



Marhamchurch CofE Primary School Collective Worship Policy



In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Mission Statement: Together, we can achieve and succeed with God by our side.

'Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Introduction

Marhamchurch CofE Primary School is part of a larger Multi Academy Trust (Celtic Cross Education). As part of this larger group of schools a number of policies apply to more than one school.

There is one CD lead for the Celtic Cross Education, attending the Christian Distinctiveness committee (CDC) meeting held termly. The CD lead works closely with the coordinator of the school, all clergy and visiting professionals as well as reporting back to the CD committee by the form of a written report.

Marhamchurch School provides a happy, secure environment where children can develop spiritually, morally and emotionally in a Christian setting. Every effort is made to help each child fully develop in all aspects, enabling them to function well in their primary school years, and preparing them for their life ahead.

Our daily acts of Collective Worship are viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school, we seek to promote our mission statement ('*Together, we can achieve and succeed with God by our side.*') and school Christian values (*respect, compassion, friendship, forgiveness, thankfulness and creativity*).

It is also, a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together.

The school recognises the equality and individuality of each child, whilst encouraging a clear sense of personal responsibility and consideration for each other. The Christian ethos of our school is of paramount importance, and we take our role in the local community seriously.

Our aim is to uphold and reinforce our Christian ethos, and to promote our Anglican traditions of worship. In our school community our relationships, organisation and support structures also promote our Christian ethos, as we teach children to develop a sustaining code of values and a sense of mutual respect. As such, the contributions of staff, children, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Policy Statement

Collective worship is central to the life of our school and is a place for exploring our school's vision. It is well planned and of a high quality where the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. At our school, collective worship takes account of the varied circumstances of staff and children.

At Marhamchurch School, collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. We promote our Anglican traditions of worship.

Through Collective Worship we offer:

- a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story
- an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity
- opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given.
- children time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service
- time for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (and other faiths¹) calendar
- time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually².

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² "To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

Legal - Collective Worship and the Law

As a church school, we encourage all who enrol their children here to consider the importance we attach to our daily acts of Collective Worship that are in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England.

However, parents do have the right to withdraw their children from these sessions, as stated in our School Prospectus. Parents are then invited to discuss their concerns with the Head of School before making such a decision.

Guiding Principles

Collective Worship at Marhamchurch School aims to achieve the following:

- to have a pivotal place in the life of the school;
- to support children and adults in their spiritual growth;
- to provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey.
- to be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the

- whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible;
- to provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity;
 - to support children in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief;
 - to celebrate the major Christian festivals such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost in a way which upholds our Anglican tradition;
 - to create an appropriate atmosphere for Collective Worship;
 - to use the opportunity of being together as a school community to reflect on a variety of issues, focusing on the importance of moral values and principles, to help children to develop a thoughtful response to them and make sense of the world as it is presented via the media (e.g. Harvest - raising money for Bude Food Bank, Children in Need, Pearl of Africa Choir etc);
 - to help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience;
 - to explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time;
 - to offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community;
 - to actively involve children in Collective Worship as participants and organisers (e.g. of doing this - staff/ clergy organising children - Ash Wednesday, Temptations of Jesus - children's organisation - Harvest, Mothering Day Service, Easter activities, choosing hymns for church collective worship etc).

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

This policy was developed taking ideas from the Church of England model. Staff and school monitoring council members were consulted. Church of England resources and information from the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document was used to ensure the schools meets the church schools' requirements.

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Children' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour management
- Working in partnership with parents and carers
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included on the school website.

Leadership

Worship is led by: the head of school, a member of staff, a child or small group of children, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, individual visitors and teams e.g. Open the Book

Support and guidance are given to visitors leading worship.

Planning

Collective Worship at Marhamchurch School is planned as follows:

- The school RE and collective worship coordinator is responsible for the collective worship plan and timetable
- All members of the school community, including children are equipped to plan and lead acts of worship
- Worship reflects the cycle of the Church year
- The school vision and Christian values are identified, expressed and celebrated through collective worship
- Adopting 'Roots on the Web' for worship is used which reflects the Anglican tradition
- The range and variety of materials used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle
- Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world
- Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored
- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured

Organisation

Collective worship is organised:

- For different groupings - whole school/class worship
- For different settings and places for worship
- To make the worship space special
- To create an atmosphere for worship is created using: The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year; Christian signs and symbols, candles, music, a focal point; ritual and liturgical responses; how the children are seated; an outdoor classroom

The whole school meets for Collective Worship five days a week, which on rare occasions may be replaced by a class act of worship. All staff lead sessions, the priest-in-charge, other clergy and other visitors also participate. We value this corporate meeting together.

We differentiate between Assembly and Collective Worship; worship is normally the first part of our time together. If organisational matters need to be attended to, this takes place after the prayers have been said.

Collective Worship is viewed as a special time for the school community to reflect on life experiences and to seek out answers to questions as far as intellectual and spiritual capacities allow. It includes a variety of elements at different times:

- It is a time for celebrations, when we award weekly, half-termly and termly certificates as well as other special awards, to recognise each others' achievements and experiences, both in and

out of school;

- We discuss and formulate ideas for the development of our school community, and think of ways in which we can contribute to the wider community;
- We pray for others and ourselves on a regular basis; children contribute their own prayers.

The whole school attends St Marwenne Church for major festivals. Our church members regularly lead Collective Worship sessions, including the local Open The Book team.

Children contribute to the content (hymn and prayers) and organisation of weekly sessions (for example playing music, lighting a candle, displaying PowerPoints and displaying lyrics). There is also a child worship leader team responsible for planning and delivering child led Collective Worship.

At the end of the school year there is a Leavers' Service.

Parents are invited to attend all major festivals and occasions in school.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective Worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including hymn singing. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, our School Prayer and prayers written by others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. At the beginning of the whole school worship led by the Head of School / vicar/ adult / children, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged, sometimes by the lighting of candles.

Outside of collective worship, each half term each class visits our peace garden to reflect and each class has a reflective folder floor book too, which includes collective worship evaluations.

Music

It is our tradition to play a wide range of music from different traditions before and after our Collective Worship time. The music is chosen carefully to contribute to an atmosphere which is both conducive to and enhances the overall aims that we have for the session.

Roles and Responsibilities

Each member of the school community upholds the principles and actions of this policy:

- School Monitoring Council
- The Head of School
- Clergy and church partners
- Teaching and support staff
- Children
- Parents and carers
- Visitors

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Evaluation – Record keeping, Monitoring and Evaluating

A termly Collective Worship overview is kept, recording details of each act of worship. Collective worship plans and monitoring is kept in the collective worship folder. Monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship involves children, staff, and foundation school monitoring council (SMC) members. Monitoring and evaluation of worship has led to its strengthening and development over time. Diocesan colleagues may also make a contribution to this process.

Any child evaluations like child comments on post it notes or full observation sheets will be kept in class reflective folder floor books.

This policy is reviewed every three years and it is the role of the coordinator to discuss its effectiveness with the designated School Monitoring Councillor and teaching colleagues.

School Monitoring Councillors are encouraged to attend Collective Worship, especially special services in the church with the designated School Monitoring Councillor having a monitoring role. Diocesan colleagues may also make a contribution to this process.

Resources – Useful artefacts and resources for Church School Worship

The school has adopted the Church's liturgical year calendar. The plan covers a range of key ideas, themes and the major festivals in a coherent and balanced way. We do allow within this, for Collective Worship to reflect current concerns, both locally and on a wider scale. There is a suitable range of materials to support planning for Collective Worship: (Collective Worship folder, ROOTS scheme, Diocese Collective Worship resources etc). Teachers are also encouraged to use visual material from other curriculum areas (for example, Art posters), and we are building up our own practical resources as budget allows.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and School Monitoring Councillors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all children. This policy is available on our school website.

Last reviewed Summer 2021

For Review Summer 2024

Signed by Head of School

Date.....

Signed by Chair of SMC

Date.....