

Original Date Written	Latest review	Date Ratified	Date for Review
January 2017		January 2017	January 2020

Marlborough St Mary's CE VC Primary School



MARLBOROUGH
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PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

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Philosophy

Marlborough St Mary's C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to think more deeply about God, about our relationships with others, about God's world and about ourselves.

Collective Worship and the Law

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.

Parents are made aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is done in various ways through the school prospectus, the school website and publication of the school's mission statement.

The governing body are made aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school.

The responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is made clear to staff on their appointment.

Aims of Collective Worship

Our aim at Marlborough St Mary's is that worship should:

- reflect the Mission Statement and values of the school
- instil a sense of awe and wonder in the children
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated

- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community
- celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The governors hold the overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for organising and planning the worship. Collective Worship is led by a variety of people including the headteacher, deputy headteacher, teachers, visiting clergy and other visitors to the school

Collective Worship at Marlborough St Mary's

At Marlborough St Mary's collective worship generally takes place as follows

- Day 1 - Collective worship-Led by Headteacher
- Day 2 - Collective worship-Led by class teachers on a rota basis
- Day 3 - Collective worship-Led by member of the clergy.
- Day 4 – Hymn practice/Class worship-Led by teacher
- Day 5 - Collective worship/achievement assembly - Led by Headteacher

These timings are subject to some variation, especially where visiting speakers are invited to lead the worship. If a member of the clergy is unavailable to take the Wednesday assembly teachers will organise class worship on that day.

During Collective Worship children will explore the wonder of God and the Christian Faith through words, the expressive arts, music, silence, stillness and artefacts. At the beginning of the worship session a child helps to light the candle and says "The Lord is here", the children respond "His Spirit is with us." At the end of the session the worship leader says "At Marlborough St Mary's" and the children respond by saying the School Mission Statement "Together we believe, learn and achieve".

In addition to daily worship in school, special celebrations take place in Church. These are usually Harvest, Christmas and sometimes Easter. An annual Leaver's Service is also held at the end of the academic year.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each term there is a theme for Collective worship based on the cycle of the church's year, stories from the bible and the schools six values.

These six values underpin the ethos of the school have been chosen by children, staff, governors and parents:

- **Term 1: Fairness**
 - At the beginning of the new school year we think about the importance of fairness. The children will make their class rules and during our Harvest Service we will think about how we can make the world into a fairer place.
- **Term 2: Love**
 - At Christmas we relate this key value to our families and the family of Jesus in the Christmas story
- **Term 3: Respect**
 - Everyone is equal in the sight of God and deserves our respect. In the lead up to Lent we think about different cultures around the world and how they celebrate Mardi Gras
- **Term 4: Friendship**
 - In term 4 we come back to the importance of love and respect and relate this to friendships in school and at home. We link this value to the Easter story and the way Jesus' friends must have felt during and following the events of Easter and Holy Week
- **Term 5: Perseverance**
 - During this term we look at the importance of doing our best and never giving up no matter how difficult the task seems
- **Term 6: Courage**
 - In term 6 as children are moving on to new classes and new schools we think facing the future with courage. If Pentecost falls in this term we consider how the Holy Spirit gave the apostles courage to spread the good news of Jesus

Leaders select themes appropriate to these values and the children's aptitude and ability. In planning worship regard is given to:

How worship reflects the Anglican heritage, i.e.

- using the Bible as a source for inspiration and learning;
- Reflecting upon Christian symbols and their use in worship
- Observing the cycle of the Church's year: advent, Lent, Easter, Pentecost;

Themes are published at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to the themes. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective Worship is evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body.

The governor responsible for RE has a role monitoring Collective Worship in school.

Recording

Information on planning, content and evaluation of Collective Worship is included in a file held in the School hall. All adults leading worship are asked to add details of their plans and evaluation in this file.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Marlborough St Mary's School we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher/worship co-ordinator followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Marlborough St Mary's School.