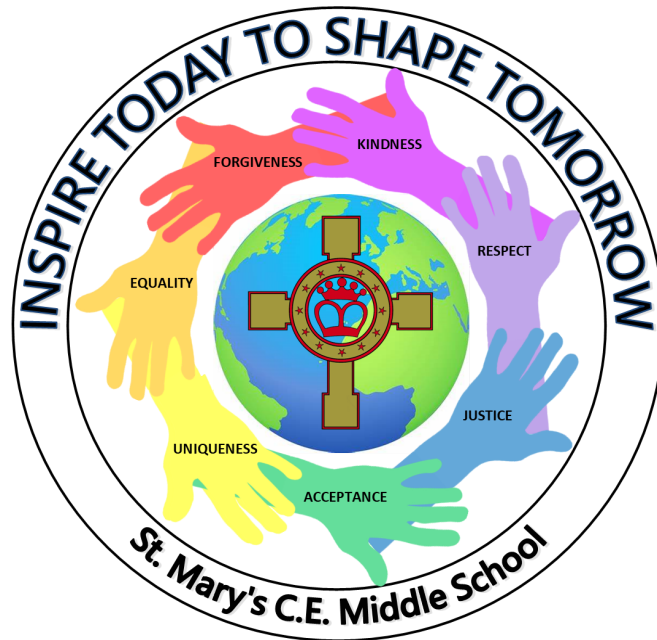


St Mary's CE Middle School

Collective Worship Policy



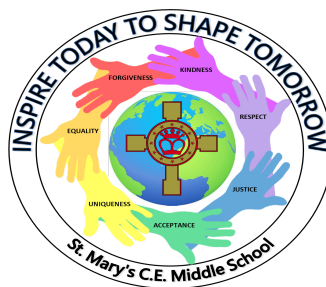
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1. Our Core Values

At St Mary's, our Christian vision and core values shape all we do.

'Inspire today to shape tomorrow'



2. Policy Statement

Collective Worship is central to the life of our school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision and values. It is well planned and of high quality, so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Our collective worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian calendar.

3. At St Mary's Middle School, Collective Worship aims:

- To have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils- whether they are of Christian faith, any faith or no faith - by inviting them to gather, engage and respond to a Christian message.
- To be an integral part of the whole Christian ethos of the school – being the central vehicle by which the school's vision and values are unpacked and explored.
- To deliver a balanced, varied and interesting programme made up of key Christian beliefs and celebrating key events in the Christian calendar.
- To strengthen our school community and sense of belonging by galvanising everyone to make the most of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in order for us to be the best we can be.

- To provide children with opportunities to take part in Christian practices, for example prayer (including forming their own prayers and becoming familiar with well-known Christian ones), reflection and worship.
- To offer opportunities for all staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship.
- To offer opportunities for all pupils to lead worship, with the support of their form teacher.

4. Collective Worship Content

Our worship will follow a Church of England worship pattern:

Gather: As the children gather ready for worship there will be music playing that may link to the weekly theme. This will allow everyone to settle down comfortably and take a moment of stillness in order to focus their mind on worship and potentially meet with God.

Welcome: Once settled, a candle will be lit (by a pupil) and then everyone who wishes to participate will join in with the response: The peace of the Lord be with you *And also with you*.

Engage: During this part of worship, the participants will be introduced to the theme of our worship session in different ways; it might be through asking questions, showing video clips, reading Bible verses/stories, drama, music, artwork, telling stories and sharing experiences.

Respond: The participants will then be given a chance to reflect and respond to what they have seen and heard. It might involve quiet contemplation, reflection, self-analysis, being challenged, answering questions, sharing their own beliefs, singing, asking further questions and praying. Included within this response will often be a link to our vision and values.

Sending: People will now be invited to encourage one another by sharing the Grace. (The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore, Amen.) The candle is then extinguished.

5. Daily Worship Organisation:

Monday: Chaplain/SLT led worship

Tuesday: Collective worship led by a member of staff

Wednesday: Class based worship, using either Picture News resources or material written by the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Trust

Thursday: Form led or subject led worship

Friday: Chaplain/ SLT led worship

Once a month: communion service in school hall

The Year 6 and 7 Reflection Day takes place in the spring term.

The Year 8 Leavers Service takes place at the end of the summer term.

On special occasions, such as Christmas and Easter, worship will take place at the village church.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

- governors will be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to Collective Worship and take account of the policy and guidelines of Salisbury Diocese
- in our church school, governors will take account of the legal requirements and guidelines issued by Salisbury Diocese
- governors will be familiar with all documentation regarding Collective Worship
- governors will be aware of the requirement under Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) for the inspection of Collective Worship

The Headteacher

- The Head Teacher is aware of their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship and the policy and guidelines of Salisbury Diocese
- The Head Teacher will ensure that governors and staff are well informed and receive training in order to implement Salisbury Diocesan policy on Collective Worship
- The Head Teacher has designated the responsibility for coordinating Collective Worship to the Collective Worship lead, Julia Goy.

The Clergy team

- Clergy from churches in our local area will actively support the school and be involved in the planning and delivering of collective worship both in the school building (or virtually) and the church itself.
- They will include the school in their publications.

The Collective Worship leader

The Collective Worship lead will work with members of staff, the clergy team and pupils to plan worship. Duties will include the following:

- assisting the governors and Headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship
- support the Head Teacher and governors on matters of review and development

- communicating with members of the school community regarding the significance and content of collective acts of worship
- developing and maintaining effective procedures for planning, recording, monitoring, evaluating and reviewing collective acts of worship
- being responsive to the needs and views of members of the school community, those of the Christian faith and those of other/no faith
- Liaising with local church representatives

Pupils

- Once a year, as part of their form, pupils will actively share in the preparation and leading of collective worship.
- There will be some pupils who will take a more active role as part of the school Worship Team.

7. Staff development and training

We ensure that our Collective Worship lead and headteacher receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development. This will involve attending relevant courses provided by Salisbury Diocese.

8. Monitoring

This policy will be monitored by the collective worship lead, visiting clergy, governors and staff over the next school year. The collective worship lead will then review the policy in 2023. Any alterations will be discussed with the governors.

9. Legal Status

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

10. Rights of Withdrawal

As a church school, we hope that all children will participate in Collective Worship, but we recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children. Parents who have concerns about our Collective Worship are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. In voluntary aided schools, staff do not have the right of withdrawal from any act of worship, whatever their own religious stance.