



St Mark's C of E School

# Collective Worship Policy

Policy Statement and Guidelines

Policy Date: Spring 2025

Review Date: Spring 2026

## **Collective Worship Policy**

Matthew 19:14: Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

## **Collective Worship and the Law**

At St. Mark's CE School we aim to fulfil the two legal requirements for collective

worship: • Hold a daily act of worship for all pupils

- Collective Worship in Church Schools must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed.

(Trust Deeds normally use the term "in accordance with the Established Church". In a Church of England school, worship will predominantly be Anglican).

The current legal requirement for all maintained schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for a daily act of collective worship.

### **Worship in our school should:**

#### **As worship:**

- Should at its simplest create a time and space where we can come closer to God and God can come closer to us.
- Be distinctively Christian.
- Use and promote the clearly identified core Christian values of the school.
- Have Integrity as acts of Anglican worship whilst being Invitational, Inclusive and Inspirational.
- Be based on Biblical text or themes.
- Enable participants to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and a Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world.
- Reflect on human existence.
- Use the seasons and festivals of the Christian year.
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions and the practice of the local parish church.

**For people:**

- Develop personal spirituality within the school community through a range of experiences. including individual and collective prayer.
- Engage pupils and adults with collective worship, making it relevant and transformational to the lives of members of the whole school community.
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals and the whole school community.
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community.
- Consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community.
- Raise aspirations of individuals and the school community.

**To comply:**

- Reflect the trust deed.
- Be clearly outlined in the school prospectus and documentation.
- Involve learners and adults in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship.
- Be monitored and evaluated for the impact it has on the school community by Foundation Governors.

**Central attributes of an act of worship**

The school will endeavour to fulfil the legal requirements of 1988 Education Reform Act in conjunction with the school's trust deed, by holding an act of worship every day.

During collective worship, whether in the hall, classroom or outside, we will apply the following central attributes of worship:

**Gathering:**

Making special and significant this part of the day through appropriate symbols and ceremony.

**Engaging:**

Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content.

**Responding:**

Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways.

**Sending:**

Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.

**School specific organisation - Primary**

Monday: Whole school worship led by the SLT or Chaplain.

Tuesday: Infant singing worship/ Junior Class Worship

Wednesday: Infant/ Junior phase worship led by SLT, class teacher or Chaplain

Thursday: Junior singing worship/ infant Class Worship

Friday: Phase celebration and reflection worship.

**School specific organisation - Secondary**

Monday: Year 7 Collective Worship/Tutor Collective Worship

Tuesday: Year 8 Collective Worship/Tutor Collective Worship

Wednesday: Year 9 Collective Worship/Tutor Collective Worship

Thursday: Year 10 Collective Worship/Tutor Collective Worship

Friday: Tutor Collective Worship

The School may vary the organisation of Whole School/Key Stage/Year Group/  
Class collective worship from time to time.

Collective worship is planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on

Christian beliefs and festivals: Where they fit in with the focus of the worship, links are also made to British Values and the Rights Respecting Schools Agenda. Worship is led by a variety of people that include School staff, pupils, Governors, representatives from the parish church, members of different faith communities and members of the local community.

Whole school church services are held at St Mark's Church several times a year, typically at Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as a Celebration service in July in the Sports Hall.

### **The centrality of prayer**

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in a prayer, offered spontaneously by a pupil or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer.
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the school community.
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole school community.
- There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship.
- Each class has the school prayer displayed, a copy of the Bible, a light as well as any other relevant material deemed suitable for Collective Worship.

### **Management and organisation of resources**

- The Executive headteacher has overall responsibility for collective worship and the spiritual development of students.
- Collective worship and themes are designed as a whole school theme by the school Chaplain in conjunction with the local parish priest, with input from pupils, teachers and reflections / feedback from pupils, staff, and governors.
- All classes have access to Bibles.
- The School's reception area and corridor contain information and displays that reflect the school's distinctive ethos and Christian values.

### **Legal status of collective worship**

All maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of collective worship.

In a Church of England School, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

### **Right to withdraw**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from parts of or all of collective worship, without giving a reason for doing so. Parents wishing to withdraw their children should contact the Executive Head Teacher. The school will respect parental wishes and will try to discuss the request to see if an accommodation can be reached and to ensure worship remains inclusive and invitational and open to all members of the school community. The school will ensure a duty of care for pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

### **Responsibilities**

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view daily collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. The school will endeavour to timetable staff so all have an opportunity to attend regularly. Teaching staff, including student teachers, will participate in and lead collective worship. The school welcomes offers from any member of staff who feels confident to lead worship.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff, and governors.

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis.

Foundation Governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Pupils are also involved in evaluating collective worship through feedback in class worship, questionnaires and pupil conferences.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed biannually or earlier if changes are made to the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule.