



St. Martin's CE Primary & Nursery School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

INTENT

At St. Martin's CE Primary & Nursery School, we are a Church school and we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children.

The Education Act of 1993 has kept the provision of the earlier 1988 Act stating that "The educational curriculum should promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils and of society" and requires all schools to provide a daily act of collective worship, to be broadly Christian, and for this to be so it should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief.

Collective worship should reflect something special or separate from ordinary school activities and it should be concerned with reverence paid to God. School worship is different in character to worship amongst groups with beliefs in common, hence the use of the word "collective" rather than "corporate".

Ideally, the act of worship should encompass all aspects of school life and all areas of the curriculum so that all who take part may feel involved. It both reflects and nurtures the ethos of the school. It develops a feeling of belonging to a community, which is essential for personal development and physical growth.

Furthermore, through Collective Worship, we aim to give opportunity to develop the Spirituality of both children and adults where they can grow their awareness of their relationships with themselves, others around them, the world in which they live and God/ transcendence.

Through our daily act of collective worship, we aim to:

'Being the best we can be for ourselves, each other and God's world'

- Provide an opportunity for thought, prayer, reflection and celebration in a caring atmosphere; through this children learn about and are nurtured in the Christian faith;
- Create a sense of school identity and of belonging to a school community which shares common experiences;
- Encompass all aspects of school life, all curriculum areas and reflect the school's ethos;
- Show children that we are members of a wider community, both local and global;
- Encourage a care and concern for others in society and the natural world;
- Help children think about a wide variety of ideas and dimensions of life, including the spiritual, ritual, wonderful, joyful, tragic, sorrowful, solemn and humorous.

IMPLEMENTATION

As St. Martin's CE Primary & Nursery School is a Voluntary Aided school, the arrangements for a daily act of worship are the responsibility of the Governors in consultation with the headteacher.

The rights of parents to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship is an integral part of the Education Act (1988). Any parent who wishes to exercise this right may do so in consultation with the headteacher. Staff employed by the school may also withdraw from acts of collective worship.

Approaches

In acts of worship, we will ensure that:

- The purpose of the act of worship is clear to all present.
- Themes are developed effectively on a weekly basis.
- Artefacts, visual aids or other foci of interest are used where appropriate.
- Opportunities are given for prayer, song, reflection and quiet.
- The occasion produces an atmosphere conducive to worship.
- Children are actively involved as much as possible.
- Subject matter is appropriate to the age and experience of children.
- Visitors, governors and parents are welcome to attend on a variety of occasions.
- We will work to build and maintain links with the Church in Cranbrook.
- Children and adults take away something to think about and take into their daily life within school and the community.

Guidelines

Whilst recognising that there are varied beliefs within the St Martin's community, the governing body endorses the following comments from ***"Open the Door": Guidelines for Worship and the Inspection of***

Worship in Voluntary and Grant Maintained Church Schools, National Society/Oxford Diocesan Education Service.

- (a) **Belief in God as Creator.** God is the fount, the maker and sustainer of all that is. Therefore, the universe is intrinsically good. Therefore, in school worship should encourage a sense of awe and wonder and foster a respect for the world and its peoples.
- (b) **Belief in Jesus.** Christians believe that Jesus was both human and divine; he encompasses both divinity and humanity. His life, especially his birth, death, and resurrection, lie at the heart of a Christian understanding of the strength and power of God's love. Jesus is the ultimate and complete revelation of God's love for creation. Jesus is the only Saviour.

This may be approached through the major Christian festivals of Christmas, when worship will focus on Jesus' incarnation and birth; and Easter when the focus is on his death and resurrection. The liturgical cycle of the Christian year provides opportunities for reflecting on the deep significance of Jesus' life and the life of the Church. Stories from the gospels will provide opportunities for insight into Christian spiritual and moral teaching.

- (c) **Belief in the Holy Spirit.** The third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, sustains and energises the lives of individual Christians and the corporate life of the church. The power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians is proof of the outpouring of God's love for creation and lies at the heart of the Christian experiences of renewal, reconciliation, trust and forgiveness.

In worship this may be approached through stories of individual people and organisations who have acknowledged the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. These may be figures on the world stage or people who live within the locality of the school. The commitment of the Church to the poor and oppressed of the world is regarded as an activity of the Holy Spirit, a powerful celebration of its sense of mission.

- (d) **The Trinity.** God as three Persons is a distinctive belief of Christianity as set out in the historic creeds. There is one God, but three Persons.

Christians often end prayers with a statement of Trinitarian belief and any school wishing to emphasise the distinctiveness of the Christian religion needs to represent this in its worship. This could, however, compromise the integrity of pupils, especially Jewish and Muslim pupils, and great care should be taken to approach the situation with sensitivity.

The doctrine of the Trinity is not easy for schools to explore in terms of worship, but the use of Trinitarian prayers (including those from the Celtic tradition) can help pupils towards an understanding of its importance. One way to encourage reflection on the Trinity is through an exploration of the

school itself as a community, in terms of the relationships both within and outside the school.

- (e) **The Bible.** The Bible has unique authority as God's Word for Christians and its use is central in Christian worship and life.

Using the wealth of biblical material, there are two methods of approach which may run concurrently. One is to use the drama and story contained in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, for reflection and deeper understanding of issues relevant to human concerns. The other is to develop an awareness of how Christians use the Bible for study, for personal insight and for public reading and reflection. The Anglican Church, in common with other Churches, follows a liturgical calendar in which specific passages are read at particular times of the year.

Planning and Implementation

The organisation of collective worship may vary from time to time, but its current basic pattern is shown below:

Monday	Whole school worship led by the Minister for Cranbrook, the Headteacher or visitor to school and Pupils in the Summer Term
Tuesday	Class assembly led by class teacher continuing theme provided by HT
Wednesday	Sung Worship
Thursday	Picture News Assembly (provided by Head to all classes)
Friday	Celebration Assembly and Reflection on how we have been the best we can Be for ourselves, others and God's World.
Forest	During Forest school, the forest school lead provides an opportunity for reflection in the outdoors.

*ICE Assemblies happen throughout the term on agreed dates. One these weeks, Sung worship will be on a Monday and the ICE team will be in on a Thursday meaning that Picture news will happen on a Wednesday that week.

The Collective Worship plan is closely aligned to the RE curriculum supported by the Understanding Christianity materials.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of this policy is the joint responsibility of the headteacher and governors who will monitor and evaluate the success of acts of collective worship through:

- Discussions with staff and children as to the relevance and impact of acts of worship;
- Observation of and participation in acts of worship to assess children's involvement and response and appropriateness of content and presentation;
- Identification of any relevant training needs amongst staff;
- Regular monitoring and development of resources;
- Checking that appropriate opportunities to raise multicultural, equal opportunities and gender issues are created and taken;
- Ensuring that the legal requirements for collective worship are being met.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or in the light of changes to legal requirements.

IMPACT

Children and adults have a respectful awareness of each other and understand that Collective Worship is an opportunity to join together to support and strengthen the community.

Children and adults have an appreciation of how Collective Worship supports the development of their Spirituality, gaining greater awareness of themselves and the relationships that they have with others, the world and God/ Transcendence.

Children will understand how the Bible provides an insight into God's work and can reflect thoughtfully on the meaning of Bible stories.

Children and adults will understand the importance of the main Christian celebrations and have an awareness of the three aspects of the Trinity.

Children and adults have an appreciation that they individually are special and unique to God.

POLICY REVIEW

Policy Review Term:	Two years
Lead member of staff responsible for review:	Headteacher
Lead Governor responsible for review:	Lead Governor for Data & Curriculum
Date policy adopted:	June 2012
Dates policy reviewed:	January 2014 January 2016 26 th February 2018, January 2020 8 th February 2022 10 th March 2024
Dates policy amended between reviews:	17 th January 2017 – to amend Minister for Cranbrook references