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# St Mary's

## Church of England Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy

#### VISION [what we want to see]

*'At St Mary's, inspired by Christian values, we are excited by our learning, proud of our achievements, determined to be the best we can be and caring of all of God's creation'.*

#### MISSION [what we will do]

- Through excellent teaching we will deliver an inspirational curriculum we will enable every child to make the very best progress
- We will work in partnership with children and families to further promote confidence and self esteem
- We will prepare children to confidently face the challenges of growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- We will provide children with an understanding of local, national and global communities and faiths.
- With St Mary's Church, Brookside Methodist, and other local churches, we will further develop understanding of gospel values in action through worship and across the curriculum

### **Safeguarding Statement of Intent**

St Marys Church of England Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by or invited to deliver services at to the school. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

St Marys Church of England Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people through rigorous application of Safer Recruitment processes. All applications for

staff positions in the school are thoroughly vetted in accordance with policy. DBS checks are undertaken for all staff and for volunteers who work on a regular basis in school.

## 1. THEOLOGICAL BASIS.

As a Church of England school we attach great importance to Christian values, including respect, acceptance, understanding, justice and human rights for all. These are underpinned by the following theological statement:

‘God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God: God created them, male and female he created them and <sup>God</sup> saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good’. Genesis 1:27 and 31.

Through our ethos, values, Collective worship, Religious Education and the whole curriculum, we promote discussion of a common sense of identity and support diversity, giving staff and children alike the opportunity to develop an understanding of how different people, communities and faiths can be united by shared values and common experiences.

## 2. The daily act of worship

At St Mary’s, there is a daily Act of Worship, in which staff and children participate together as a Church of England school in compliance with the Trust Deed.

Collective Worship is a time when the school meets as a whole community for gathering together, and is a time for Christian worship which includes stories from the Bible or other sources which develop understanding of:

- The Christian faith, and values, and how they can be applied to daily life
- The importance of prayer for believers
- Quiet reflection of issues relating to personal growth, community life in school, and life in the wider world.
- Developing an understanding of the Bible, the stories and teachings.
- Developing an understanding of Anglican traditions, festivals and saints, the rhythm of the church calendar
- Appreciating creativity through art, music, dance, drama and literature, and how they can raise issues related to personal growth and development.

## 4. Organisation

Daily worship

Monday	9.05 9.30	Values /Story, Bible
Tuesday	9.00	Singing worship

Wednesday	3.00	Values /Story, Bible
Thursday	9.30	Church worship Gospel reading /communion/ theme such as prayer, saints, great figures from the Bible.
Friday	3.00	Specials celebration: children nominated by staff for achievements great and small, academic and personal related to the vision and values.

### 3. Church Services

Weekly school services are on Thursdays at St Mary's or Brookside Methodist churches. These services are taken by the Clergy; the Rector of St Mary's or the minister of Brookside Methodist church, church members or occasionally other local clergy. Children help to keep the service through readings and prayers.

At the end of each term there is a school Eucharist and children who have been accepted either through their own tradition or have had preparation classes may participate: all children receive a blessing.

Additional church services are the leaver's service and other services may be planned.

The clergy conduct worship in school: Harvest, Candlemas.

Twice a year we aim to have a Sunday Eucharist in school involving St Mary's congregation and other families, giving church members and school families time to worship together. Children help to lead these services through readings, prayers and choir.

### 4. Format

The Act of Worship is Christian in ethos and focus and inspired by the school vision. The format will usually include lighting the Easter candle given to the school each year by the PCC, lighting the Trinity candle, a story, a song and prayers, with time for thinking and reflection about values and how they can be applied. Children help to lead for example through reading and instant drama. Presentations may be supported through a range of resources for example, Godly Play, video or power point. Essentially worship is highly interactive with children asking and answering questions and sharing with each other responses and ideas.

### 5. Spiritual Development and Worship

*'Spiritual development' is the development of the awareness that there is something more to life than meets the eye, something more than the material, something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, to respond to'*

*Terence Copley in Stone MK. 1995*

Spiritual development is supported and those present are encouraged to engage in worship in accordance with the vision statement by:-

- Interactive involvement through questions, or presentations.
- Being encouraged to reflect quietly on issues raised, taking time to be quiet, perhaps by focusing on a picture, an idea, or the Candle.
- Participating in prayers through known set prayers or responses: listening to prayers: writing prayers; reading their own prayers: saying or constructing spontaneous prayers.
- Being encouraged to focus on the words and meaning of hymns and songs.
- Being encouraged to think about our own feelings and those of others.
- Relating experiences of characters featured in stories to our own.
- Thinking beyond ourselves to the needs of others and created world

## 6. Themes for Collective Worship

With and overarching objective of developing understanding of and applying Christian values:

- Bible Stories, characters or themes.
- Saints and influential people (e.g. Martin Luther King)
- Celebrations and festivals
- School community life.
- Themes from fiction stories (i.e. Kindness in 'Dogger', Generosity in 'Percy the Park Keeper')
- Reflection on major local, national or world issues.
- Specials worship in which children are nominated for kindness, progress, good attitudes, thoughtfulness etc. Following 3 nominations, children receive a special certificate.
- Themes in accordance with the St Albans guidelines, and planned/amended ½ termly according to particular issues which may be topical in school and nationally, and incorporate festivals and special days
- Church worship is planned to link to the Lectionary Gospel reading for the coming Sunday and other themes as planned with clergy.

## 7. Resources

A range of resources are used including:

- Diocesan guidelines.
- The Bible: Old and New Testament
- Book of Common Prayer
- Lectionary
- Roots and Fruits
- Gloucester Diocese Values in education
- Godly Play
- Roots and Fruits
- Music, literature , poetry
- Traditional school prayers

## 8. Visitors

A number of visitors are invited to lead or take part in assemblies. These may be the Bishop, local clergy, church members, youth workers, Oakhill Theological college students, charity representatives. Guidelines are issued in advance to assist their participation.

## **9. Wider effects of collective worship**

Within the context of worship, social, moral, spiritual and cultural issues are covered. These will be linked to Religious Education, other curriculum areas as appropriate, and the life of the school community. This also includes Behaviour Management which is firmly rooted in Christian values. The outcomes are therefore expected to be practical in equipping children both for life in the present and for the future (St Mary's Vision and Mission Statement). For some the act of worship may be an encouragement in their own faith journey.

## **10. Exemption**

Parents understand on application about the Act of Worship through the school brochure. They may discuss with the Headteacher exemption from the Act of Worship if they so wish.

M. Adams  
Headteacher  
November 2019