraw their children do not apply.

1.h) Worship in the school, while reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

1.j) The provision of collective worship at our school conforms to Diocesan policy.

2. Responsibility for the policy

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on the date at the beginning of the document. The policy was produced by the Deputy Headteacher, who is the coordinator for Collective Worship. It was discussed by the whole school staff and by the Ethos Committee of the Governing Body.

3. Aims for Collective Worship in our School:

To create an environment for worship:

- In which people might be brought to the threshold of worship
- Which provides the opportunity for believers to worship
- Which is enjoyable

To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith:

- Learn about the place and significance of the Bible
- Understand the significance of Jesus
- Celebrate the festivals and Saints days of the Church year
- Show that God is concerned with all areas of life.

To contribute to pupils' spiritual development, e.g.

- Develop the ability to reflect, to be still and use silence creatively.
- Understand what worship is and what people do when they worship
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation
- Explore mystery and the important questions about life and creation, including the dark side of life eg suffering, loss, death and evil
- Explore all that is of value in life – truth, love, goodness, beauty etc
- Reflect on and express their hopes, concerns, joys and sorrows etc.

Promotes prayer as a natural and valuable part of the culture of the school:

- There are regular opportunities to pray and reflect for all who wish to do so – providing children with a wide range of prayer opportunities is something which is prioritized at St Margaret's. Class reflection areas and the whole school prayer corner are linked to the worship themes as appropriate/children
- all children are invited to visit both the whole school prayer corner
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- Exploring ideas about prayer as well as practising the habit of prayer to God;
- Using different forms of prayer to express acknowledgement of failings and

wrong doings, confession, forgiveness and reconciliation as well as thanksgiving, praise and petition.

To celebrate, take note of and build up the life of the school in the presence of God, e.g.

- Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum
- Build up the sense of community of the school
- Develop and reflect on the values of the school
- Share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.

To contribute to pupils' moral development, e.g.

- Explore and reflect on moral issues and concerns
- Help them reflect on their own values, commitments and beliefs
- Help them develop behaviour based on Christian values
- Help them deepen their awareness of the needs of others.

To contribute to the general development of pupils, e.g.

- Provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing performance skills
- Learn the skill of choral speaking
- Develop singing ability
- Participate in group preparation and presentation

To look out to the wider world, e.g.

- Take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate
- Celebrate and give thanks for God's world
- Weekly 'Newsday Tuesday' sessions provide pupils opportunities to learn both about and from the latest world news.

To explore the beliefs of others, e.g.

- Listen to stories from other faiths and learn about their significance
- Celebrate values, attitudes and beliefs shared with members of other faith communities

To contribute to pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The OFSTED Framework for Inspection describes these four areas as follows:

Spiritual Development relates to that aspect of inner life through which pupils acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth.

Social Development refers to pupils' progressive acquisition of the competences and qualities needed to play a full part in society. It is concerned with the skills and personal qualities for individuals to live and function effectively in society.

Moral Development refers to pupils' knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong.

Cultural Development refers to pupils' increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills which, taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups.

To promote the four Fundamental British Values

Alongside the four areas we seek to promote the Fundamental British Values of Democracy, Individual Liberty and Personal Responsibility, Mutual Respect and Tolerance and Rule of Law.

4. Organisation and Delivery

The agreed pattern of fortnightly worship is as follows:

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	Whole School Awards assembly (Headteacher)	Class Worship - Newsday Tuesday	KS2 Worship (main act of worship setting theme for fortnight) - Deputy Head	Class worship following theme	KS1 Celebration Assembly - Headteacher
Week Two	Whole School Awards assembly (Headteacher)	Class Worship - Newsday Tuesday	KS1 Worship (main act of worship setting theme for fortnight) - Deputy Head	Class worship following theme - chn complete individual reflections in journals.	KS2 Celebration assembly - Headteacher

4.a) Other visitors are also invited to give pupils the opportunity to learn about different forms of worship.

4.b) Whilst Governors are free to share in any act of worship, they, and any parent or friend of the school, are especially welcome to share in our celebration assemblies.

4.c) Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as a work of art.

4.d) Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Frequently pupils are involved in leading worship or performing through dance, drama or music. When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

4.e) We believe that it is important to develop a real sense of what it is to worship amongst our children. With this in mind the following elements will characterise our worship together:

- that children and staff enter and leave the place of worship in a quiet and peaceful manner;
- that an appropriate medium will be used to set the tone for the worship,

e.g. music may be played or silence required.

- that there will be a visible focus for the worship in the form of a Christian symbol together with other items of display, e.g. Flowers, artefacts etc.

4.f) The main element of each assembly will be the fact of worship, but assemblies will also be used as an opportunity to give out awards, notices and results. These items will be given at the end of the worship. Where possible, all disciplinary items will be kept separate from the assembly.

4.g) To further enrich the programme of worship and so contribute to the spiritual development of the school, at the beginning and end of each half-term, there is an opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together. The experience of being part of the congregation at a Eucharist further enhances children's understanding of what the service means for Christians.

4.h) Due to the importance places on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons, etc.

4.i) Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship – this provision and its limitations are indicated on the school website and in Section Nine of this policy.

5. Content and Approaches:

5.a) There is a fourfold approach to worship, consisting of:

- The observance of the Church Year;
- The celebration of curriculum work;
- Fortnightly values-based worship themes;
- Acts of worship which are stand-alone – including weekly 'Newsday Tuesday' sessions.

5.2) The values-based worship themes make up the vast majority of worship time and include a range of creative approaches, for example involving music and liturgy, silence, story and reflection. A four-year cycle is used for these themes and plans are based around the <https://simplycollectiveworship.co.uk/> scheme which emphasizes core values for each theme, related Bible content, SMSC links and links to PSHE. A sample of medium term planning can be seen below. A whole school worship book is completed fortnightly which serves as a record of what has happened in both the whole school and class worship sessions and also provides opportunities for children to reflect on the impact of the worship. In addition, each child completes their own personal reflection on the worship theme every fortnight.

Week Suggested dates 2018-19	.1 Main assembly/theme		Bible Content	Other Content	Links to SEAL	Values	Spiritual	Moral	Social	Cultural
	.2-5 Thought for the day									
4 24 th - 28 th Sept '18	.1 Gideon .2 What might the neighbours say? .3 Laying a fleece .4 Gideon's 300 .5 The trumpet call		4 1-5 The story of Gideon		Autumn 1 – new beginning Doing something brave	Courage Friendship	✓		✓	
5 1 st - 5 th Oct '18	.1 Francis of Assisi .2 Saint Francis and the birds .3 Saint Francis and the wolf .4 Saint Francis and actions .5 Two crabs		5 4 Remove the wood from your own eye – Matthew 7:3-5	5.5 Aesop's 'Two Crabs'		Courage Joy	✓	✓		✓

5.3) The 'Newsday Tuesday' session better prepares children for life in

Modern Britain – children learn both about and from the news. Each week a thought provoking poster and question is provided which links to one of the British Values – this ensures the values are promoted in school and are known by children. Furthermore, children are encouraged to think deeply about the world around them and ask questions of their own

5.4) Content will be both adult and pupil-led and there will be a variety of approaches used to inspire children into action and/or reflection, for example role play, dance, drama, stories, songs, hymns, music. An appropriate atmosphere will be created for children using music, candles or other artefacts as a focal point for their attention.

6. Learning Expectations and Intended Outcomes

Education, celebration, praise and hope are essential features of our worship at St Margaret's Church of England (V.A) Primary School. We aim to make children aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our environment. In so doing we hope to create an atmosphere in which pupils are invited, rather than compelled, to explore issues for themselves, reflect upon and learn from their own and others' experiences, develop sensitivity and a sense of wonder, awe and mystery for the world of which they are part.

7. Monitoring

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, members of staff and the children. A number of strategies are used to collect evidence, including:

- Comparing written planning to check that it matches practice
- Conducting occasional formal observations of worship - checking children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Gathering pupils' opinions on worship – termly questionnaire for individual pupils
- Seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors and visitors
- Observing the extend of the influence of worship on children's attitudes and behavior throughout school
- Gathering staff and pupil opinions through the fortnightly worship book

8. Evaluation and Review

The information gathered via the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of collective worship. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Ethos Committee will be the main evaluators. Evaluation of the Collective Worship Policy will take place every two years and formal evaluation of collective worship will take place annually.

A worship plan and record sheet is kept for every half term to ensure the acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery. Visitors outside the school community who are regularly involved in acts of worship

are provided with a copy of the collective worship policy.

9. Legal Requirements for Collective Worship

9.a) Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts, (as consolidated in the 1996 Act) as well as the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

9.b) Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

9.c) Worship in Church

Worship usually takes place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

9.d) Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision and its limitations are indicated on the school website. The Governors have agreed with the following form of words on this subject: "The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school".

9.e) Complaints about Collective Worship

Any complaints about Collective Worship should be addressed to the Head Teacher who will attempt to resolve them informally, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted subcommittee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese

10. Legal Requirements for Collective Worship in our School

The aims for worship in our multi-faith Church school have been carefully selected so as to recognise that Christian worship needs to be maintained but in a way which allows children from other faiths to take part.

The Christian framework for worship has been maintained, but without violating the integrity of pupils from other faiths. Material used in worship will regularly be drawn from Christian sources, inviting pupils to explore and respond to Christian stories and Christian values and to see what is important to Christians through thinking about prayers, beliefs and practices.

As important, however, is the witness to the Christian faith carried out through

the life of the school, the way adults and children relate to each other, the expectations of all members of the community, the life of service lived day by day.

Pupils will not be coerced into anything that would be against their faith, e.g.

- Made to join in hymns that express beliefs they do not share;
- made to say Trinitarian formulae though this will not prevent participate in an act of worship in a building dedicated to worship in a faith other than their own.

Whilst the whole act of worship will be clearly consistent with Christianity all attempts will be made to ensure that it does not cause offence to our children from other faiths.

11. The Policy at Work

Each year a set of guidance notes will be provided to give a practical interpretation of this policy and to help all involved in the delivery to worship to plan in detail.

The notes will set out the aims and objectives for the year, providing practical guidance on how the acts of worship should be conducted, and detailing on a term by term basis the themes to be followed.