



St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, High Crompton



# Worship Policy

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Signed by Chair: *Rev K Cunliffe*

Review Date: Jan 2026



**In our school our Christian vision shapes all that we do.**

***‘Love one another as Jesus loved us’ (John 13 v 34-35)***

**Jesus said, ‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

**Through God’s love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value God, themselves and others.**

**We encourage and nurture the growth of every individual and their uniqueness so that all flourish and become all that they can be and all that God made them to be.**

**St Mary’s School overarching core value, driven by its deeply theological biblical reference is:**

**Love:**

**Love one another** - So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.

**Matthew 7 v12**

**Love God** - Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **Deuteronomy 6.5**

**Love ourselves** - I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. **Psalms 139.14**

**Our other Christian Values are:**

Peace	Joy	Courage
Justice	Faith	Humility
Wisdom	Trust	Respect
Thankfulness	Compassion	Generosity
Forgiveness	Responsibility	Perseverance
Koinonia	Hope	Truthfulness
Friendship		

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.

### **Policy Statement**

At St Mary’s CE Primary School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school’s vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

At St Mary’s School collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered 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. Pupils



will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*<sup>1</sup>) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually

### **Church of England Guidance**

Collective worship policy at St Mary's draws on guidance from the Church of England<sup>2</sup>. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

### **Legal Requirements**

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

Most acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. church to celebrate a Christian festival or mark a special occasion.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

### **The right of withdrawal**

The main aim of collective worship at St Mary's School is for it to be meaningful for all pupils and staff and so we encourage all pupils to take part. Whilst parents have the right to withdraw children from acts of worship, in consultation with the Governing Body, it is hoped that few or no parents will feel that they wish to exercise this due to its purposeful and inclusive nature.

Where a parent may wish to make a request for their child to be withdrawn from collective worship. There is an expectation that parents will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements and establish:

- the elements of worship in which the parent object to the child taking part
- the other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- the practical implications of withdrawal \*

\*The school will provide supervision for any pupil withdrawn from acts of collective worship; however, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

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<sup>1</sup> Collective Worship in a C of E 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.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/collective-worship>



## The Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at St Mary's CE Primary School that worship should: -

- reflect the school's trust deed
- reflect the Christian vision of the school
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- 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 an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.
- be regularly monitored and evaluated

### Inclusive, Invitational and Inspirational Collective Worship

We firmly believe that worship plays a fundamental role in the life of all our school community. Worship is an enjoyable time which offers peace, reverence, reflection and stillness, with opportunities to experience joy, awe and wonder in God's presence. Worship is a time when members of the school community have the opportunity to come together and reflect on 'big' questions and topical issues including social injustice and a fairer, more sustainable world. It is a time of celebration and also a time of support and cohesion in difficult and sad times.

Our acts of collective worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults are invited to pray if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.



## How Collective worship is organised

### Leadership

- Daily Worship is led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or the Clergy.
- The school ethos group, school council may also lead worship at times throughout the year.
- Each Key stage 2 class also lead Church Services for major Christian festivals and occasions throughout the year: Harvest, Christmas, Easter and End of Year

### Planning

- Collective Worship is planned by the Worship Lead and the Clergy.
- There is a 3-year planning cycle which carefully links Christian Values and bible stories (see appendix 1)
- Collective worship reflects the cycle of the Church Year
- The school follows an agreed structure which reflects the Anglican tradition

## Structure to Worship which is Invitational, Inclusive, Inspiring

<b>Gather</b>	We welcome the school community with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle.
<b>Engage</b>	This is the content of the worship which may be represented in a variety of ways to engage: Video, Artefact, Question, Discussion, Task. It will on most occasions include a Biblical reading or Christian message.
<b>Respond</b>	Pupils will discuss, share and will always include a related hymn to sing
<b>Reflect</b>	Reflection on the Christian value and what it means and prayers
<b>Send Out</b>	So how shall we then live ? A summary of the Christian value/ message in action We close music and the blowing out of our special candle and sometimes with liturgy, and a final blessing.

- A 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 are used
- Pupils are provided with opportunities to explore faith in today's world
- The spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured
- The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored. This is reinforced with an opening prayer which is recited by staff and children at the start of each collective worship:
 

We meet in the name of God:  
God the Father,  
God the Son,  
God the Spirit:  
God is One.
- The school's Christian Vision and core value rooted deeply in theological biblical reference is reinforced by ending each collective worship with
 

Go and love one another as Jesus loved us  
Love God, Love Ourselves, Love one another



## Organisation

Worship is daily and the agreed pattern of weekly worship is as follows:

- Monday Full School 9.10 – 9.30 am
- Tuesday Full School 9.10 – 9.30 am
- Wednesday Full School 9.10 – 9.30 am
- Thursday Full School with Hymn Practice 9.10 – 9.30am
- Friday - Full School Celebration 2.50 – 3.30 pm
  
- Worship takes place in the school hall. The atmosphere for worship is created using:
  - The liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year on the school altar,
  - An altar displaying a cross and candle
  - Peaceful and spiritual music to enter and leave Worship
  - Ritual and liturgical responses,

## Evaluating Worship

The Pastoral and Worship Governors Sub Committee meet regularly with the Worship Leader to review and evaluate acts of collective worship. The evaluation of larger acts or worship, festivals and ethos days also takes place with the Pastoral and Worship Governors Sub Committee.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship with the school ethos group seeking the views of their peers. Other Governors also have the opportunity to evaluate experience days, Church Services and acts of worship in school through their attendance.

Pupils complete responses to ‘big’ questions and acts of worship in the ‘Thoughtful Thinking Book’ enabling the Worship Leader to capture further feedback and impact.

In addition, parents also have the opportunity to evaluate and comment upon the larger acts of worship.

## Prayer and Spiritual Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and reflection. A range of prayers are used. At the beginning of the whole school worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of a candle and listening to music. A cross is also displayed on the altar. Pupils enter and leave worship quietly and calmly, respecting the need for stillness and silence whilst taking part in an act of worship.

Prayer is also said at the start of lunch and at the end of the school day. (See appendix two for prayers used in school.)

The school has a ‘Pause for Reflection’ display in the entrance area of the school. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on the questions posed to them from the acts of worship and reflects how they use Jesus’ teaching in their everyday life.

In addition, there is also a prayer corner in the hall where pupils are encouraged to reflect on the messages displayed. Pupils can also use the coloured prayer beads to guide them in their prayers and opportunities are provided for prayer in the willow structure outside in the school grounds.

Each class has a special cross in their classrooms and questions are posed around the crosses for pupils to reflect and pray quietly. Pupils, Staff and Governors have been involved in formulating the questions. Each class also has a class scrapbook to reflect their spiritual journey as they move through the school.

Pupils have the opportunity to pose ‘big’ questions about faith and spirituality in a question box. The Priest in Charge of St Mary’s Church or member of the clergy, responds to these questions in Worship.



## **Other Faiths**

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Leaders of other Christian denominations are invited to lead Worship in school and other major world religious festivals are celebrated.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **The Governing Body is responsible for:**

- ensuring that the foundation of the school is honoured and that the Collective Worship Policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
- ensuring that governors are aware of the requirement under Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) for the inspection of Collective Worship.

### **The Headteacher is responsible for:**

- the legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship.
- ensuring that governors and staff are well informed and receive training in order to implement the policy on Collective Worship.

### **The Worship Leader is responsible for:**

- writing and reviewing the worship policy and disseminating to staff.
- assisting the Governors to carry out their legal responsibilities with regards to collective worship.
- co ordinating the planning of collective worship and monitoring its impact through evaluations.
- ensuring collective worship maintains a high profile.
- involving colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship.
- monitoring and evaluating collective worship in all its forms.
- keeping up to date with recent publications, Diocesan courses and disseminate information.

### **The teaching and non-teaching staff are responsible for:**

- acting as good role models for pupils.
- supporting the Christian ethos of the school and its acts of worship.

## **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept by the Worship Leader in the Headteacher's Office



## Appendix 1

### School worship 3 year plan linked to the School's Core Christian values and associated values

	<b>Love One Another</b> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you <b>Matthew 7 v12</b>	<b>Love God</b> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <b>Deuteronomy 6.5</b>	<b>Love Ourselves</b> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <b>Psalm 139.14</b>
	<a href="#">Worship For Everyone – The Golden Rule (Official Lyric Video) - YouTube</a>	<a href="#">God Is Love by Nick &amp; Becky Drake // Worship For Everyone // #UNIQUE Lyric Video - YouTube</a>	<a href="#">Masterplan - Worship For Everyone (Official Lyric Video) - YouTube</a>
Autumn 1	<b>Justice</b> <i>Jesus in the Temple</i> <i>Matthew 21 v12-13</i>  <i>Global Citizenship Focus – poverty and Injustice – Ethos Group</i>	<b>Peace</b> <i>A Family Quarrel</i> <i>Genesis 13</i>	<b>Wisdom</b> <i>Wise and foolish builders</i> <i>Matthew 7 v 24 -27</i>
Pause for Reflection	<i>Printed Copy</i> <i>Prayer Activity – Justice (Prayer spaces for schools)</i>	<i>PFR 8</i> <i>Peace Maker</i>	<i>Rov 15</i> <i>The Wisdom Tree</i>
Autumn 2	<b>Generosity</b> <i>Jesus Feeds the 5000</i> <i>Matthew 14 v 13-21</i>	<b>Thankfulness</b> <i>Jesus Heals 10 Lepers</i> <i>Luke 17 v11-19</i> <i>Global Citizenship Focus – caring for the planet – Ethos Group</i>	<b>Joy</b> <i>Paul's Letter from Prison</i> <i>Philippians 4</i>  <i>Global Citizenship Focus – poverty and Injustice – Ethos Group</i>
Pause for Reflection	<i>PFR 8</i> <i>Sharing What we have</i>	<i>Rov 7</i> <i>Give Thanks</i>	<i>Prayer Activity – Joy (Prayer spaces for schools)</i>
Spring 1	<b>Forgiveness</b> <i>The Prodigal Son</i> <i>Luke 15 v 11-32</i>	<b>Responsibility</b> <i>The Parable of Talents</i> <i>Matthew 25 v14-30</i>  <i>Global Citizenship Focus – caring for the planet - Ethos Group</i>	<b>Truthfulness</b> <i>The Kingdom of Heaven</i> <i>Luke 12</i>
Pause for Reflection	<i>Rov 15</i> <i>Making Amends</i>	<i>Rov 18</i> <i>Forest Fire</i>	<i>Rov 11</i> <i>What is God Like ?</i>
Spring 2	<b>Compassion</b> <i>The Parable of the Good Samaritan</i> <i>Luke 10 v 25-37</i>	<b>Faith</b> <i>Daniel and the Lion's Den</i> <i>Daniel 6</i>	<b>Humility</b> <i>Jesus washes the disciples feet</i> <i>John 13 v 1-17</i>





<i>Pause for Reflection</i>	<p><i>Rov 8</i> <i>Do we know what it is like ?</i></p> <p><i>Global Citizenship Focus – caring for the planet – Ethos Group</i></p>	<p><i>Rov 4</i> <i>Faith</i></p>	<p><i>Rov 10</i> <i>Pride goes before a fall</i></p> <p><i>Global Citizenship Focus – poverty and Injustice</i></p>
Summer 1	<p><b>Respect</b> <i>The Ten Commandments</i> <i>Exodus 20 v 1-7</i></p> <p><i>Global Citizenship Focus – caring for the planet</i></p>	<p><b>Trust</b> <i>Jesus calms the storm</i> <i>Mark 4 v35-41</i></p>	<p><b>Perseverance</b> <i>Running the Race</i> <i>Hebrews 12 v 1-2</i></p>
<i>Pause for Reflection</i>	<p><i>Rov 14</i> <i>Sacred Tools</i></p>	<p><i>PFR 12</i> <i>Holding Firm</i></p>	<p><i>Rov 16</i> <i>Running The Race</i></p>
Summer 2	<p><b>Koinonia</b> <i>The Body of Christ</i> <i>1 Corinthians 12 v 12-31</i></p>	<p><b>Hope</b> <i>Abraham and Sarah</i> <i>Genesis 12 v 1-9</i> <i>Global Citizenship Focus – poverty and Injustice</i></p>	<p><b>Courage</b> <i>David and Goliath</i> <i>1 Samuel 17</i></p> <p><i>Global Citizenship Focus – poverty and Injustice – Agents of change Ethos Group</i></p>
<i>Pause for Reflection</i>	<p>Own School Box Display upstairs OR Greatest Showman</p>	<p><i>Rov 12</i> <i>A new creation</i></p>	<p><i>Rov 1</i> <i>Sharing Worries</i></p>

- *Friendship – Friendship week (Nov each year)*  
*David and Jonathan 1 Samuel v 18-19*

<i>Year 1</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>



## **Appendix 2**

### **Class Prayers**

#### **Infant Lunchtime Prayer**

Thank you for the world so sweet.  
Thank you for the food we eat.  
Thank you for the birds that sing.  
Thank you, God, for everything.  
Amen

#### **Infant Home time Prayer**

Jesus, tender shepherd, hear me.  
Bless your little lambs tonight.  
Through the darkness be you near me.  
Keep me safe 'til morning light.  
Amen

#### **Junior Lunchtime Prayer**

For what we are about to receive,  
may the Lord make us truly thankful.  
Amen

#### **Junior Home time Prayer**

Lord, keep us safe this night,  
secure from all our fears.  
May angels guard us while we sleep,  
'til morning light appears.  
Amen

#### **The Lord's Prayer,**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,



your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.

(New English Version)

**The Grace**

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all now and for evermore.  
Amen.