



# *St Mary's CE Primary School*

'Nurturing Success'



**Date Reviewed: November 23**

**Date Due for Review: November 25**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

*"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150v6*

The following policy relates to the Trust Deed, 1849, of St Mary's School, Beverley. It reflects and celebrates the distinctiveness of our school as a Church of England Primary School within the Diocese of York.

### **Aims**

- Collective Worship is an integral part of every day at St Mary's. It provides pupils and staff with an opportunity to experience and participate in an act of worship each day. Participants are afforded an opportunity to develop an awareness of and a relationship with God, and to begin to understand the nature of God as revealed in Jesus. The teachings of the Bible are explored and their relevance to our daily lives highlighted.

The school's key Christian values of Respect, Friendship, Hope, Perseverance, Trust and Wisdom are interwoven into all aspects of school life and are explored in greater depth in Collective Worship. Collective Worship also provides a time each day for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to flourish.

- enable pupils to explore forms of worship, deepening and broadening the experience of worship and of having a faith for those with a religious commitment and fostering a feeling of what it means for others to worship and have a faith, for those without a religious commitment
- heighten pupils' awareness of the mysteries of life and possible responses to these through religious belief and commitment

- enable children to develop an understanding of the Christian faith as a living faith, impacting on every aspect of our lives
- provide opportunities for children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at God's creation
- allow children to see worship as enjoyable, through actively participating in and leading collective worship themselves.
- provide an opportunity for everyone in the school community to come together as a school family
- provide an opportunity to share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.
- provide pupils with an opportunity to meet with and gain experience from members of the clergy and other appropriate members of the local Christian community.
- develop within the pupils a sense of belonging to a Christian community, in praising God and asking for his help and guidance

### **Key Beliefs**

Through acts of collective worship at St Mary's, children will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them.

These will include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

### **The link between Collective Worship and the Curriculum**

Collective Worship at St Mary's school is an integral part of school life, providing children with a rich opportunity to develop spiritually and to worship.

Though Collective Worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DCFS regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Collective Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of Religious Education and the National Curriculum 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.

Collective 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 Collective 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.

At St Mary's, Collective Worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

## The difference between Collective Worship and Assembly

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' rights to withdraw their children do not apply. Sometimes notices are given at the end of collective worship. In order for the children to distinguish between collective worship and assembly notices, the candle is blown out and the children are told that collective worship or our 'special time' has ended. Collective worship is also known in the school as 'worship' or 'assembly'.

## Organisation and Delivery

The school holds a daily act of collective worship which fulfils the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, as amended by the Education Act 1993. The act of worship is held within one of the two halls or in classrooms as defined below. The assembly is the gathering together of the children specifically for the act of collective worship, after which may occasionally be given school notices.

All children who are legally obliged to, will attend all acts of collective worship.

The rights of withdrawal from collective worship for both staff and children will be maintained. Should children require withdrawal, appropriate arrangements will be made and overseen by the child's class teacher.

There is a weekly pattern of worship at St Mary's as follows:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<i>Whole school Collective Worship 10:00am- 10:15am KS2 Hall</i>	<i>Whole school Collective Worship (singing) 10:00am- 10:15am KS2 Hall</i>	<i>Key Stage Collective Worship(Becky) EYFS-Y2 9:45am- 10:00am KS1 Hall Y3-6 10:00am- 10:15am KS2 Hall</i>	<i>Open the Book Class Collective Worship</i>	<i>Whole school Celebration Collective Worship 3:00 – 3:25pm KS2 Hall</i>

Parents and carers are welcome to attend our celebratory Collective Worship, known as Celebration Assembly, each Friday. They are contacted if their child has achieved a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award or has been selected to be Pupil of the Week.

The children attend St Mary's Church for Collective Worship at least termly. Services are planned and led by our vicar (Becky Lumley) and children from the Worship Committee.

Daily acts of Collective Worship last for 15 minutes (25 minutes on Fridays). Church services are longer, usually lasting 30-45minutes.

## Collective worship may include:

- Introductory music
- Hymn(s)/inspirational songs
- Story/talk
- Time for reflection
- Prayers

Collective worship is a special time together and children are expected to enter and leave the hall in silence.

## Content and Approaches

- In order for children to enjoy collective worship and gain the most from it, it should be of the highest quality possible, including a wide variety of approaches.

- There is a fourfold approach to organising the content of collective worship: the observance of the Church Year, the celebration of curriculum work, weekly themes drawn from an overarching termly theme, and acts of worship which stand alone.
- A variety of approaches is used including adult and pupil led, story telling, music and movement, drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, role play etc.
- Great importance is placed on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn for extra tuition, music lessons etc.
- A display linked to the termly collective worship theme is mounted in the main entrance hall, to demonstrate the centrality of collective worship to our school. Children undertake follow up work in their classrooms and this is often displayed on the collective worship display.

### **Equal Opportunities**

- Children of many different faiths attend St Mary's. Collective worship is made accessible to them through sharing stories and themes from other faiths, celebrating major festivals with the children and highlighting and discussing values shared by other faiths.
- Teaching assistants support children with special educational needs as required to enable them to enjoy collective worship. These may include learning difficulties, physical difficulties or children for whom English is an additional language.

### **Consultation, Management, Recording and Review**

The responsibility for collective worship lies with the Governors of the school. On a day to day basis responsibility is delegated to the Collective Worship Coordinator.

- The Collective Worship co-ordinator develops the collective worship timetable with the vicar Becky Lumley, selecting appropriate themes, reflecting Christian values and linking it to the church calendar. The Coordinator invites visiting collective worship leaders and welcomes them to the school.
- The collective worship timetable is planned with school leaders and visiting leaders. Each act of worship is planned by the leader. When this involves children, the Collective Worship Coordinator or class teacher supports the children in planning.
- Governors and collective worship leaders attend training run by the Diocese as appropriate.
- The collective worship timetable provides a record of acts of Worship.
- Collective Worship is monitored by the Headteacher and Governor with responsibility for Collective Worship.
- The Headteacher reports to the Governing Body on the effectiveness and impact of Collective Worship via the Headteacher's report to the governors

### **Resources**

There is a budget for collective worship which is managed by the Collective Worship Coordinator and is used to buy resources as appropriate

*“ You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.” Matthew 5v14-16*