



St. Matthew's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed. It contributes to our Mission Statement and the aims and ethos of the school and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

Our Mission Statement:

We aim to provide a positive learning experience in a safe and respectful environment. We strive to teach an inspiring and inclusive curriculum that promotes a love of learning. As a Christian school, we endeavour to develop the spiritual and moral values of all members of the St. Matthew's family, and a meaningful, loving relationship with God. We want our children to be cheerful and independent individuals who reach their potential and are proud of their achievements. We hope to develop confident, caring citizens who are well prepared to enjoy happy and rewarding lives.

Our motto: Live, Love, Learn

The school will deliver this by:

- Creating a safe and happy atmosphere for all.
- Developing a partnership between parents, staff and children.
- Fostering strong links between home, school and parish.
- Placing Christian values at the heart of our ethos and teaching.
- Inspiring a love of learning and educating the child for life.
- Presenting the National Curriculum in a lively and interesting way.
- Helping children to learn that courtesy, good manners and consideration for others are important values, and encouraging an appreciation of beautiful things.
- Opening up the opportunity to study the Christian faith in a meaningful way.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To contribute to the Mission Statement and aims of the school
- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to join in worship together
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- To develop links with the local church and to introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils

Organisation and Delivery

Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. We use a variety of approaches with an emphasis on reflection and an opportunity for teaching, prayer, praise and worship through singing. We introduce the children to key beliefs and aspects of Christian faith and help them to explore them. These include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, although sinful, destined for eternal life
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God
- The Christian Bible Values of forgiveness, thankfulness, compassion, hope, trust and endurance
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer

- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the Church year

A member of the Christ Church team (our church) leads worship every week, alternating between Key Stage 1 and 2. The whole school is invited to worship in Church three times a year for special 'St. Matthew's services'. These are timed to coincide with the major festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Children participate in Collective Worship every day. Worship can be led by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Vicar, Curate, Key Stage leaders and class teachers. Pupils are also involved in preparing and leading worship through class-led worship and through the 'Big Lunch Club'.

A worshipful atmosphere is created by the children entering and leaving the hall quietly with appropriate music playing. Slideshows and religious symbols on the worship table are used to help the children focus on the worship. Children are not regularly withdrawn for other work during assembly. The 'Prayer Drill' is used to prepare children for prayer during worship. Parents, Governors and friends are invited to join the school in worship each Friday at 8.45am. At this assembly, the good work and behaviour of the children is celebrated. Values wristbands are also presented during this assembly and reported in the weekly newsletter (the 'You've Been Spotted' initiative). Parents are also invited to attend class-led worship, Harvest Festivals, Christmas and Easter Services.

The Blackburn Diocese 'Year of the Bible' resources are used to ensure that key themes from the whole Bible are covered over a two-year cycle. These are tied in with the school's Christian Bible Values of Compassion, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Hope, Trust and Endurance wherever possible.

Monitoring and evaluation is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team. The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of this policy. Collective Worship is part of the annual review of the School Development Plan and as such has a budget for resources as needed.

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan Policy.

Julian Rogers
Headteacher

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