



St Mary's CE Primary School  
N8 7QN

# Policy for Collective Worship

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

## Our Vision

As we love, we flourish  
As we flourish, we aspire  
As we aspire, we achieve  
Together, we are a family.

**Friendship, Compassion, Hope, Wisdom, Community,  
Endurance**

|                        |   |                |
|------------------------|---|----------------|
| Approved by:           | Children, Family &<br>Community Committee | Date: May 2021 |
| Last reviewed on:      | March 2024                                |                |
| Next review due<br>by: | May 2028                                  |                |

**St Marys CE Primary School**  
**Policy for Collective Worship**

**Organisation of Collective Worship.**

Through our daily school life at St Mary's Church of England Primary School we encourage our children to build respectful friendships and demonstrate compassion towards others. Through this we build a strong community spirit, as together we are a family. Our teaching and learning provides the children with the wisdom and endurance they need to expand their minds socially, morally and academically so allowing them to achieve and flourish and fulfil the Church of England's belief of living 'Life in all its Fullness (John 10:10). We encourage our children to demonstrate and develop a dignity in their work and themselves which enables them to hope to aspire to be the best they can possibly be.

At St Mary's CE Primary School, Collective Worship is at the centre of the school's daily life and is invitational, inclusive and inspirational, welcoming all children of different faiths and none. It is a time when we come together as a family, daily, to reflect on our vision & Christian values through 'What's in the News', stories of people and events from the Bible and other themed worship so allowing our children to reflect on their experiences in their everyday lives, develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and build a relationship with God.

Worship is led by different members of the teaching staff, our church team, outside speakers and also the pupils in school. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the school's Christian character.

The whole school attends Church or a Church Service at least once each term to worship and to reinforce our Church partnership at Christmas, Easter and at the end of the academic year through a Christmas and Easter pageant led by the children and an end of year celebration at Hornsey Tower. In addition to this we have an Easter procession, led by the Church team and a donkey to celebrate Easter as a whole community outside on the school green where all are welcomed to celebrate and pray.

The RE subject lead in partnership with the Head teacher, members of our Church team and informed by feedback from our children & adults, produce a termly plan for collective worship, which includes the vision and values to be reflected on, the Biblical reference, prayer and hymn themes as well as other practical elements such as the members of staff who will be involved.

The school conducts appropriate DBS checks on regular visitors to the school in accordance with government Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance.

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

|                  | <b>Main feature of worship</b>   | <b>Collective worship usually led by:</b> |
|------------------|--|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Introduction of 'What's in the News' theme<br>Praise through singing<br>Rectory Gardens & Church Lane.   | Headteacher/SLT<br>Music Lead             |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 'What's in the News' reflecting on vision/values/British values/RRS and Biblical text<br><br>Rectory Gardens & Church Lane   | Headteacher/SLT                           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Bible story relating to the 'What's in the News' Christian value of the week.<br>Reflection on vision/values<br><br>OR festival celebration<br><br>Rectory Gardens & Church Lane.          | Church Team                               |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Themed collective worship relating to RRS/British values/wellbeing<br><br>OR Class collective worship<br>Rectory Gardens & Church Lane   | SLT/Phase lead/CW lead<br><br>Children    |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Celebration collective worship:<br>Stars of the week against our vision & values and academic performance, class attendance & punctuality and awards.<br><br>Rectory Gardens & Church Lane | HT/DHT/SLT                                |

Different groups of children are responsible for preparing the hall for collective worship.  
Classes on a rota create a prayer for the Wednesday Church led collective worship.

### **The Nature of Collective Worship at our School**

#### **Communal and Personal Reflection:**

Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children meet together and have the opportunity to discuss, reflect and pray as a community. A time when we reflect on what is happening in our world and develop our relationship with God and the Holy Trinity. It also provides the whole community a time of peace and quiet where we can develop further our spirituality. It also allows us to develop our moral understanding about the teachings within a Bible story or a news story and the achievements of people in the Bible and our world and how we can show those values through our daily life.

#### **Praise and Prayer:**

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for daily worship to praise the awe and wonder of God and the world God has created; to pray together, to learn about what's happening in our world, the teachings of both the Old and New Testament with particular emphasis on the teachings of Jesus and to reflect on our school vision and Christian values. Children and staff are given the opportunity to create their own prayers which are used in our Collective worship as well as other pre-written prayers relating to the vision-related theme of our collective worship. To ensure inclusive participation we invite children and adults to 'be still on the outside and to be still on the inside.'

#### **Life Application:**

Children are given opportunities to consider what is important in our lives, about beliefs and values, and application of their beliefs to practical situations in their lives and be able to live out the school vision. They are taught to understand and respect the beliefs of other cultures, religions and our school's vision and Christian values. Talk partners are used frequently to encourage discussion and debate. 'What's in the News' collective worship allows our children to consider what is happening in our world, RRS, British values and others achievements and how they can succeed in their life.

#### **Celebration and Achievement:**

Worship takes place through a variety of media such as Bible teaching, stories, videos, pictures, songs, poetry, drama etc. Class led worship is often used as an opportunity to share experiences and achievements with the whole-school community, inclusive of parents and friends.

#### **Family Community:**

Through our daily worship, in which we incorporate RRS and British values, we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

#### **Equal Opportunities:**

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability. Pupils do take part in collective worship and lead class collective worship, however, each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons.

#### **Special Education Needs:**

Staff and Governors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

#### **Planning:**

Collective Worship planning is outlined on a Termly plan and can include:

- Daily theme and lead
- The Biblical reference (if not Picture News)
- Prayer theme (if not Picture News)
- Reflection on Vision and Values prompt
- Hymn prompt
- Celebration of children's achievements
- RRS & British Values links
- Class led worship where the parents and friends are invited is referenced on the school's termly overview

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

The RE subject lead & Head Teacher/SLT assess the outcomes of collective worship, termly, as follows:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship.
- feedback from children in class or during collective worship or pupil interviews with the subject leader - written or verbal.
- parent & teacher comments.
- observations of the quality of worship led by the Headteacher, SLT, Church Team or other.
- feedback from the staff in relation to the Collective Worship plan.

**Church:**

Hornsey Parish Church and our Church team are actively supportive of the worship in school and participate and lead whole school collective worship once a week and special whole school celebrations such as Harvest, Advent, Easter and end of year celebrations. Our children lead an Easter & Christmas pageant, held at our Church and supported and hosted by our Church Team. They support in the planning of Collective Worship as they are an integral part of our school and they provide support and guidance to the RE subject lead, staff, headteacher and governors. Additionally, they provide support and guidance to our children in making them ready for Holy Communion and host this celebration, led by the Bishop.