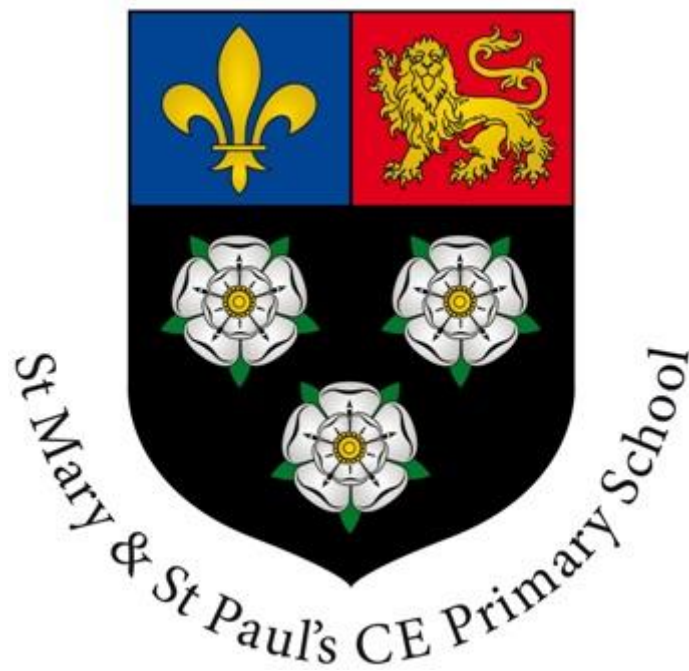


St Mary & St Paul's
CE
Primary School



Collective Worship
Policy

September 2024

'Life in all its Fullness through Learning and Love'

Introduction

Worship is at the centre of all that we do at St Mary & St Paul's CE Primary School. It is the foundation upon which we build and it forms the basis of our spiritual, social and moral development.

Through worship we look for guidance and strength to help us in our daily lives. We thank God our Heavenly Father for His love and protection and ask for forgiveness when we make mistakes.

Worship at our school, is conducted within the tradition of the Anglican Church and we seek a close affiliation with the community of St Mary and St Paul's churches and the local area.

A member of the clergy joins the school for a weekly act of worship.

St Mary and St Paul's Mission Statement

'Life in all its fullness through Learning and Love' is at the core of all that we do at St Mary and St Paul's CE Primary. This is underpinned by the core values of Service, Joy, Aspire and Hope.

As an Anglican foundation, the school seeks to provide a secure, loving, learning atmosphere, where children are encouraged to reach their full potential through a broad and balanced curriculum, which has at its heart the Christian faith.

Through example the children are encouraged to respect people and property and learn to appreciate the value of sensible behaviour within school and society.

They are encouraged to develop an awareness of and respect for the faith of others.

Children are provided to consider and reflect on their own spirituality : through thoughts of self, others, God and the beauty of nature around them.

We believe in the importance of communication between school, home and the parish and therefore value our links with the church and the wider community.

Introduction

In our school we endeavour to promote a child's spiritual moral and social development as well as their formal education. Through our daily act of collective worship we introduce children to the act of prayer and the concept of spirituality. Worship is normally carried out

during school assemblies held each day. Sometimes assemblies may be held in the local church or another religious building.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of collective worship are to:

- provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- for children to know that they are loved by God and the staff at SMSP
- enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- encourage participation and response;
- develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

Responses from pupils which should be encouraged during acts of worship

- awareness of
- appreciation of
- respect for
- preference for
- commitment to
- devotion to
- adoration of

Activities which can be regarded as worship (as suggested by Margaret Cooling (Assemblies for Primary Schools):-

- reflection on the meaning and purpose of life
- pondering ultimate questions
- developing a sense of transcendence
- responding to challenge
- experiential exploration of a religious idea

- celebration of learning about religious ideas
- learning from the experience of others.

Organisation of collective worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each daily gathering, which is a whole-school assembly. This could be via online links between classes.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way from the moment that they enter the school hall to when they leave. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

Collective Worship is normally conducted by the headteacher or other members of staff, and are led on a weekly basis by local clergy.

We take many of the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our Collective Worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship well in advance of the day they take place.

For the first week of each half term, we focus our thoughts on a Christian Value allocated to that whole half term. The Christian values are as follows :-

Autumn 1 – Love

Autumn 2 – Hope

Spring 1 – Learning

Spring 2 – Serve

Summer 1 – Joy

Summer 2 - Aspire

The school worship committee are involved in the discussions about the themes of collective worship and also comment on the effectiveness of the topic and themes that are covered.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place at the start of each school day

Monday – led by the Headteacher (who introduces the theme for the week)

Tuesday – Led by a member of the clergy / school's worker.

Wednesday – led by the Deputy Headteachers

Thursday – led by Assistant Headteacher – Hymn / Singing Worship

Friday – Gold Book Assembly celebrating the children’s achievements from the previous week both educationally, socially and spiritually. Two children are selected to receive a certificate from each class. Led by a member of staff.

Collective Worship throughout the Year

On six occasions per year, collective worship is held at St Mary’s or St Paul’s Church and families and friends are invited to join with us.

Autumn 1 – Harvest Festival (led by clergy)

Autumn 2 – Christmas Christingle (led by children)

Spring 1 – Ash Wednesday (led by clergy)

Spring 2 – Easter (led by children)

Summer 1 – Ascension Day (led by clergy)

Summer 2 – End of Year Leavers Service (led by Year 6)

Prayers

Children say a prayer in class before lunch and prior to leaving school each day.

Prayers – Lunchtime

For what we are about to receive

May the Lord make us truly thankful

Amen

End of Day

The Lord’s Prayer

Or

Lord keep us safe this night

Secure from all our fears

May angels guard us while we sleep

Till morning light appears.

Amen

Right of withdrawal

We expect all children to attend assembly. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious collective worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents and carers do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the policy and practice of collective worship is the role of a named school governor, who is also responsible for the school policy for religious education. The governor concerned liaises with the headteacher before reporting to the governors.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if necessary.

P Brooksbank

September 2024