



St. Mary's Infant School

## **Collective Worship Policy**

### **Introduction**

At St. Mary's, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through collective worship we seek to promote our Vision:

**As a Christian School our vision is to be a centre of early years excellence, seeking to enable children to love to learn and learn to love in a nurturing and challenging environment.**

Collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and share together our achievements (and sometimes failures). The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Our core Christian values are: Friendship, Compassion, Perseverance and Trust.

We recognise that in our school we have children and staff from other faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special.

We also recognise that as we are a school that does not currently have a community providing a rich cultural diversity we actively seek to develop a deepening awareness of other faiths and cultures through collective worship and an understanding that Christianity is a world faith. We actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

### **Aims**

**To provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils**

- providing a variety of experiences to reflect upon and respond to through drama, dance, poetry, music, mime, tv/video/radio programs and the telling of appropriate stories (Biblical, moral, and multi-cultural)
- creating a sense of occasion and of something which is distinct from the rest of the school day
- giving children something to consider and reflect upon which is relevant to them and their beliefs

### **To give pupils regular opportunities to plan, contribute to and lead collective worship**

- pupils to give feedback on collective worship throughout the year, wither via the school council or through discussions with staff or governors
- pupils to lead the prayer at the end of each act of collective worship

### **To provide opportunities to develop a sense of reverence**

- engendering an understanding of the spiritual
- considering spiritual and moral issues
- beginning to appreciate the use of symbolism and religious language to express feelings and belief

### **To develop a sense of community**

- celebrating successes of the School and individuals
- acknowledging, accepting, forgiving and learning from mistakes
- recognizing the wide variety of beliefs within our community
- developing a sense of membership of the school and the wider community
- exploring our relationship with the created world
- parents are invited to their class 'assembly' at least once per year
- parents are given an 'open door' invitation to join collective worship on Wednesday or Friday

### **Guidelines**

- Our daily act of collective act of worship takes place either in the school hall, outside or at St Mary's Church as a whole school event, or in the classroom as a whole class event
- the worship is led by the Headteacher, the staff and pupils according to the occasion
- the Parish clergy lead worship weekly
- visitors are also invited to lead collective worship as appropriate
- every year, there are at least three acts of worship by the whole school in the parish church
- we seek to use stillness, music, songs, Bible and other stories, symbols and artefacts as well as pupils' own contributions.
- we use a variety of appropriate resources and approaches to engage children in an atmosphere of worship
- parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. However in the light of the school's intention to respect the faith position of each individual, it is hoped that the need for this withdrawal is rare
- collective worship begins with pupils walking in to music then the leader says either 'peace be with you' to which the pupils respond 'and also with you' or 'the Lord be with you' to which the pupils respond 'and also with you'
- a candle with three wicks is used and as this is lit the leader of worship says 'in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen'
- each week three prayer leaders (one from each class) come up to the front to lead the prayer, a tick list is on the wall to ensure all children have this opportunity

## **Organisation of Collective Worship**

Monday (9.05 - 9.30)- Led by Headteacher, visitor/ SEAL or Values related theme.

Tuesday (9.05 - 9.30)- In Class and x3 per year parents are invited to a class celebration of learning in this time slot. (1 per class per year).

Wednesday (9.05 - 9.30)- Led by Parish Team

Thursday (9.05 - 9.30)- Singing

Friday (2.15 - 2.45)- Celebration Assembly