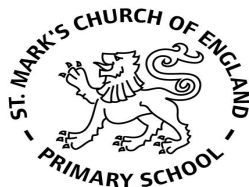


Collective Worship Policy



'Thy Word is a Lamp to my Feet
and a Light to my Path'
Psalm 119 v 105

"Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day"



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

St Marks CE Primary School **Policy for Collective Worship**

Governors and staff are committed to delivering the very best for our children. Our Vision is fundamental to our role as a Church of England School with its roots coming from the original blessing and verse presented to our school on its official opening in 1955.

***Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light
to my path.***

Psalm 119 Vs 105

The following five components describe the desired outcomes we offer through it.

- *Together, we will prepare you for life and learning*
- *Together, we will teach you to live within the values of God's word*
- *Together, we will safely lead you on your journey*
- *Together, we will guide you to a fulfilling future*
- *Together, we will forever help you to grow in confidence*

At St. Mark's, Christian Vision and associated Christian Values are central to our ethos and to our teaching. The aims and purpose of our Collective Worship are:

Aims and purpose:

Collective worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community.

Children's confidence grows as they participate in acts of worship together

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.

Children are prepared for life-long learning

- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness.

Children are guided towards a fulfilling future of spiritual growth

- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.

Children begin to live within what the values taught by Jesus.

- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.

Children are aware that their life journey involves the well-being and safety of others.

- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

Collective Worship

We understand Collective Worship to be a special act or occasion, whose purpose is to worship and show reverence to God. Collective Worship involves all members of the school community coming together and participating in praise, reflection and prayer. We invite everyone to take part in Collective Worship.

St Mark's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England primary school. We base our Collective Worship on the teachings of the Bible, God's Word, which is a central part of our Vision. Also, the traditions of the Church of England. We also incorporate our whole school Christian Values into our daily reflections and worship. We conduct all worship sessions in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community. Children of other faiths or of no faith are respected and included in all prayer.

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship provides a means of developing an appreciation that goes beyond the material world, fostering a concern for others and providing a forum for exploring shared values. We hold whole school Collective Worship every day. Once a week there is class led Collective Worship.

Collective Worship offers opportunities for co-operation and the fostering of strong relationships between the school and the local/wider community. The school has close links with St Mark's Church in Tollington Way. The clergy are a valued resource and are very involved with the life of the school. The clergy leads weekly Collective Worship. We go to church 6 times during the year to celebrate significant festivals within the Anglican tradition; Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ascension Day and to have a Leavers' Celebration at the end of the year.

We conduct Collective Worship in a spiritual and reflective way. Children know that Collective Worship includes a time for calm reflection. We regard it as a special time, expect children to behave in an appropriate way and invite them to participate in prayer and worship. We create a reflective atmosphere by using music, a candle and other visuals to focus the attention of the children. All teachers have the opportunity to lead Collective Worship each half term.

We plan the themes for our Collective Worship from the Anglican Liturgical calendar and our 14 core Christian values, alongside guidance from the LDBS planning cycle. The core Christian values are Trust,

Justice, Forgiveness, Friendship, Hope, Humility, Koinonia, Peace, Reverence, Service, Thankfulness, Wisdom, Compassion, Creation and Endurance. It is through an understanding of these values that we are able to express and live out our Vision.

Collective Worship is planned by the Collective Worship Subject Leader with support from the Clergy. Children are encouraged and guided to be Collective Worship Leaders, both at school and in church.

Collective Worship Themes:

- Worship singing led by Collective Worship Leader/ Music Teacher – including learning of new songs. Biblical text for the week is introduced and discussed in the context of aspects of the School Vision.
- Exploration of Christian Values relevant to the children's lives at school and beyond. These are approached in an inspiring and engaging way. Children are guided by Clergy and Collective Worship Leader to lead acts of worship in a creative and inspiring way.
- Celebration of achievement (weekly) and a special End of Term Awards.

Children are recognized and rewarded for their contributions towards the Christian Value focus for the week.

- Class led to the whole school once a term, to share work they have been doing across the curriculum as a celebration of their learning sometimes including RE.
- Bible-based and focusing on the liturgical calendar, led by members of the clergy.

Our Collective Worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. It inspires and supports the children in their spiritual development. Through bible verses, children understand the part the word of God through the bible plays in their development and learning. They understand the word of God can guide them in their lives.

Class led Collective Worship encourages children to participate by showing their work to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed and learnt about in their classes. There is a termly rota to ensure all classes are able to share their good work. Weekly Celebrations provide an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, including for their attendance. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos and Vision of the school – that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised.

Within Collective Worship we recognise the importance of local and more global issues concerning the environment. The importance of

encouraging stewardship through responsibility towards God's world is considered very important. Environmental topics are discussed within this context regularly throughout the year and whenever there are particular events that raise awareness. Children are encouraged to reflect on important social issues such as 'Black Lives Matter'.

Parents are welcome to attend all Church Services, class led Collective Worship and End of Term award celebrations. We encourage their attendance, as this promotes community spirit, the values of the school and home working together in support of the children's spiritual development.

Preparation for Collective Worship

To enhance the experience for all children we;

- Make sure we are well prepared regarding stories, Collective Worship plans, Visuals, passages from scripture.
- Ensure there is music to come into and encourage everyone to enter silently and reverently.
- Use visual aids and objects in a sensitive way so that the children can engage in a thoughtful and reflective way.
- Involve the children as much as possible with engaging activities/games/puzzles/reading scriptures and prayers.

Leading Collective Worship

- Begin with the Bidding Prayer - 'May the Lord be with you'
Children respond 'And also with you'.
- Main Collective Worship theme
- Time for reflection and prayer

Prayer - may be 'The Lord's Prayer'

- Sharing of the 'peace' - 'Peace be with you'
Children respond 'And also with you'.
- Say 'The Grace' together

Right of withdrawal

We would like all children and staff to attend Collective Worship.

However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during Collective Worship.

Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

Monitoring and review

Collective Worship is now evaluated at points throughout the year through observation and a children's voice. Aspects of development are included in the Whole School Improvement Plan. Junior Leadership Team meet termly with the Subject Leader and a member of the Clergy for evaluation of Collective Worship.

Monitoring the policy and practice of Collective Worship is the role of the Head Teacher, the LDBS appointed governor and the foundation governors from St. Mark's Church.

Reviewed and ratified by Governing body	Spring Term 2021		
Next Revision (Please highlight as appropriate)	Annual	Biennial	Tri-annual
To be reviewed	Spring Term 2023		