



# Collective Worship Policy 2022/23

## St. Mark's C of E Junior School

### Our Vision

## **Believing In Better**

### Our Ethos

At St Mark's we see ourselves as a family that nurtures and includes all who come through our doors built upon our Christian values of Hope, Wisdom, Community, Dignity and Love.

Through strong leadership, a positive attitude to learning and high expectations of all our learners, the school provides a friendly and caring place in which to learn where everybody matters.

St Mark's is a proud church school that likes to celebrate success at every level and to build both confidence and responsibility in us all. We believe the excellent relationships we develop with our children and their families are central to creating a distinctive church ethos.

We work together in partnership with families, and other key members of the community, on the school's journey to provide an outstanding education for all and be a great place for everyone to flourish.

### Rationale

Jesus says, in John 10:10, 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness'. In celebration of this, Collective Worship is central to the life of St. Mark's C of E Junior School, so that the whole school community might experience this for themselves. Every aspect of school life is informed by this central principle.

Our vision is 'Believing in Better', and our School Trust is a safe and caring environment which allows our community to flourish and grow. We nurture positive relationships, which lie at the heart of all that we do. We believe in engaging pupils through challenging and inspiring learning opportunities, which are rooted in practical learning. We foster independence and resilience, enabling each unique individual to fulfil their potential academically, socially, morally and spiritually, learning to become responsible members of our society.

**Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'**

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of St. Mark's School, and celebrates the central role that each child must play in their community.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and

is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of the whole school community.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship at St. Mark's C of E Junior School:

- will be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school. It should be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils.
- will include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values – Hope, Wisdom, Community, Dignity and Love.
- will have a focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity.
- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection, and Stillness.
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to."
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community, and occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective Worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith. All members of the school community are welcome to join us for our daily Collective Worship.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at St. Mark's C of E Junior School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for reflection);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- developing inner awareness.

### **Legal requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and foundation.

## Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated on the school website. Parents who wish to withdraw their child from worship should contact the Headteacher.

## Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

In keeping with the Statement of entitlement for Collective Worship from the Church of England Education Office, this policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive, and inspiring in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

## **Planning Collective worship**

Specific time is set aside for this activity, and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities, such as our celebration assembly or our singing assemblies. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting a candle, asking children to reflect quietly and encouraging the children to lead us in prayer.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. The views of pupils about Collective Worship are sought throughout the whole process of planning, leading and monitoring of Collective Worship. One of the school governors has a role monitoring Collective Worship through school.

The whole school meets once a day for worship, other than a every other Tuesday, when worship is conducted in class. The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by our SIAMS Lead.

Children also have the opportunity to plan, deliver and evaluate Collective Worship. The worship group work closely with the RE lead to set the agenda for worship, and the children are involved in the implementation of daily Collective Worship

## **Our pattern of Collective Worship**

Whole school worship is held four times a week. These are taken by class teachers and school leaders on a rota. Class worship is held every other week. This session is taken by class teachers. Visitors always include members of our local clergy and at times, specialists who are visiting the school, and teachers and leaders from other schools in the trust.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are linked to the school's vision and values and include the pattern of the church's year also. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within this, significant festivals and other special days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost and other significant Saints' Days are celebrated occasionally.

Whenever worship takes place, our aim is to enrich school days and life outside school. Collective worship will usually include:

- a story or drama
- conversation between members of the school community
- a time for reflection/prayer
- a song

Monday	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher based around our school vision and values.
Tuesday	Whole school worship with visitor from one of our partner Churches or class worship led by class teacher and members of the class (rotated each week). Looking at specific dates and celebrations in the liturgical calendar and also our values.
Wednesday	Whole School Singing Assembly led by Music lead and accompanied by Mr Williams on piano.
Thursday	Whole school teacher led worship on current affairs, specific celebrations or charity days.
Friday	Whole School celebration assembly or whole school collective worship on Learning Characteristics (rotated each week)

### **Visitors**

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general, the Head of School is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

### **Staff and Community Involvement in Collective Worship**

Certain named individuals [Mrs Fielder and Mrs Long] are involved on a regular basis with the worship programme. Other staff and pupils are given the opportunity of being involved in this programme every term.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, are undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors on a termly basis. All who deliver worship will be observed on a termly basis. This process supports the school's self-evaluation, is a specific responsibility of the foundation governors and is reported to the whole governing body.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating Collective Worship through feedback in class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences. All leaders of Collective Worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Salisbury (SIAMS).

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