

St Matthew's C.E. Primary School



Policy and Procedures for

Collective Worship

Review date: Summer 2025

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all
wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual
songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

[Colossians 3:16](#)

Policy for Collective Worship and shared assemblies

Collective Worship aims to provide all members of the school with opportunities to experience Christian praise and prayer and to promote the Christian values of the school that underpin all its work.

Collective Worship is open to all. The school respects parents' rights to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.

The School adopts the ethos and aims outlined in the Hampshire policy for collective worship.

Aims of Collective Worship

Understanding Christianity from creation and for the 21st Century:

- To worship God.
- To have the opportunity to experience prayer and praise of God in a variety of ways alongside practicing Christians.
- To reflect on Christian values and consider the application of those values in everyday life.
- To learn about Christian scripture and how God guides Christians through His Word.
- To be introduced to and learn about Christian 'tools' and 'gifts' including praise, prayer, meditation, reading God's word and being a 'teacher', 'prophet', 'evangelist', 'apostle', 'disciple' and 'pastor'.
- To learn about prominent people through history and today who promote Christian values.

Understanding spirituality:

- To have the opportunity to experience times of reflection and personal searching.
- To learn to experience the Holy Spirit to help make positive life decisions.
- To offer opportunities to share other people's spiritual, moral and cultural thoughts, views opinions and beliefs.

Understanding the world and Christianity within it:

- To celebrate the Christian calendar, festivals and seasons of the Anglican Church.
- To consider the relevance of ideas and beliefs in our own lives and to consider the needs of others and develop a sense of community.
- To provide the opportunity to appreciate the importance of religious beliefs in the lives of those who hold them.
- To reflect the pluralist nature of our society as a whole, using material from other faiths as appropriate.
- To be relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children whilst also considering the needs of adult members of the school.

Joining together as a school community:

- **To promote the Christian values of the school.**
- To give opportunities to children to share their reflections and knowledge with the school including parents, carers and families.
- To celebrate and promote positive relationships at school and beyond.

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Procedures

Collective Worship and shared assemblies for 2019-2020 will be as follows:

Monday	Whole school New message and life applications – introduce theme for the week. Teacher and child led
Tuesday	Class led Worship parents invited or circle time in class- Heart Smart Children discuss the message and evaluate their class ‘target’
Wednesday	Led by the Vicar- Follow the major festivals in the Christian Lectionary
Thursday	Week 1 Singing Praise New songs to be introduced and the words to be studied to gain meaning Led by teachers Week 2 Heart Smart or follow up from Wednesday
Friday	Lively Celebration Sharing Worship- parents invited. Star of the week pupils and Birthdays from across the school are celebrated plus other achievements. Aim is to leave school for the weekend on a positive note.

All worships at 10.15 except class led on Tuesday at 9.00 a.m. and Friday 2.45p.m.

- Staff member with responsibility for Collective Worship will:
 - Create the term’s plan for Collective Worship themes, the associated scripture and British Values and Heart Smart materials.
 - Explore and arrange lead people from beyond the school.
 - Ensure Collective Worship addresses Christian festivals and Anglican Church seasons.
- A variety of approaches to prayer will be used. A prayer or time of reflection will be used in every worship session. Children will be encouraged to join in with prayer and times of quiet reflection. The Lord’s Prayer will be said at least weekly. Children and adults are not obliged to pray but they will be supported in respecting other people’s right to pray.
- There will be variety in the forms of communicating the message e.g. art, music, drama, story and activities for children and staff to participate in.
- Praise songs will play a major part of worship. A variety of songs will be used to support engagement and reflection whilst providing children with choruses and songs to sing by heart.
- Contributions from children in Collective Worship will be recorded to support assessment and evaluation of Collective Worship.
- Worship and its organisation will be evaluated for its impact annually through pupil consultation and staff evaluation. It will be reviewed regularly as part of whole school improvement reviews.
- Worship sessions are not confined to the school building and can take place outside.

Links with the Church

The link between St. Matthew’s School and Church is central to our worship. The Vicar regularly comes to worship with and lead the children. The school also goes to the church to worship

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regularly throughout the year. The school celebrates events in the church calendar at the church such as Lent and Pentecost as well as special occasions such as the commissioning of the Year 6 Team Captains and the final Year 6 Eucharist before children move on to the secondary school. The school considers the church to be their church. Classes take responsibility for leading these services with the Vicar.

The Vicar is also available to support at other worship times and encourage the development of collective worship through: supporting RE lessons; running special sessions for the children such as Youth Alpha in Year 6; this can lead to confirmation at the end of year six, and leading a prayer session for parents and other members of the school community. The pastoral support offered to the school by the church is available for all members of the school community (staff, children, governors and parents). Members of the congregation are welcomed by the school to share in Collective Worship at the school.