

St Mary's C of E School



ST. MARY'S
CE Combined School
AYLESBURY

Shine as Lights in the World

Collective Worship Policy

Adopted: April 2021

Review: July 2024

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Shine as Lights in the World ***Matthew 5:14-16***

Introduction

St Mary's C of E School is a Church of England School. Daily Collective Worship lies at the centre of Christian life and is at the heart and ethos of life at St Mary's. Worship offers pupils and staff an opportunity to reflect our school values of **Love, Hope, Forgiveness, Truth, Compassion and Respect**. It is an expression of our mission statement to "**Shine as Lights in the World**", which shapes our approach to others and underpins all that we do both in and out of school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our in Collective Worship.

Our mission statement '**Shine our Lights in the World**' is a summary of Jesus' teaching given after the Beatitudes about how people should live and make a difference in the world around them.

*¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:14-16***

Aims

Collective Worship at St Mary's does not just take place at a special time of the day but is embedded into all aspects of school life. It aims to provide pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
 - All God's Children and their individual God given talents and achievements
 - Christian seasons (according to the Anglican Church calendar)
 - Both Christian and festivals represented by the school community
 - Our school values associated with Shine as Lights in the World
- explore and develop their own spirituality through prayer, stillness, music, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer (listening, reciting and creating)
- bring our thanks and concerns to God as well as asking for forgiveness
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions relating to love, pain and suffering
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian values and ethos
- experience a variety of styles of worship (traditional, modern and cultural)

- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth (including reflecting with reverence on God's creation, awe and wonder)
- develop a deeper understanding of the Bible and Christian faith through the teachings of Jesus and our Christian Values,
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy; (being involved in local, national and worldwide charities)
- help each child to become reflective and independent learners as they prepare for their future in an ever changing world.
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today; (learning about people currently Shining Their Light on the World due to their faith and/or moral convictions)
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from the diverse cultural backgrounds represented by staff and pupils
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a Trinitarian theology. (all year groups explore with the mystery of the Trinity through RE teaching and specific activities near Trinity Sunday)
- ensure all pupils have the confidence to share their own thoughts and beliefs in an environment of dignity and respect.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall (as a whole school or for a key stage), in classrooms and on occasions outside. We follow the seasons of the Church year to ensure significant festivals and other important days are observed. These always include Harvest, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost; other days such as Candlemas and Patron Saints days are celebrated occasionally. Worship also takes place at The Church on Fairford Leys, particularly on special occasions such as Harvest, Christmas, Remembrance and the Leavers' Service. Each half term gives staff and pupils a chance to reflect on a school value (chosen by our Worship Leaders) and how this links to our vision of 'Shine as Lights in the World'. World religions, their main festivals and those observed within our community are included in a rolling two year cycle. Leaders/staff from faiths from the local area are invited to help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths. Historical and current figures, whose faith has impacted their lives bringing about change as they 'Shine their Lights in the World' are also shared with the children as well as world and

charity events. Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time spent in Collective Worship in order to promote worship throughout school life.

Leading worship

The head teacher/deputy head teacher and local minister, Rev Anthony Howells lead worship on a weekly basis with all staff being encouraged to lead worship alongside the children throughout the year. The lighting of a candle signifies the start of formal Collective Worship. In Year 6 all children have opportunities to lead worship e.g. Year 6 pupils call the school to whole school Collective Worship; they open worship with a greeting and take turns to read from the Bible each day; they set up the Worship Table and ensure the table cloth is changed in line with the liturgical calendar; they are in charge of playing music during worship and of projecting PowerPoints; they lead prayer. Collective Worship led in the classroom and that in a key stage enables more pupils to participate in the act of leading worship not just the Year 6 children. While Worship Leaders take on an active part in Collective Worship, this does not prevent other children who wish to take part less often from doing so.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our Distinctive Ethos Lead carefully plans to ensure a balance between content and experience, whilst making sure that it is age appropriate to the children involved, Most of the themes are related to expressing and exploring our vision, 'Shine As Lights In the Word' and the associated values of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion, Respect, Truth and Hope. This is achieved through referring to the Church calendar and Bible teaching; activities that promote mental health and well-being, school and British values are also included. A variety of resources are used to broaden the children's spiritual experiences and cater for all. This includes use of traditional and modern music, both of Christian and contemporary, periods of silent reflection, prayer, stories, video and discussion. Each year we invite an outside group so that children can encounter worship through dance and drama. In the past Springs Dance Company and Barnabas in Schools have visited.

The Distinctive Ethos Leader regularly gathers feedback from the Worship leaders and acts on this feedback so that pupils are directly involved in planning, leading and improving Collective Worship. Pupil voice and conversations with staff, governors and clergy also help to plan and evaluate worship throughout the year. St Mary's has an excellent relationship with The Church on Fairford Leys and Granville Street Church; both support the school to provide a church experience week where all pupils can explore a festival or Bible character in greater depth through drama, debates, craft, and prayer etc.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship and care is taken to ensure an appropriate atmosphere is achieved. Prayer is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. Children have opportunities during Collective Worship to write prayers

using mnemonics such as tsp, finger prayers as well as in response to Bible verses. All children have the opportunity to learn the school prayer and Lord's Prayer.

Role of Worship Leaders

Children from Years 2 to 6 apply to become Worship Leaders. These children help with the running of Collective Worship, especially with the teaching of new action songs. The roles and responsibilities of the Worship Leaders vary for each Year Group, with the older year groups maintaining the Prayer Tree and leading activities for the younger children. They ensure the Reflective Areas are set up and maintained. They meet regularly with The Distinctive Ethos Lead to discuss these areas and give feedback on Collective Worship.

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;

Our 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 reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, parents who may wish to exercise this right should make an appointment to speak with the headteacher in order to see if any difficulties can be overcome. Alternatively a letter informing the headteacher that they wish to exercise this right should be sent so that school records are accurate.

Collective Worship Appendix

Organisation

- Children and staff are called to worship in the hall by the Year 6s.
- Music is played as the children enter and leave the hall.
- The candle is lit to express the presence of God and signify the start of the Collective Worship. A candle is also used in class to show this is a special time of the day and different from lessons.
- Year 6 or Worship Leaders introduce the greeting and read the Bible verses.

- The leader will introduce the theme encouraging the children to participate or reflect as appropriate.
- Hall Collective Worship concludes with prayer and a song.

Reception classes hold worship in their own classrooms but join KS1 in the hall once a week from the beginning of the Spring Term. They also join the whole school for the special celebration occasions.

A typical week follows this pattern:

Monday:

Whole School Collective Worship (Y1-6) Led by the HT/DH and introducing the week's theme. This assembly also includes the Prayer Tree Prayer led by Year 6 pupils.

Tuesday:

KS1 – Collective Worship in the Hall led by class teachers who are encouraged to involve children from their class.

KS2: Collective Worship led by the class teacher or pupils.

Wednesday:

KS1: Class Collective Worship led by the class teacher or pupils.

KS2: Collective Worship in the Hall led by class teachers who are encouraged to involve children from their class.

Thursday:

Whole School Collective Worship led by the Clergy, this is usually linked closely to the Monday whole school assembly or an event in the church calendar.

Friday: Collective Worship Celebration. Children share their interest and achievements outside school; certificates and awards are given out ie Star of the Week, House Captains announce the weekly tally of House Points. Sports Captains or other children with responsibilities may give reports.

Other Collective Worship

- At least once a term Collective Worship takes place in Houses where children meet for a special activity led by their House Captains
- At the end of each half term a Special Collective Worship takes to celebrate the learning that has taken place over the half term and to renew the Good Learning Board.
- Special events led by Year Groups e.g. Remembrance led by Year 6; Harvest led by Year 4 are held at the Church on Fairford Leys; Carol Concerts and productions held in the school and the Church; the final event of the Year being a special Collective Worship to celebrate the Year 6 Leavers . These events are led by pupils and attended by parents.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is the role of the Foundation Governors and the Headteacher to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship with the Distinctive Ethos Lead and through her report to Governors and practice are reviewed every two years and the policy is changed if necessary.

Example Collective Worship Rota

Collective Worship timetable Autumn 1

Shine as Lights in the World

But those who hope in the LORD, will renew their strength .They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Week beginning	Theme	Monday DL/SD	Tuesday Class	Wednesday Distinctive Ethos Lead / Staff	Thursday Minister - AH	Friday Celebration (Message from DL, hand out certificates in class)
31/8/20	Shine as Lights In the World	Holiday	INSET	Isaiah 40:31 Welcome back DL	Matthew 5:14-16 City on a hill AH	1 Peter 5:7 How do you feel today?
7/9/20	Hope	Acts 12:6-9 BSA – The Apostles The Great Escape - DL	Acts 12: 10-11 Zone of regulations Intro/recap	Acts 12: 17-19 Discuss new Values posters	Isaiah 40:31 Hope in the Lord AH	Jeremiah 29:11 School prayer
14/9/20	Hope	Genesis 6:13-16 Noah's ark (video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzYjv6lhRag	Genesis 7: 1-5 Zones of regulation ctd	Genesis 7:17-23 Hopes for the term/quotes	Genesis 8:6-11 Noah's ark – hope AH	And God said... Genesis 9:14-16 School prayer
21/9/20	Hope Rosh Hashanah	Psalms 81:1-5 Rosh Hashanah - DL https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pr/1528/rosh-hashanah-the-jewish-new-year	Psalms 139: 1-6 (Msg) Zones of regulation ctd	Psalms 139: 7-12 House assembly	Psalms 130:5-6 Barnabas in schools David waits patiently	Psalms 130 School prayer (Year 6 zoom – announcing house captains DL)
28/9/20	Hope Science Week	Psalms 98:4 - 9 Science assembly	Matthew 10: 29-31	Sorting ceremony	Matthew 25:35-40 Glimpse of God's Kingdom	Psalms 25:4-5 Lord's prayer

			Zones of regulation – toolkit Or continue Science assembly			(Year 5 zoom – DL)
5/10/20	Prayer Harvest	Leviticus 19:9-10 Harvest – BRF resources - DL From food to fast cars	Matthew 6 : 9-15 Lord's prayer actions	Harvest storehouse	Matthew 6:5-9 Explanation of Lord's Prayer	1 Timothy 6:17 Lord's prayer
12/10/20	Hope Prayer Black History Month	Luke 8:43-48 Miracles of Jesus: bleeding woman	Psalms 106:1 Writing prayers – tsp as class prayers for lunchtime	Genesis 11:1-9 Diversity	2 Corinthians 4:5-7 Stormy and Harriett Tubman	Ephesians 4:29 (Msg) Lord's prayer (Year 3 zoom – DL)
19/10/20	Black History Month	Romans 10:12 Introduction to black history month. DM to lead	Isaiah 40:31 Writing prayers – using Bible verse	Genesis 1:26-28 Preconceptions	Matthew 5:14-16 Good Work board assembly	INSET
26/10/20			Half Term			

Anthony:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITEadEftdnM> 3/9/20

<https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/idea/hope-david-waits-patiently-watchman-morning> 24/9/20

<https://www.worldvision.org/christian-faith-news-stories/glimpse-god-kingdom> 1/10/20

Denotes diversity