



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School, Pulborough



A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

This policy was adopted in: April 2024

The policy will next be reviewed in: April 2027



In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do.

We treasure each child and enable them to flourish, using their God-given potential, establishing a secure foundation for them to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We are a 'Christ-centred school, with a child-centred curriculum' where wisdom and love guide and influence learning and teaching for our whole community.

Loving: John: 15 v12

Jesus said: "Love one another as I have loved you".

Learning: Proverbs: 18 v15

"An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge."

Living: 1 Corinthians: 13 v 4-8

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth."

New Revised Standard Version

These principles of loving, learning and living are building a community where the fruits of the spirit (Galatians: 5 v 22-23) are made real (vine leaves).

This is the vision for all members of our community - children, staff, families, volunteers and visitors. Each of us is unique and each of us has a key role to play in making our world a better place to be. Our vision results in all members of our community flourishing within their roles within and beyond school. It guides the way we approach all areas of school development and the way in which we nurture all members of our school family.

Our school values of love and wisdom are rooted in scripture.

RATIONALE

The Trust Deed and School Ethos Statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship at St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School, Pulborough. This policy was prepared by the Governors of St Mary's, the Headteacher and the Incumbent.

The daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this, and in the general ethos of the school, we seek to promote our mission statement as above.

This is underpinned by the book 'Only One You'. "There is only one you in this great big world ... make it a better place."

God you made me; you created me. Psalm 119



It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and meet together to share what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, regardless of gender, ethnic background, physical and mental ability. We celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of our school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, clergy, parents and other visitors are highly valued.

STATUTORY DUTY

All maintained schools provide daily collective worship for registered pupils (apart from those withdrawn by parents). Collective worship will comply with the legal requirements set down in the Trust Deed of the school which is in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England. It can take place at any time.

AIMS

Through collective worship, we aim to:

- provide an experience of whole school worship that will allow children and staff to respond to the presence, love and peace of God and enable the school community to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church's year.
- explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to well-known Christian prayers.
- strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to and reaffirming the Christian values of our school and to enable children to explore their own beliefs and encourage participation and response.
- celebrate the gifts that each child brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- encourage children to reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and to respond to the wonder and mystery of the world around them and develop a sense of identity and responsibility towards each other, the wider community and the local Church.
- foster a concern for others within the school and the wider world, an appreciation of the created world and awareness of our responsibility for it.
- to provide our children with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.

OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES



Collective Worship at St Mary's can be based on our 'Christian Values', which are drawn directly from the teachings of Jesus. Each of these values is used in turn as the theme for Collective Worship:

Autumn 1 – Love

Autumn 2 – Hope, perseverance, courage

Spring 1 – Humility, service, forgiveness,

Spring 2 – Compassion, wisdom, justice, peace,

Summer 1 – Faith, trust, truthfulness,

Summer 2 – Friendship, generosity, thankfulness.

These values are embodied in the new commandment that Jesus gave us:

"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 13: 34-35

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

SHARING OUR VALUES

Our vision is a school where all children experience a diverse range of learning opportunities, facilitated by enthusiastic staff who recognise and encourage the potential in every learner and who ensure that all children develop into confident, responsible and successful members of their community, based on shared Christian values.

We therefore blend the education of Christian teaching and values together in order to provide opportunities for our children to become:

- confident and independent learners who want to 'have a go' at any new challenges that come their way.
- responsible members of the community who want to 'make a difference' to the world around them.
- successful individuals who want to carry on learning.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In order for collective worship to be effectively delivered, careful preparation, organisation and use of time is necessary. The collective worship team is made up of a group of children (worship prefects), the Headteacher, Rector and a Foundation Governor.

A new theme is introduced by the Headteacher at the beginning of the week and is then explored through music, story, drama and poetry. We hold a daily act of collective worship at St Mary's and this forms part of each assembly. We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way, telling children that this is a special time, a period of reflection



as well as a celebration. We expect children to behave in an appropriate way; we ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and to participate fully in the prayers and hymns.

All acts of collective worship begin with music playing to remind children that this is a special time. Candles are lit to remind children that Jesus is with us and we all make the sign of the cross. The worship includes a time for prayer, a reading from the scripture or other appropriate text and a hymn. The children are actively involved throughout the worship either by listening, answering questions, sharing their own ideas and thoughts, joining in with drama, reading, leading the prayers and singing. All acts of collective worship end with a prayer. The candles are then blown out before any certificates are presented or messages given. This allows us to make a clear distinction between worship and assembly. The children then lead out as music is played.

Children are encouraged to reflect on how their experiences and what they learn during collective worship can be applied to their daily lives both in school and outside.

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy Head. The themes for Monday's collective worship reflect our Christian values for that particular half-term, the Church calendar, our school ethos and current events.
Tuesday	Songs for Worship led by the Headteacher and Mr Hancock. Children are reminded that singing is another form of prayer. Songs and hymns are chosen to follow-on from Monday's collective worship, to prepare for forthcoming events and to develop and extend children's repertoire. Songs for Worship either involves the whole school or is divided into Key Stages. When it is divided into Key Stages arrangements are made to enable children in Reception or Year One to be accompanied by their Year Five or Year Six buddies.
Wednesday	Class-based Worship. These give class teachers the opportunity to develop the theme of Monday's collective worship in line with the age and needs of children in their particular class and in a more intimate setting. Children are encouraged to share their reflections in the Class Worship Book. The Parish Priest and Parish Reader also join us for Class Worship and visit a different class each week.
Thursday	Whole school worship and celebration assembly. This is led by the classes and will celebrate the class and individual achievements within these classes.
Friday	Whole school worship.



This is led by the Parish Priest, the Parish Reader, visiting Clergy or members of the school Senior Leadership Team. We may hold worship services in St Mary's Church.

- Happy Book** Each half term we hold a Happy Book Assembly. Children's achievements across a wide range of activities and attitudes are recognised and individual certificates presented. Copies are also kept in the Happy Book.
- The Eucharist** Fr Paul celebrates the Eucharist in school approximately twice each term. Parents, friends, Governors and parishioners are encouraged to join us. Children from across the school are actively involved in this service, acting as altar servers, reading the Gospel, leading prayers or as members of the school choir. An increasing number of children, suitably instructed by Fr Paul, are able to receive their communion.
- St Mary's Church** The school holds a special Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church in July each year. This is in addition to the children playing an active part in the Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, Easter and Christmas services at the Church.
- Visiting clergy** We work with the Baptist Church, the United Reform Church, the Life Church and SPLASH who all enrich worship for the children.

CONTENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

To support and enrich our collective worship we encourage staff who are planning collective worship to use a range of resources and strategies to enable all children to access and play an active part in what we see as an essential part of school life at St Mary's. The 3 I's underpin collective worship at St Mary's with Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring worship

Inclusive – Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning and responding to others and, for some, to God. Collective worship is not 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils at St Mary's will bring their own experience to worship.

Invitational – At St Mary's worship will be invitational. Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There is no 'compulsion' to do anything. Worship provides the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and engage with integrity. Music is used to reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community both within and outside of St Mary's.



Inspiring – the worship children encounter at St Mary’s is inspirational and it inspires people to become courageous advocates of causes. Worship should be formational and transformational: it enables pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do in line with the Big Questions. There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship and we recognise the right to withdraw from Collective Worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option.

We make regular use of the ‘Values for Life’ resource as well as the weekly service sheets from St Mary’s Parish Church.

Why should collective worship take place?

The Church of England states that Collective Worship gives pupils and staff the opportunity to:

Engage in an act of community
Express praise and thanksgiving to God
Be still and reflect
Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
Affirm Christian values and attitudes
Share each other’s joys and challenges
Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

Our collective worship themes are explored through stories, hymns, prayers and responses:

- Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity
- Presentation of Bible stories
- Active participation of children of all ages through mime, drama, reading, sharing opinions and thoughts, writing prayers, selecting readings etc.
- Topical matters from news or the locality
- Age-appropriate literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others
- Visitors who represent organisations and faiths which have a brief acceptable to our Christian values and the Christian ethos of our school.
- Use of music
- Use of DVDs



- Age-appropriate material through the Internet
- Appropriate focal points and artefacts.
- Prayer in different forms – formal, informal, collective, private, silent.

SINGING & MUSIC

Singing is an important part of worship and at St Mary's we use a range of traditional and contemporary music throughout the year. We encourage children throughout the school to join in with the music used in our worship. Many of our traditional hymns come from 'Hymns Old & New' (published by Kevin Mayhew), which also contains many contemporary songs. We also have an extensive range of publications by 'Out of the Ark Music' (by Mark and Helen Johnson). These contain songs for specific festivals and seasons throughout the year, such as Easter and Christmas, as well as more general songs that can be used in the Eucharist and either class or whole school assemblies.

Other resources by contemporary composers such as Matt Redman (10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)) and the Rend Collective (My Lighthouse) are also used.

We are fortunate to have 'live accompaniment' in school in the form of the organist from St Mary's Church, although we can also use backing tracks and CDs if necessary. The organist usually comes in to assist the headteacher with 'Songs for Worship' every week.

SHARING WITH PARENTS

We encourage the parents and friends of our pupils to join us for School Eucharists. These take place at least once a term and are linked to major Christian festivals throughout the year, such as Harvest, All Saints, Christmas, Easter and saints' days.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SEND

All children, regardless of academic ability, age, gender, ethnic origin or faith will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of RE. This will include taking all reasonable steps to ensure that all acts of collective worship are accessible to every child at St. Mary's.

OTHER FAITHS

Although our collective worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith and culture, showing acceptance and understanding regardless of individual children's beliefs.

VISITS AND VISITORS



As part of the curriculum we ensure that appropriate visits are made available to the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and invited to share their experiences and knowledge; their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St. Mary's Church, together with the Rector, is our most valuable and frequently used resource.

RECORD KEEPING, EVALUATION & MONITORING

A book is kept that records the details of each act of collective worship. This is handwritten/typed by the Headteacher. Each teacher also keeps a book recording Class Worship. In Key Stage One these books are maintained by the class teacher. In Key Stage Two children are more actively involved in recording their class worship.

Evaluation strategies used by staff and Governors for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- observation of the children's interest level and attentiveness
- observation of the children's general behaviour in and around school and towards one another
- written observations and checking that practice matches planning
- formal observations with written and/or verbal feedback (pupil voice and staff voice)
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors and other visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- discussions with colleagues

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act that there must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude. Parents have the legal right to withdraw children from collective worship, either partly or wholly, and suitable arrangements will be made to accommodate these children. However, since this is a Church school, Christian worship is central to our life and work and is regarded as an essential part of our children's education. We therefore expect all children to attend and participate in collective worship. A record is kept of children who are withdrawn from collective worship.

CONCLUSION

At St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School we offer pupils opportunities to explore and share beliefs and consider the importance of prayer, quiet reflection and silence. We



encourage them to consider the relevance of ideas, beliefs and Christian values to their own lives, to think about the needs of others and what it means to be part of a Church school.

September Harvest Festival - choose a convenient date – consult the parish European Day of Languages - moveable date - www.ecml.at/edl/	October St Francis' Day (4 October) St Luke's Day (18 October) Interfaith week of prayer for world peace – moveable date National Children's Book Week – moveable date - www.booktrusted.co.uk One World Week www.oneworldweek.org
November Halloween (31 October) – Hold a bright party as an antidote! www.halloweenchoice.org All Saints' Day (1 November) All Souls' Day (2 November) Bonfire Night (5 November) Remembrance Sunday - held on the second Sunday, which is usually the Sunday nearest to 11 November. Children in Need – BBC - moveable date www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/fundraising/index.shtml National Anti-bullying Week – moveable date www.antibullyingweek.co.uk	December Advent - Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to 30 November Christmas Day (25 December) St Stephen's Day (26 December) Christingle – can be held before or after Christmas
Broader themes which may give inspiration for worship	
Patronal saint of parish church Christians today, famous and local Personal heroes including Biblical heroes and heroines Bread of Life, poverty My favourite Bible passage/poem /proverb/psalm The mysterious Names to remember Neighbours Next time I will ... Time An object that interests me is ... Obstacles/Freedom & responsibility One planet, many worlds Opening doors Patterns/The Senses e.g. sounds	Signs & symbols In the news The sound of silence Special journeys/ occasions/books Spend! Spend! What's it worth? The spoken word Stepping stones/stumbling blocks The still small voice Visions/Art/Music I believe.... Celebrating Differences A Bible story - Joseph, Ruth, Paul. Barriers and Bridges The Lord's Prayer Famous Prayers/Hymns/Parables The Church (building and people) We can help



Spring term Planning

January Epiphany (6 January) Week of prayer for Christian unity (18 – 25 January) Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) www.hmd.org.uk	February Candlemas – The presentation of Christ in the Temple. Luke 2:22-38 Maybe a good time for Christingle services if you didn't hold one before Christmas. More about Christingle at www.christingle.org or www.rquest.org.uk  Go to www.unicef.org.uk to find out how you can get the children and parents involved in this annual project. Education Sunday (moveable date) - go to www.natsoc.org.uk St Valentine's Day (14 February) Shrove Tuesday Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent Fairtrade Fortnight – starts late February – go to www.fairtrade.org.uk Chinese New Year – (moveable date) – The year of the ??? go to www.chinese.new-year.co.uk
March St David's Day (1 March) World Book Day – go to www.worldbookday.com St Patrick's Day (17 March) Mothering Sunday - moveable date – the fourth Sunday of lent Comic Relief – RED NOSE DAY – moveable date www.comicrelief.com The prophet Muhammad's Birthday (moveable date) - Muslim Purim (moveable date) - Jewish	April Palm Sunday - in the Christian calendar, the Sunday before Easter, sixth and last Sunday in Lent, and the first day of Holy Week. Holy Week Maundy Thursday Good Friday Easter Day St George's Day (23 April) Passover (Jewish) (moveable date) Ridvan (Baha'i) (21 April – 2 May) Baisakhi or Vaisakhi (14 April) Sikh new year festival

Broader themes which may give inspiration for worship ideas	
New Year/New beginnings/promises	Pride/inner peace/unity
Fresh start/Resolutions	Conversion of St Paul
New life, seasons, spring	Forgiveness
Epiphany -Gifts and gift bringers	Foot washing, serving others
Journeys/age	Last Supper, Eucharist
Dedication, baptism, names	Rejection, loneliness, separation
Candlemas	Easter-The Easter story/customs
Babies, dedication, hope	Joy, hope, love is....
Hands that bless/harm	New life, new beginnings
Lent & Holy Week	Triumph, evil, suffering, pain,
Judging others	Friendship
Special days – Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday	Repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, new life
Fasting, abstinences, self control, giving-up	Saying sorry
Listening ears, eyes to see	Loss/Prejudice/loneliness/bullying
Temptation, penitence, saying sorry	Growth



Summer Term Planning

May Christian Aid Week (moveable date) www.christianaid.org.uk Ascension Day - 40 days after Easter Pentecost – Whitsuntide – 50 days after Easter www.refuel.org.uk Trinity Sunday – the first Sunday after Pentecost Wesak (moveable date) – Buddhist	June Institution of Holy Communion (CE) or Corpus Christi (RC) (60 days after Easter) Dragon Boat Festival, - Chinese www.dragonboatfestival.co.uk Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Sikh Midsummer Solstice (21 June) Pagan
July Sports New classes Journey of life Prayer Saying 'Thank you' Leavers' Services Confirmations Offering baptism to new starters. Or other suggestions from 'Themes for acts of worship'	
Broader themes which may give inspiration for worship	
Community – school, parish, world Establishing boundaries, Home/families Symbolism, imagery Saying goodbye Fruits of the Spirit/Gifts of spirit Baptism, confirmation Birthday gifts Customs Fire/Wind/water The end of the year – moving on Pilgrimage Saying thank you Explorers, discoveries Trust, promises, worry, bravery Surprises and disappointments	Confidence, assurance, be prepared New class, new school Jesus as the Way, the Truth & the Life ("I Am" sayings) Memories, learning Journey of life The Unknown / Awe and wonder Talents & achievements Prayer/Communication My story/Past & future A person who has influenced me is ... The person I admire most is... Making decisions Stories of Jesus/stories by Jesus Why are we here?

St Mary's worship questions that will help us to frame responses in our self-evaluations and could be used throughout the school year as a school improvement tool.

Questions for pupils

- What do you do when you have worship?
- Do you enjoy the things you do in worship - is there anything you particularly enjoy?
- What is special about worship time – tell me about one act of worship that has meant a lot to you.
- Why do you think you have acts of worship every day?
- Do you think that worship helps you to be a better person – can you think of an example of this?
- Which special occasions do you celebrate in worship?
- Tell me about some times when you have been able to plan/take part in an act of worship?
- Do you have time just to be quiet and think for yourself during worship?



- Are there other times in the day when you can do this?
- Are there places in school where you can go just to be quiet and have a think on your own or pray?
- Do you get the opportunity to say prayers during worship and at other times of the day – what do think about during the prayers?
- Why do you think it is important to pray?
- Do you write your own prayers at all?
- Is there anywhere in school where people can put their prayers to be shared with others e.g. a prayer box/tree/board? Is it used by a lot of people?
- Do all the teachers join in worship with you?
- Children of non-Christian faiths – Do you think that your religion is mentioned and respected?
- Do you know what the Eucharist/Holy Communion service is? Do you ever attend a service like this or have one in school?
- Are any children prepared for Confirmation in school?
- How important is the Eucharist for Christians and for your school?
- Do you ever have school worship in the church building?

What do you know about Jesus Christ?

- What is your favourite story in the Bible? / Why?
- How does worship at school make you feel?
- How does worship in a church make you feel?

Questions for adults

- Do the co-ordinators for worship discuss with governors their role and the outcome of any monitoring and evaluations?
 - What is your pattern of worship for the week and who leads the worship?
 - What experiences of worship do children have across the week?
- How is this organised? Who is involved in planning and leading it?
- Is there anything offered which challenges and especially develops the pupils in their personal religious life and spiritual development?
- Are visitors involved in leading worship?
 - How do you ensure that you achieve a broad and balanced range of themes in worship – including Christian values?
 - How do you ensure that the setting and ambience for worship are appropriate?
 - How do you evaluate the quality and impact of the worship?
 - What are the children's attitudes to worship?
 - What is the quality of resources and training for worship?
 - What important events in the life of the school marked by an act of Christian worship?
 - What opportunities do pupils get to be involved with the planning and delivery of worship?
 - Are the children introduced to a variety of songs, prayers, stories and other material?
 - What aspects of the Anglican tradition are used in worship?
 - How is the church used/involved in worship?
 - What opportunities are afforded both during worship and at other time for quiet reflection/prayer?
 - How do the children respond to this?
 - Do all staff attend worship?
 - If there is a school Eucharist, to what extent is it appropriate to the needs of the children?
 - Is there coherence between worship in school and worship in

