



We are a 'light in the darkness', living life to the full, worshipping and working so that everyone may flourish and achieve their God-given potential.



Collective Worship Policy

Date Agreed	November 2024
Review Date	November 2025
Type of Policy	School based policy



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Introduction

At St John's Meads CE Primary School, collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and values.

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

We are a 'Light in the darkness'; living life to the full, worshipping and working so that everyone may flourish and achieve their God-given potential.

Our values are: **L**ove (for God and each other)

Independence

Generosity

Honesty

Teamwork

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England and our parish and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play within our school community.

Aims

Our collective worship is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational¹ and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- around Biblical texts and Christian teaching
- to deepen understanding of our Christian values
- with a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling each one of us to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to deepen our understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday

¹ *Collective worship in a church school should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths. It should not presuppose shared beliefs.*



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- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

The Daily Act of Collective Worship at our school

Collective worship is driven by our school's vision. We are a 'Light in the darkness'; living life to the full, worshipping and working so that everyone may flourish and achieve their God-given potential. Worship is carefully planned so that learning experiences of real quality take place.

We follow the statement of entitlement and expectation of Collective Worship in Church of England schools, 'Inclusive Invitational Inspiring' published in May 2021.

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, God. In our school, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all.

Invitational: 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.

Inspiring: Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It may motivate pupils and adults into action or into thinking differently.

Worship is at the centre of our school's daily life. There is a daily act of worship provided for all pupils at the start of the school day, held as a whole school or in either groups or classes.

Our pattern of whole school worship is:

- Monday – Singing Worship
- Tuesday – Led by Headteacher/ Staff/External speakers
- Wednesday – Open the Book / Church leaders
- Thursday – Led by Headteacher/ Staff/External speakers
- Friday – Celebration Worship

There is a cycle of themes for each term that takes into account Christian values, practices, major festivals and events.

Pupils play an active part in worship through writing and reading prayers, and there are a wide variety of opportunities for pupils to lead, support and participate in worship, including celebrating a range of educational achievements, setting up the hall, operating the computer, singing, reading, responding, quietly contemplating and praying.

Pupils regularly reflect on the content of collective worship and the themes; reflections are recorded in Learning Portfolios and on the Collective Worship Display.

For class-led worships, the whole class will often be involved in all aspects. Pupil worship leaders are integral to the delivery of class worship as well as supporting whole-school worship and



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collecting feedback. Worship takes place through a variety of media - song, story, drama, music, poetry, prayer, and is regularly led by classes or groups of children. Everyone is encouraged to attend Worship and special events, as they are an important aspect of our school.

Music and 'singing the faith' is a central part of our worship life; children, staff and visitors join in with communal singing as part of collective worship.

Community Involvement in Worship

Open The Book team (comprising members of the congregation from St John's Church) are involved in and enrich our worship on a regular basis.

Planning of worship

Our annual plan of worship is adapted to create links with Church foci, the school's priorities and what is happening in the wider world as appropriate. Each term has an overall theme with smaller weekly themes within it. Our collective worship planning is available on our website (see Appendix I for an example).

Collective Worship Co-ordinators

Collective worship is coordinated by our Headteacher and Kim Leach, our local churches children and families leader. The Lead for Collective Worship has a responsibility to:-

- Lead the development and review of the Collective Worship policy
- Gather evidence of the impact of Collective Worship on the wider community
- Liaise with the School and Clergy to organise special events and visitors
- Compile the annual program for Collective Worship to include main Christian festivals and recognise the special days of other faiths.

The collective worship co-ordinators are responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship, supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading worship. The collective worship co-ordinators are responsible for liaising with member of St John's Church and other local churches.

Class Worship Areas

Each classroom has a Christian worship area, which is added to regularly as part of classroom learning and reflection. They are a place where the children can come and ponder, ask questions, reflect and pray. Worship areas are accessible and inclusive to all.



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The areas have our school vision and values prominently displayed and a cross as its focal point. They include age-appropriate Bibles and prayer books as well as a worship cloth, candle and other helpful resources and artefacts to engage the children in thought and prayer.

The worship areas usually follow the same theme as collective worship to enable the children to deepen their understanding and thoughts behind each Christian message.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We regularly evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, the RE Leader, staff, pupils and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice.

Formal monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by the Ethos Committee. This may include attendance at collective worship, meeting with the Collective Worship coordinator or RE leader and conducting pupil voice. Pupils are involved in evaluating collective worship through their reflections and pupil voice. The impact of our collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

As with all school experiences, access to collective worship for pupils with SEND is well-considered (refer to SEND policy), alongside individual levels of understanding, and developmental and learning needs. Where appropriate, adaptations are made to enable full or partial participation. This may include resources such as ear defenders, visual or auditory aids (subtitles on videos), adult support or selected attendance.

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. St. John's Meads school is a Church of England Primary School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of the school. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Headteacher.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other policies:

- SMSC Policy
- SEND Policy

Appendix I – Collective worship Termly plan



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2024 - 2025 Collective Worship					
Term 5 : Overall Theme - THE PARABLES OF JESUS					
Dates	Weekly Theme & Info	Awareness Days / Christian Festivals	School Vision & Values	Leaner Skills and Behaviour	Jigsaw
Week 1 21 - 25 Apr	The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27) Value: WISDOM. Jesus likens the wise man, who listens to his teaching and puts it into practice, to a house that is built on solid rock. When the storm comes the house stands firm. The man who builds on sand, however, will see his house collapse when the storm arrives. In the same way a person whose life is built on insecure, flimsy foundations will struggle to withstand the challenges and temptations that will come.	22: Earth Day 23: St. George's Day	We are a 'Light in the darkness', living life to the full, worshipping and working so that everyone may flourish and achieve their God-given potential. Love Independence Generosity Honesty Teamwork	Enthusiasm	RELATIONSHIPS 1. Know how to make friends. 2. Try to solve friendship problems when they occur. 3. Help others to feel part of the group. 4. Show respect in how to treat others. 5. Know how to help ourselves and others when they are upset or hurt. 6. Know and show what makes a good relationship.
Week 2 28 Apr - 2 May	The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) Value: COMMUNITY. Jews, in the time of Jesus, would not associate with Samaritans in any way because they were considered to be outside their own exclusive religious community. It was a Samaritan though who cared for the injured man even though he was someone from a different community to the injured man, but this did not stop him being a good neighbour. Jesus wants us to love and care for everyone regardless of who they are.			Responsibility	
Week 3 5 - 9 May	The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32) Value: DIGNITY. The tiny mustard seed grows into a large tree where birds can nest. Farmers generally don't welcome birds though because they eat the carefully planted seeds. Jesus is saying that great things in the Kingdom of God can come from small beginnings but also that the Kingdom of God is a place, a home where people can live in safety and with dignity, especially those who have been made to feel unwelcome or excluded by others.	Deaf Awareness Week 8: VE Day		Attitude	
Week 4 12 - 16 May	The Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4-6) Value: JOY. The Parable of the Lost Sheep is often called the Parable of the Good Shepherd because just as the shepherd cares for every one of his sheep, so Christians believe that Father God, like the shepherd, cares for every one of his children. When Jesus heard the Pharisees criticising him for welcoming and eating with 'sinners', he told this parable to show how much people who have lost their way in life matter to God. The joy of Jesus is to bring home those who are far away.	Y6 SATS Week • Christian Aid Week • Mental Health Awareness Week 15: Int. Day of Families		Perseverance	
Week 5 19 - 23 May	The Loving Father and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24) Value: HOPE. The word prodigal means wasteful or extravagant. All through the time his son was away from home the father never lost hope and when he returns he is welcomed home with extravagant love and forgiveness and celebration. God, like this Father loves us and wants only the best for us. When we make the wrong choices or behave badly, it makes him sad, but when we turn away from bad things, it fills him with joy and hope.	22: National Numeracy Day		Collaboration	

2024 - 2025 Collective Worship					
Term 6 : Overall Theme - THE MIRACLES OF JESUS					
Dates	Weekly Theme & Info	Awareness Days / Christian Festivals	School Vision & Values	Leaner Skills and Behaviour	Jigsaw
Week 1 2 - 6 Jun	Jesus and the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11) Value: DIGNITY. At the wedding in Cana, Jesus showed that he cares about the dignity of ordinary people by saving the hosts from embarrassment and humiliation when the wine ran out. This is not only the 1st miracle that Jesus performed, but it also has a special symbolic significance. The guests exclaim, "You have saved the best wine until now". The best is Jesus. He is the new wine, come to bring the abundance of God's love and grace to the world.	1-7: Volunteer Week 5: World Environment Day 8: Pentecost	We are a 'Light in the darkness', living life to the full, worshipping and working so that everyone may flourish and achieve their God-given potential. Love Independence Generosity Honesty Teamwork	Enthusiasm	CHANGING ME 1. Understand that everyone is unique and special. 2. Express feelings when change happens. 3. Understand and respect changes in ourselves. 4. Understand and respect changes in others. 5. Know who to ask for help if worried about change. 6. Looking forward to change.
Week 2 9 - 13 Jun	Jesus meets a Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:5-10,13) Value: WISDOM. This is a clash of cultures, religions and politics: the Centurion - a gentle, worshipper of many Gods and leader in an all-powerful dictatorship. Jesus - a Jew, worshipper of one God and a carpenter in a weak nation state. Yet both have this in common - the wisdom to respect one another. Out of their joint compassion for the servant and the faith of the centurion a miracle happens.	15: Father's Day		Responsibility	
Week 3 16 - 20 Jun	Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41) Value: PEACE. Christians believe that Jesus has the power and authority over all of life. In this story his disciples shouted out to him when they were scared, and he brought peace. Jesus wants us to know that, when we face tough and challenging times and it seems like God is asleep and doesn't care we too can call out to him for help and he will give us peace.	Learning Disability Week 18: Nat. Writing Day (rbc) 20: World Refugee Day		Attitude	
Week 4 23 - 27 Jun	Jesus heals a paralysed man (Luke 5:17-26) Value: HOPE. The man in this story had the most amazing friends. They never gave up hope that they could help him walk again. So, when they hear that Jesus is in town, they go to extraordinary lengths to get their friend to him. Jesus not only heals him physically but also heals his hearts and makes him whole again. Christians believe that Jesus still has the power to transform lives today, giving people hope and making them whole.			Perseverance	
Week 5 30 Jun - 4 Jul	Jesus feeds 5000 people (John 6:1-13) Value: COMMUNITY. Jesus notices and cares about all the everyday needs of people. In this story, he took the lunch of a small boy and multiplied it thousands of times. In the same way, Christians believe that Jesus takes what we offer, our talents, our time, or our gifts and multiplies them to make a difference in our communities.	Plastic Free July 6: Eid al-Adha (Islam)		Collaboration	
Week 6 7 - 11 Jul	Jesus walks on water (Matthew 14:22-33) Value: HOPE. In this dramatic story, Peter learns how hope can be kept alive, and also how hope can quickly fade. As he kept focus on Jesus, Peter's faith enabled him to overcome all the odds and walk on water. When he lost that focus, fear took over and he went under. Jesus reached out and saved him. Christians worship Jesus as a source of all hope and believe that it is by looking to Jesus that they can grow to become more like Him.			Focus	
Week 7 14 - 18 Jul (+21/22 Jul)	Jesus heals 10 men with Leprosy (Luke 17:11-19) Value: JOY. Jesus performed miracles of healing out of deep compassion for people that he met and in order that they, and others would experience joy and give thanks and glory to God. In this story, Jesus heals 10 men from the infectious and disfiguring disease of leprosy that forced them to live as outcasts. Only 1 of the men (a Samaritan) who was so filled with joy at what Jesus had done for him, came back to say thank you.			Enthusiasm	