

'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12



Collective Worship Policy

"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 devote the will to the purpose of God"

William Temple (1881-1944)

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

St. Mark's Christian Vision

St Mark's School believes that everyone is uniquely created by God. We provide opportunities to recognise our gifts that He has freely given to us.

Our caring, nurturing community fosters the growth of Christian values through following Jesus' Golden Rule.

'So in everything, do to others as you would have them do to you' -Matthew 7:12

Building on this firm foundation, allows us to flourish, support one another in reaching our individual potential and encourages us as life-long learners.

St. Mark's Ethos

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values (love, peace, equality, responsibility, trust, forgiveness and generosity) through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

St Mark's Aims

- To create a safe, happy and caring community where all individuals feel valued and special.
- To offer a relevant and balanced curriculum, which will provide every child with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to reach their full potential.
- To develop lively and enquiring minds by encouraging natural curiosity and imagination, promoting a love of life and learning.
- To maintain high standards of behaviour, encouraging children to take responsibility for their own actions.
- To establish an effective partnership between home, school, church and the community.
- To promote the growth of Christian values (love, peace, equality, responsibility, trust, forgiveness and generosity) so the children learn to show tolerance, self-discipline, compassion and respect for themselves and for others.

In line with the 1989 Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be wholly, or mainly of a broadly Christian character, we base our assemblies on the moral values of the Christian faith.

Our Collective Worship Policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian vision and values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognises and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective worship at St Mark's CE Primary School is in line with the school's Trust Deed and supports the school's Christian vision, by providing opportunities for pupils and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values of love, peace, trust, equality, responsibility, forgiveness and generosity
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayers, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

Collective worship in St Mark's CE School reflects the Anglican Christian tradition by:

- using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- observing the cycle of the Church's year - Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- using simple Anglican greeting at levels appropriate to the pupils' age
- singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning eg cross, candles
- using prayer, silence and reflection

Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of collective worship at our school. The assembly on each Friday is to celebrate the achievement of individual children in their school work, out of school activities or at home. These assemblies play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Once a term there is a class led assembly. The pupils lead the assembly and share with the whole school and parents what they have enjoyed and learned throughout the term. Parents, governors and friends of the school are invited to attend these assemblies.

Once a month the collective worship takes place in St Mark's Church. This worship is led by Reverend Eileen Heaney (Vicar) with contributions from the pupils in the form of singing, prayers and Bible readings. Parents, church and community members are invited to attend the collective worship.

At the end of each term we invite parents to a whole school celebration assembly which is held in St Mark's Church. During this assembly pupils are acknowledged and rewarded for their achievements at school during the term. We encourage parents to attend this service as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way home and school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Our Year 6 pupils attend the Leavers Service which is held each year at Liverpool Cathedral. Parents are warmly invited to join us at the Cathedral.

Pupils, parents, governors and staff attend the main Christian Festival celebrations which are held at the Church.

Outside agencies, charities and individuals including ministers of local churches and leaders of other faiths are invited to take part in school assemblies.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator is Mrs Freeman (Headteacher). She plans weekly themes for the assemblies on a termly basis. The themes for the assemblies are taken from the traditions of the Christian and other faiths and we often reflect the festivals and events of the religious calendars.

Sometimes the themes build on topics we teach as part of the school curriculum in Religious Education or Personal, Social and Health Education or in response to events either within the school community or in the wider local or national community.

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 prepare the hall for collective worship and select the music and hymn or song (based on the theme) each day.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of collective worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their decision, however, as collective worship is central to our ethos so the Headteacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

If pupils are withdrawn from collective worship the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned.

Monitoring and Review

Daily acts of collective worship are evaluated on a daily basis by the member of staff who has planned and led the worship. Planning, recording and evaluation pro-forma forms are completed and given to the Headteacher. Pupils are also given the opportunity to evaluate collective worship.

Monitoring of collective worship takes place on a termly basis by the Headteacher, Vicar or governors to ensure legal requirements are met and the school's policy is being implemented.

It is the role of the Governing Body to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The policy is reviewed biennially or as legislation and/or guidance requires.

Policy to be reviewed September 2023.