



Collective Worship Policy

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Type of Policy:	Statutory Policy

Revision Number	Date Issued	Prepared by	Approved	Comments
I	September 2022	RE TEAM	Ethos Committee	

<i>Type of Policy</i>	<i>Tick ✓</i>
DCAT Statutory Policy	
DCAT Non-statutory Policy	✓
DCAT Model Optional Policy	
Academy Policy	
Local Authority Policy	

The March CE Primary School

Our school vision:

“With God help we will live kindly, love each other, learn and laugh together”

Our Bible Verse: Let all that you do be done in love 1 Corinthians 16:18

Our School Christian Values: Love Faith Forgiveness Peace and Compassion

Our adopted Parable: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Our Church of England School provides opportunities for each pupil to receive an excellent broad and balanced education. The school aspires for each child to acquire high standards in all curriculum areas, giving a sound foundation for their future education, independence and economic and spiritual well-being.

The School is proud of its structured, secure and creative environment where children are encouraged and equipped to flourish and experience the sense of enjoyment of learning.

As an inclusive and deeply Christian Church of England Academy, The March teaches the principles of Christianity, respect for other faiths and beliefs. The school works closely with parents to be a positive influence to ensure that each child grows into a responsible, healthy citizen who will contribute to the wider community.

PURPOSE

This policy statement is to ensure that all children are provided with a meaningful daily act of worship, which is in accordance with legal requirements and the school ethos. This policy outlines how Collective Worship (CW) helps all members of our school community and beyond to flourish and develop spiritually.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Collective Worship is central to us as a Church of England school and reflects our core aims and vision. It permeates all aspects of school life. Worship is deeply Christian and rooted in Christian theology, fostering a sense of community and expressing our school's Christian vision. We aim for our pupils to leave us with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity. It is a time for teaching and learning about God's Word and learning to live in God's world, as Jesus Christ lived and taught, for adults and children. We aim to provide inclusive, invitational and inspiring opportunities for adults and children's spiritual development and reflections. Following the statement of entitlement and expectation of Collective Worship in Church of England schools, 'Inclusive, Invitation, Inspiring' published in May 2021 Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, God.

Invitational: Worship should provide 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.

In particular, Collective Worship should:

- Provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God.
- A time set aside for communication between God and us.
- Give pupils experience of Christian acts of worship in an inclusive and welcoming context.
- A 'gathering together' for everyone. Foster a sense of community and be accessible to all.
- Celebrate the life and work of the school, enabling pupils to develop feelings such as awe, wonder, reverence and respect (developing spiritually).
- Explore the school's vision, reflecting on moral values
- Provide opportunities to explore key Christian values, including our core school and British Values.
- Be a time when all can encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and develop an understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Create an experience which encourages spiritual development, where pupils have an opportunity to consider theological and moral issues, and explore their own and others' beliefs.
- To help the understanding of repentance and forgiveness.
- To celebrate God in all people (linking with British, cultural and moral values).
- Provide a breathing space in the busy whirl of school activity where there is a time to celebrate and reflect.
- Be inspiring, enjoyable and fun, providing pupils with a positive view of Christianity and the Church.
- Be distinguishable from everyday activities of the school.
- Be an opportunity to respect and celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of all pupils, staff and stakeholders.
- Be appropriate to pupils' needs and interests, and encourage their participation and response (through meaningful exploration, response and with opportunities for pupils to plan, lead and evaluate).

ORGANISATION

1. There should be a daily act of worship provided for all pupils, held in either class groups, key stage groups, or as a whole school, providing an opportunity for pupils to take part in worship.
2. Collective Worship should include a talk/ presentation, an opportunity to engage with and respond to the weekly theme, a hymn/ song, a prayer and, for the majority of occasions, the lighting of a candle.
3. Acts of worship should be carefully planned so that learning experiences of real quality take place. They should be adapted to take account of the differing ages, abilities and backgrounds of the children.
4. Acts of worship will complement and enhance the work carried out in R.E. but must not attempt to replace it.
5.
 - a) The setting for the act of worship should be made as attractive and stimulating as possible. Often it helps to provide a visual focus (e.g. PowerPoint presentation, props, puppets etc).
 - b) A range of music will be played as children enter and leave, to enrich the act of worship and to ensure the children feel happy, calm and secure.
 - c) Staff and pupils should enter and leave acts of worship in silence. Music will be played on entry and exit at a suitable volume.

6. Over the course of the academic year, children will experience a variety of different presentations, enabling all to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways (e.g. using music, art, silence, story, prayer, reflection, and traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and the Eucharist).
7. Music is a central part of our Worship life; all children, staff and visitors will be expected to join in with communal singing as part of Collective Worship.
8. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of ways, including celebrating a range of educational achievements, setting up the hall, operating the computer, singing, reading, responding, quietly contemplating and praying. Often children will be given the opportunity to lead aspects of our worship. For teacher-led worships, the whole class will often be involved in all aspects.
9. All staff are expected to attend acts of worship (unless directed by the Headteacher otherwise) and to actively participate.
10. Acts of worship will be held in the Hall, outdoors, at the parish church and in classrooms.
11. Parents, Governors and visitors are encouraged to attend special assemblies and Church Services, as well as special occasion assemblies where appropriate.
12. The Collective Worship (CW) Leader(s) will provide the staff and visitors with a timetable and themes with clear plans and suggested resources for worship which will reflect the Liturgical Year, the Church of England Vision for Education, the school's core values, and as appropriate, and British Values. This aims to reduce teacher workload and ensure high quality coverage throughout the year.
13. The termly Christian theme are shared with families at the start of each term, along with resources for children to share with families on the school website
14. The worship structure is: Welcome, learning, reflecting and at the end there will be a chance to respond to the message/theme of the worship. This can be through sending children out of worship with an object for their class worship table/a thought/a piece of music to listen to... Often this thought is how the worship may have impacted upon them.

Pattern of Weekly Worship

Collective Worship Weekly Schedule

It is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will mainly take place within school. Acts of worship will usually last for 15 minutes approximately, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate

Monday – Worship led by Reverend Rachel or the Open the book team

Tuesday – Worship led by school staff

Wednesday – Choral Worship

Thursday – Class led worship and /or picture news

Friday – Head teacher led worship and celebration worship

School Eucharist

School Eucharist happens on a termly basis in the large hall for the whole school.

Class acts of worship - Brief guidelines

On days where there are no whole school gatherings, acts of worship should be held in the classrooms.

- These “acts of worship” should be distinct from normal classroom activities. They should last for up to 15 minutes. Just a prayer is not sufficient.
- There should be a focus – e.g. candles, pictures, incense, artefact, music, vase of flowers, jug of water, poem or a display on cloth, with natural objects such as shells, leaves, twigs or man-made objects based on a theme (e.g. - Easter, painted eggs, crosses, hot cross buns.) Class could gather together on the carpet or in a circle for a values worship.
- There should be a dedicated time for stillness and reflection.
- If children do not actively participate they must not spoil it for others.
- Try to move away from story, hymn, and prayer sandwich in acts of worship.

Other contexts

We also make the most of opportunities to take part in acts of worship in our Parish Church to mark special occasions or Worship events with other Academies (e.g. Leavers’ Service in the Cathedral and Parish church)

PLANNING

Long term planning, monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship is undertaken by the Collective Worship Leader(s), Head Teacher, Class Worship Leaders and Parish Clergy. As an expression of our school vision, termly worship planning involves imaginative approaches to share the teachings of Jesus, giving time to reflect on the personal impact of such teaching as well as stillness and prayers. It considers:

- Relevance to children and the age range concerned.
- Our chosen Christian values through Bible stories, Bible verses and stories of Christians. It also follows the pattern of the Christian events throughout the year. E.G. Saints Days, Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Easter & Pentecost.
- Fostering positive relationships within our school community and wider community.
- Over the course of the year themes will reflect a good balance of: British Values, SMSC, Old Testament, New Testament.
- Children supporting in worship enhances their sense of engagement and provides a greater sense of ownership. They grow as leaders in planning and delivering imaginative worships.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING

- We gather the views of children and staff to inform future planning:
- The governors are invited in to attend collective worship and to feedback to the Head.
- Informal feedback is sought, between staff.
- Formal review of policy with the Head of School, clergy and RE leader.
- Feedback through the evaluation floor book

PRAYER

We hope to help each other listen to God speaking to us and to respond in our hearts and minds during moments of silence which are built into our daily acts of worship.

Prayer areas are set up in the school and, occasionally, outdoor areas for prayer week.

Prayer should always be child friendly and relevant to their own experience.

Prayer is always invitational. Prayer should reflect a balance of:

- Praise to God
- Petition relevant to topical events and/or pertinent to the school community traditional/liturgical prayer (e.g. Lord's Prayer)
- Prayers with responses
- Prayers written by the children

Community links

From time to time groups of children will extend their service to the wider community e.g. visits to sing carols at the nursing homes, fortnightly visits to Dovecote to spend time with residents

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS / EAL

In planning for and organising Collective Worship, teachers take an adaptive approach to ensure equality of opportunity for all children, including those with SEN or EAL.

It is important that all children feel included in acts of worship, and are free to participate as far as they feel comfortable. We encourage all children to respect our Christian ethos, and the beliefs of one another, and we celebrate the diversity our children bring to our school community.

STAFF TRAINING

This is provided in the form of informal observations of worships for new joiners, with them leading a teacher-led worship from mid-year. Staff are able to meet clergy, the CW lead and the Head Teachers to discuss worship provision when

needed. Clergy provide training to staff as part of the yearly staff training cycle based on needs identified.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

As a Church of England school, we see Collective Worship as a crucial element of coming together as a community, and it is our aim that all the children in our care will participate in the acts of worship we provide. However, we do appreciate that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and we respect that right. We would always ask parents with a concern in this area to discuss the matter with the Head teacher.

Monitoring Collective Worship

Occasionally, acts of Collective Worship themselves should be monitored to ensure legal requirements are met and the school's policy is being implemented. This includes all forms of groupings. On-going evaluations from children across the school will be added to an evaluation book.