



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, DAVYHULME



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

At St Mary's CE Primary School, its Breakfast and After School Clubs, all policies and procedures reflect the caring Christian family ethos of the school and its Mission Statement and Values – Faith, Family, Future - Building a positive future for all, as part of God's loving family (Appendix 1). St Mary's is a Unicef Rights Respecting School and its Whole School Charter (Appendix 2) is based on the school values which are rooted in Bible teaching, and the UN convention of the rights of the child.

This policy supports staff, pupils and parents in helping to embed and develop the ethos further. This policy is made available through the school's website and a paper copy is available on request. The school will take reasonable steps to provide the policy in other languages e.g. as a result of a parental request.

St Mary's CE Primary school is an active worshipping community, involving all stakeholders: pupils, staff, church, parents and carers.

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ARE:

1. To provide an act of worship for each child every day.
2. To provide opportunities for spiritual and moral development, characterised by feelings such as awe, wonder, appreciation, gratitude, joy, respect and reverence.
3. To reaffirm and strengthen our core school values of Faith, Family and Future, and celebrate each unique individual as made in the image of God.
4. To provide opportunities for children to reflect on their own experiences and beliefs.
5. To explore their own beliefs and understanding of God, within a Christian framework, by learning more about the Christian faith.
6. To raise awareness through reflection of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
7. To provide opportunities for the children speak to God directly through prayer.
8. To allow pupils to become familiar with a variety of worship within the Anglican tradition.
9. To nurture a concern for the wider world, its people and environment, through our support of charities and individual actions.
10. Develop a sense of community through celebration of shared achievements, festivals and special occasions.

These aims are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35

“....love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples”.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

As is legally required (Education Act 1988), an act of Collective Worship is held every day for every child. The whole school may not always meet together for worship but may meet in smaller groups.

The school shares close ties with the church of St. Mary the Virgin, Davyhulme. The daily act of worship in the school is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Use is made of the local Parish Church for acts of worship and religious education.

It is the right of parents to withdraw a child from Collective Worship. Parents are made aware of this when they enroll their child. However, St Mary's is essentially an Anglican school and consequently Christianity permeates the curriculum and we cannot guarantee an exemption from the Christian ethos of the school. There are some children who attend St Mary's who are not Christians, but sensitivity is exercised should parents of children of other faiths or no faith wish for

withdrawal. At all times worship will be offered to God through Jesus Christ even if on occasions material of a more secular nature is used.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DAILY WORSHIP

The below arrangements may need to vary to accommodate visitors and special events.

Monday	Golden Assembly takes place each week. It is a celebration of effort and achievement throughout the school linked to the school values.
Tuesday	Worship is led through the words of hymns and songs. Pupils plan and lead worship either as a class for the whole school or in small groups for in-class worship. In-class worship led by the class teacher based on the Christian value of the Week.
Wednesday	Family Worship – each class leads one family worship per term to share what they have learned in RE over the term. On alternate weeks, in-class worship is held based on the UN convention of Children’s Rights Worship is delivered by visitors
Thursday	Mixed age learning circles meet to discuss current issues, including elements of learning, current affairs, Rights Respecting Schools, SMSC. Opportunity for prayer in class.
Friday	The whole school meets for Collective Worship led by the Headteacher or on alternate weeks by the clergy team

WORSHIP IN CHURCH

- Worship in church is a regular part of school life. Children lead worship in church for Harvest, Christmas, Christingle, Easter and at the end of each term.
- The school choir take part in the church carol services including the service for the toddler group.
- A member of the clergy leads the Remembrance Day service and the Ash Wednesday service in school for children and parents.
- Members of staff and members of the church congregation join together to provide sessions for Experience Christmas and Experience Easter.
- Each of the KS2 classes attend the midweek service at church once per term, giving them the opportunity to experience the Eucharist and afterwards ask questions to the Parish Priest.
- On Foundation Day Sunday, pupils lead part of the service to commemorate the founding of the school.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

Although collective worship is essentially focused in Christian teaching, opportunities for SMSC development are also important and may include the following:-

- Understanding and acting on the UN convention of the Rights of the Child
- concern for the world/current affairs
- sense of mystery and wonder about the world
- celebration of personal and collective fulfillment and of those who have given service to others (pupils, staff and others)
- moments of reflection
- acknowledgement of moral demands (relationships, acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, bullying etc.)
- promotion of equality issues
- understanding of other faiths and cultures, preparing pupils for life in wider society
- support for charities

ELEMENTS OF WORSHIP

- clearly stated theme
- music for entering and leaving creating an appropriate atmosphere
- singing hymns and songs
- use of visual aids or drama
- short story or poem or Biblical material
- interaction with the children
- prayers (listening or saying of prayers learnt by heart)
- moments of reflective silence
- focal point to assist concentration, usually the cross
- Three candles to represent Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- development of imagination and empathy, vision and enthusiasm
- appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
- appreciation of the natural world and human activity
- consideration of work undertaken in the school curriculum

THEMES, PLANNING AND METHODS

- Themes are discussed and agreed by the Headteacher and clergy. A theme may last for a week, two weeks or half a term.
- Where Biblical stories are used it is our intention to try to relate them in some way to the present day to make them relevant to children today, and also to link them to our school values
- A worship plan is produced termly by the Headteacher and themes are included in weekly bulletins sent out to staff, governors and clergy.
- Pupils are actively engaged in worship, whether through planning and delivery, participation, singing or questioning.
- Pupils regularly use a number of school prayers e.g. the Lord's Prayer, the School Prayer (also used at the end of the day) and the lunchtime prayer. Some responses are also used in worship e.g. May the Lord be with you (and also with you) and Lord, in your mercy (Hear our prayer). Pupils also write their own prayers for use in class and for Family Worship.

Possible Themes:-

- School Values – Faith, Family Future
- UN convention of Children's Rights
- Parables
- Miracles
- Facets of personality e.g. kindness, determination, bullying, may be examined and related to Bible stories.
- God caring for his people
- Prayer
- Praise including psalms
- Creation and caring for the environment
- Proverbs
- Christian Festivals

Stories of a secular nature may be used but their Christian significance imparted during the delivery.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The monitoring of collective worship will be carried out by the Collective Worship Leader and the RE leader, staff, visitors and children. Worship is evaluated through the children's worship folder and the worship record. Evaluations from this monitoring will be carried out annually as part of the school's ongoing self evaluation. This policy will typically be reviewed every three years.

Appendix 1

Mission Statement and Values

Mission Statement - Building a positive future for all, as part of God's loving family

Values

FAITH

We believe in the Christian ethos of our school, ourselves and each other.
(Mark 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.")

FAMILY

We support, respect and care for each other.
(Luke 6:31 Do for other people what you would like to have them do for you)

FUTURE

We know that we can learn and live without limits.
(Isaiah 41:10 So don't worry, because I am with you.
Don't be afraid, because I am your God.
I will make you strong and will help you.
I will support you with my right hand that saves you.)

Appendix 2

Whole School Charter

- All children have the right to an education which ensures that they have the best possible future. (Article 28)
- All children have the right to their own opinion and faith. (Article 12)
- All children have the right to be listened to and respected. (Articles 14)
- All children have the right to a school which promotes the physical and mental well-being of all. (Articles 24 and 31)
- All children in the St Mary's family have these rights, without discrimination. (Article 2)