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| Original Date Written | Latest review | Date for Review |
| January 2017 | February 2026 | February 2028 |

Marlborough St Mary's CE Primary School



MARLBOROUGH
ST MARY'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy

Together we believe, learn and achieve

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Collective Worship Policy

Vision

Our Vision is of an inclusive, happy and successful school at the heart of the local community. Together, our families and staff help our children to become confident, independent learners that care for themselves, each other and the environment around them. Be brilliant, be bold, be kind and together we will believe, learn and achieve.

Our vision draws inspiration from the story of Jesus and the Fishermen which is found in the New Testament, Luke 5:1-11 Matthew 4:18 -22 The disciples believed in Jesus and left everything to go with him and learn to follow his path. Together they achieved great things, spreading the message of the good news of the Kingdom of God, news that is still shared over 2000 years later.

At Marlborough St Mary's, we value teamwork and believe that by working together everyone can develop to the best of their ability. Our inclusive ethos and Christian values of love, respect, friendship, courage, fairness and perseverance underpin everything we do. St Mary's Church and Marlborough St Mary's School serve a very diverse community, but we believe that by working and worshipping together we can enable everyone to achieve great things

Marlborough St Mary's CE Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is linked to the school's vision and values and is an important part of the school day. 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.

Aims of Collective Worship

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

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Trinitarian language about God and the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.
- Explore and the shared values and virtues that underpin the school's vision; to reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and

reconciliation; and to develop what might be termed performance virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.

- Collective Worship is delivered using language that is inclusive and invitational, avoiding any assumption of faith in participants. Pupils and staff will always be invited to join in prayers, reflection, or responses, allowing everyone the freedom to engage with integrity, whatever their own beliefs may be.

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

4 Drivers

Collective Worship will also offer an opportunity to tackle our 4 Drivers of:



Spirituality

Spirituality is an awareness that there is something greater than we are. It is a connection with the wonder and energy of life. Children, governors and staff were involved in writing a definition of what spirituality means to us at Marlborough St Mary's:

'Spirituality enables us to nurture and celebrate our unique self-worth and value. It is about a sense of awe, wonder and mystery which celebrates the beauty of creation, in the natural world and beyond. We foster spirituality in a calm, safe caring environment where we can be still and reflect on our own beliefs, and understand and respect those of others.'

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 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

In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations sometimes 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 e.g. through the school website and publication of the school’s vision statement.

The governing body are made aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear about 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.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Marlborough St Mary’s CE School, we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. 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. Staff also have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher.

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.

Governors have a responsible for monitoring Collective Worship in school.

Collective Worship at Marlborough St Mary’s

At Marlborough St Mary’s collective worship is usually led by the Headteacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, teachers, children or members of the clergy and Christian community. On most days the whole school will gather for worship, but we also have weekly class worship sessions to allow children a more personal involvement in the worship.

In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, a daily act of Collective Worship is provided for all registered pupils. This is delivered either as a whole school, in key stage groupings, in classes, or through other normal school groupings throughout the week.

Worship generally takes place as follows

- Monday - Collective Worship led by the Headteacher
- Tuesday – Whole school singing- a mixture of traditional hymns and modern music
- Wednesday – Whole School Worship- led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

- Thursday - Collective Worship led by members of the clergy and Christian Community – introduced by SLT
- Friday – Pride Celebration of work and behaviour - led by Deputy 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 assembly teachers will organise class worship on that day.

As part of our inclusive ethos, the introduction to Worship is also signed by the person leading Worship.

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 Easter. An annual Leaver’s Service is also held in St Mary’s Church at the end of the academic year.

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: Our six values are: **Respect, Friendship, Courage, Perseverance, Fairness and Love**. We focus on one value each term

Term 1 Fairness

- Our behaviour system of restorative practice is based on fairness and justice. At the end of term 1 we celebrate Harvest and think about a fairer world where the good things we have can be shared with others.

Term 2 Respect

- Mutual respect is shown throughout the school, to all and by all. As we build up to the season of Christmas, we think about the respect shown to the child Jesus by those who went to see him and by future generations through the ages.

Term 3 Friendship

- Friendship is a big part of school. We help each other and remember that Jesus is our friend and is always there for us.

Term 4 Love

- In term 4 we think about the great love that Jesus showed for us at Easter. Year 5 re-enact the Easter story and we remember Jesus' words "Love one another as I have loved you."

Term 5 Perseverance

- As we work towards the SATs tests at the end of the term, we know that we have to persevere and make the most of the wonderful gifts and talents given to us by God.

Term 6 Courage

- In term 6 we all need courage as we prepare to move to new schools and new classes. We are inspired by the example shown by Jesus, who showed great courage throughout his life

Leaders select themes appropriate to these values and the children's aptitude and ability. In planning worship regard is given to reflecting the Anglican heritage in various ways e.g.

- 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. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that worship leaders 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.

Whole School Pride Celebration: Act of worship

Once a week the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated.