

# St Mary's Bryanston Square CE Primary School



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY 2022**

**Excellence with Compassion**

***"Love the Lord you God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and Love your neighbour as yourself"***

## **1. PURPOSE**

This policy statement is to ensure that all children are provided with a meaningful daily act of worship, which is in accordance with legal requirements and the school ethos.

## **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Collective Worship is central to us as Church School and reflects our core aims and vision as a school.

In particular, Collective Worship should:

- be invitational, inclusive and inspirational
- Provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God
- Give pupils experience of Christian acts of worship in an inclusive and welcoming context
- Foster a sense of community.
- Promote our common ethos of 'Excellence with Compassion'
- Celebrate the life and work of the school, enabling pupils to develop feelings such as awe, wonder, reverence and respect.
- Provide opportunities to explore key Christian values, including our core school values of Curiosity, Love, Respect, Forgiveness, Honesty and Feeling Safe, and British Values.
- Create an experience which encourages spiritual development, where pupils have an opportunity to consider theological and moral issues, and explore their own and others' beliefs.
- Provide a breathing space in the busy whirl of school activity where there is a time to celebrate and reflect.
- Be inspiring, enjoyable and fun, providing pupils with a positive view of Christianity and the Church.
- Be distinguishable from everyday activities of the school.
- Be an opportunity to respect and celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of all pupils, staff and stakeholders.
- Be appropriate to pupils' needs and interests, and encourage their participation and response.

We use the Church of England guidance to support our delivery of Collective Worship, you can read this document here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>

## **3. ORGANISATION**

1. There should be a daily act of worship provided for all pupils, held in either class groups or as a whole school, providing an opportunity for pupils to take part in worship (see weekly worship pattern)

2. Collective Worship should include a talk/ presentation, an opportunity to engage with and respond to the weekly theme, a hymn/ song, a prayer and where appropriate, the lighting of a candle.
3. Acts of worship should be carefully planned so that learning experiences of real quality take place. They should be differentiated to take account of the differing ages, abilities and backgrounds of the children
4. Acts of worship will complement and enhance the work carried out in R.E. but must not attempt to replace it
5. a) The setting for the act of worship should be made as attractive and stimulating as possible. Often it helps to provide a visual focus (eg powerpoint presentation, props, puppets etc).
  - b) A range of music will be played as children enter and leave, to enrich the act of worship and to ensure the children feel happy, calm and secure.
  - c) Pupils should enter and leave acts of worship in a respectful way.
6. Music is a central part of our Worship life; all children, staff and visitors will be expected to join in with communal singing, and actions, where possible, as part of Collective Worship
7. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of ways, including celebrating a range of educational achievements, setting up the hall, operating the computer, singing, reading, responding, quietly contemplating and praying. Often children will be given the opportunity to lead aspects of our worship.
8. All staff are expected to attend acts of worship (unless directed by the Headteacher otherwise) and to actively participate.
9. Acts of worship will be held in the school hall, the parish church and classrooms.
10. Parents, Governors and friends are encouraged to attend special assemblies – such as Friday celebration assembly, Church Services and special occasion assemblies (eg International Day, Book Day)
11. The CW Co-ordinator will provide the staff with a timetable and themes for worship which will reflect the school's core values, and as appropriate, the National Society's 12 values and British Values.
12. The School Faith council, consisting of 2 members from each class Year 1 –Year 6 has a discussion each term with the CW leader. This allows for them to input into the themes and running of Weekly Worship.

### **Pattern of Weekly Worship**

|                  | <b>Time</b> | <b>Attending</b>                          | <b>Leading</b>  |
|------------------|-------------|---|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | 9.05am      | Headteacher's Assembly                    | Headteacher   |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 9.05am      | Class Assembly                            | Class Teacher   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 9.05am      | Church Assembly<br><br>Circle Time (EYFS) | Parish Clergy/Children's Worker<br><br>Parish Children's Worker |

|                 |        |  |                                   |
|-----------------|--------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday</b> | 9.05am | Singing Assembly   | Music Lead                        |
| <b>Friday</b>   | 9.05am | Celebration – Certificates and recognition of students' learning and achievements. | Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher |

### **Other contexts**

Beyond our regular pattern of weekly worship, we also have special services and events across the school year.

- St Mary's Church led, each half term, a service in the Church where students participate in singing, praying and reading the bible as well as a short talk by the church curate. It is also an opportunity for the school choir to perform. All our stakeholders are invited.
- We also make the most of opportunities to take part in acts of worship in other Churches to mark special occasions or Worship events with other schools (eg Prom Praise – LDBS).
- Termly prayer spaces hosted by the church where children engage in active and creative praying.

### **4. PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING**

Long term planning, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship is undertaken by the Collective Worship co-ordinator, Headteacher and a representative from St Mary's Church.

The CW Plan follows the pattern of the Christian festivals throughout the year.

Each half term has an overall theme linked to our six Christian Values, with Bible readings and individual topics then provided for each week.

#### **Collective Worship Plan**

|     |              |
|-----|--------------|
| HT1 | Love         |
| HT2 | Forgiveness  |
| HT3 | Respect      |
| HT4 | Feeling Safe |
| HT5 | Honesty      |
| HT6 | Curiosity    |

We regularly gather the views of children, staff, parents and other stakeholders to inform future planning.

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

| <b>Week beginning</b>      | <b>Time</b> | <b>Theme</b>  |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> September  | 9:05        | Love your neighbour as yourself.<br>Matthew 22: 37-39   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> September | 9:05        | Love is patient, love is kind.<br>1 Corinthians 13:4-8  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> September | 9:05        | The Lord is compassionate and gracious,<br>slow to anger, abounding in love.<br>Psalm 103:8   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> September | 9:05        | We love because he first loved us<br>1 John 4:7   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> October    | 9:05        | Be completely humble and gentle; be<br>patient, bearing with one another in love.<br>Ephesians 4:2  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> October   | 9:05        | Give thanks to the God of Heaven. His love<br>endures forever.<br>Psalm 136:26  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> October   | 9:05        | This is how God showed his love among us:<br>He sent his one and only son into the world<br>that we might live through him.<br>1 John 4:9 |

Above is an example of a Collective Worship Plan.

## **5. RESOURCES**

CW resources are stored in the Hall, ICT suite and Headteacher's office.

There are books, DVDs, Music CDs, a range of Bibles as well as access to resources online, for staff to utilise to ensure that Collective Worship is as engaging as possible. Staff may sometimes use the Drama, Art or Music resources available in school. The Collective Worship co-ordinator is able to provide staff with a range of resources and ideas to support with delivery.

## **6. WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

As a Church of England School, we see Collective Worship as a crucial element of coming together as a community, and it is our aim that all the children in our care will participate in the acts of worship we provide. However, we do appreciate that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and we respect that right. We would always ask parents with a concern in this area to discuss the matter with the Headteacher.

## **7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS / EAL**

In planning for and organising Collective Worship, teachers take a differentiated approach to ensure equality of opportunity for all children, including those with SEN or EAL.

It is important that all children feel included in acts of worship, and are free to participate as far as they feel comfortable. We encourage all children to respect our Christian ethos, and the beliefs of one another, and we celebrate the diversity our children bring to our school community.

Lee Duffy, Collective Worship Lead

April 2022