

# **St Mary & St Pancras School**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

**Policy Reviewed by : SLT  
Policy Approved by Governors: March 2018  
Review due: March 2019**

### **Statement of intent**

**As a church school what and how we teach, what and how our pupils learn within and beyond the classroom are and must be rooted in Christian values:**

**Friendship, Respect, Endurance, Thankfulness and Forgiveness.**

**These values are fundamental in the implementation of this policy to ensure that we maintain our distinctive Christian character of which we are proud.**

Acts of Collective Worship and Assemblies are deemed one and the same thing in our school. Since worship is an integral part of our assemblies we sometimes make reference to Assemblies.

#### **1 Aims and purpose**

- Collective Worship makes a major contribution to the spiritual and moral development of pupils, which is the prime goal of education. It is believed by other faith groups to be of benefit even though its emphasis is mainly Christian.
- Collective Worship is of educational value to children and young people within school. It provides a means of developing an appreciation that goes beyond the material world, fostering a concern for others and providing a forum for exploring shared values.
- It is important that children and young people become familiar with the language and silence common to many forms of public worship. Some are likely to attend, at the very least, at some point in their lives, a funeral, a wedding or a baptism.
- Collective Worship provides a shared experience. It offers children, young people and adults an opportunity to draw closer to God through Jesus Christ, and in doing so builds community in and beyond the school.
- Acts of Collective Worship also provide the opportunity for children to gain an awareness of worship practices of faiths other than their own.
- Collective Worship offers opportunities for co-operation and the fostering of strong relationships between the school and the local community it serves.

Local clergy are a resource and are invited to play a part in Collective Worship in school.

- Collective Worship contributes towards schools' statutory obligation to provide opportunities for children's spiritual and moral development. It helps to equip young people to understand more about themselves, foster a sense of the aesthetic and to cope with life-changing moments.
- Collective Worship provide experience of meditation, reflection and prayer as spiritual resources.

## **2 Collective Worship**

**2.1** We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to our triune, God. The divine relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit is where we find our inspiration for our school motto: TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More. Collective Worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an act of worship. We invite everyone to take part in the assembly.

**2.2** St Mary & St Pancras is a Voluntary Aided Church of England primary school. All of our acts of Collective Worship are of a Christian nature, although children of other faiths or of no faith are respected and included in all prayer.

## **3 Organisation of Collective Worship**

**3.1** We hold an act of Collective Worship every day. They can be either a whole-school assembly or separate foundation, KS1 and KS2 assemblies or a class assembly.

**3.2** The school has close links with St Mary's church on Eversholt Street and St Pancras Church, Euston Road, where the Clergy are very involved with the life of the school. The priests from St Mary and St Pancras churches offer pastoral support and lead weekly services in St Mary's Church. We celebrate the Church's calendar by holding special services for significant festivals within an Anglican framework. The clergy of the parishes are very happy to prepare children for baptism and confirmation outside school hours once the consent of parents/guardians has been obtained.

**3.3** We conduct Collective Worship in a respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, expect children to behave in an appropriate way and invite them to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, a candle, signs and symbols to focus the attention of the children. To ensure the correct delivery of Collective Worship we have devised a checklist – see Appendix A.

Acts of Collective Worship should always include a period of quiet reflection, prayer, singing and entry/exit music. See Appendix A.

The themes of our Collective Worship are broadly taken from the traditions of the Christian faith, and sometimes are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. Assemblies are planned well in advance of the day they take place.

Assembly themes:

- Celebration of achievement and reflection
- Individual class to whole school – show and tell
- Clergy/Governors – delivered by clergy/governor linked with our school
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural themes
- Singing

**3.7** Our acts of Collective Worship reflect the achievements and learning of the children. Class assemblies encourage children to participate by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed and learnt about in their classes. There is an annual rota to ensure all classes are able to share their good work. Celebration assemblies provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. St Mary and St Pancras is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children through our assemblies.

**3.8** Parents are welcome to attend all acts of Collective Worship. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, and shows the school and home working together in support of the children's achievements.

#### **4 Right of withdrawal**

**4.1** We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. **However as our parents have chosen to place their child in a church school we hope that no one will exercise this right.**

**4.2** The headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from Collective Worship.

#### **5 Monitoring and review**

**5.1** Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of the Headteacher and the ex-officio foundation governors from St Mary's and St Pancras churches. The governors concerned liaise with the headteacher every term and report to the governing body. Other contributors to the monitoring process include: pupil feedback. LDBS advisors and the SIAMS report.

## Checklist for Collective Worship

This also applies to class assemblies – modify as appropriate.

- Make sure you are well prepared – don't make it appear you are reading the information/story for the first time.
- Ensure there is music to come into and insist that everyone enters silently and the music is being appreciated.
- Use visual aids and artefacts when introducing concepts/ issues etc that the children may have difficulty imagining or may not have experienced.
- Reflection: this is the most part of assembly as it signifies the start of the worship element
  - Light the candle and draw children's attention to it. Turn out lights for effect.
  - Tell them what you want them to reflect upon – draw out the key theme, moral, etc.
  - Pause for effect periodically throughout this period
  - Finish by watching the candle for 15 – 20 seconds in complete silence
  - Complete the reflection by requesting

**“Now let's get ready to pray”.**

**This affords the individual the opportunity to put their hands together or simply to bow their head in an act of respect – bearing in mind the range of religions represented in the school.** Say a prayer or get a child to say or read a prayer

- the Lord's prayer may also be said if you wish
  - whole school sing a song (try to make it relevant to the theme of the assembly)
  - Blow out the candle
- Dismiss the children to music or singing