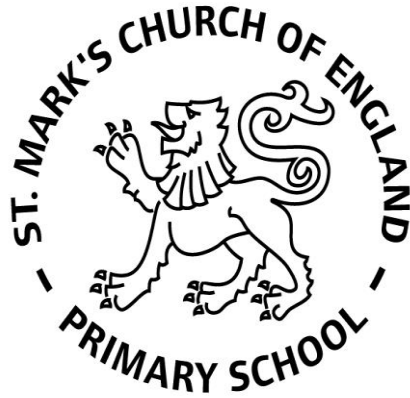
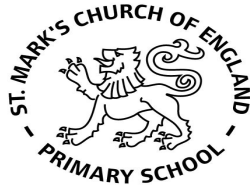


Collective Worship Policy



'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*

Collective Worship at St Mark's:

At St. Marks, our vision is inspired by the words of Psalm 119: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." This beautiful verse guides us in everything we do and helps us shape our promise to each child who joins our school community. We offer our children a unique and enriching experience through five key promises that radiate from our vision:

1. Together, We Will Prepare You for Life and Learning – We equip each child with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive both now and in the future. Our broad and rich curriculum is designed to spark curiosity and build a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

2. Together, We Will Teach You to Live Within the Values of God's Word – Our Christian values are at the heart of our school. We guide our children to live with kindness, respect, and integrity, helping them understand and embody the teachings of God's word in their daily lives.

3. Together, We Will Lead You Safely on Your Journey – We ensure a safe and supportive environment where every child feels secure and valued. Our caring staff are here to lead and support each child as they navigate their learning journey with confidence.

4. Together, We Will Guide You to a Fulfilling Journey – We aim to make every child's time at St. Marks fulfilling and rewarding. Through diverse experiences and opportunities, we help children discover their passions and reach their full potential.

5. Together, We Will Help You Grow in Confidence – Our goal is to nurture each child's self-esteem and confidence. By celebrating achievements and encouraging a growth mindset, we empower children to believe in themselves and their abilities.

With our diverse and inclusive community, we are committed to making these promises a reality for every child at St. Marks. We believe that by living out our vision, we can provide a guiding light that helps each child shine brightly and reach their full potential. Welcome to St. Marks, where our vision guides everything we do to help every child grow, learn, and succeed.

1. Introduction

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and will be offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.¹

¹ The Church of England Education Office, *Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a whole school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values of Creation, Hope, Thankfulness, Friendship, Endurance, Justice, Trust, Koinonia, and Wisdom

These values guide our community and shape the spiritual development of every student. These principles reflect the legacy Jesus left for us: the call to create and nurture, to hold onto hope, to express gratitude, to build lasting friendships, to persevere, to seek justice, to place our trust in God, to foster community (koinonia), and to seek wisdom in all things.

These values are integral to the spiritual nourishment of our school and enable us to grow in faith and character. Our vision is anchored in the scripture, “Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Just as God’s word illuminates our way, these values serve as a guiding light, helping us navigate life with purpose and integrity in a Church of England (CofE) school.

2. Aims of Collective Worship

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To reflect the parish tradition of worship, while giving experience over time for pupils to experience the breadth of Anglicanism.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Explore the school’s Christian vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues.
- Enable pupils the opportunity to make a positive contribution to worship through involvement with aspects of the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

3. Legal requirements

Collective worship:

- Should be conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and Instrument of Government and be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Unless the right of withdrawal has been exercised all pupils must take part each day in an act of collective worship (DfE circular 1/94 para. 51) and the Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage in a distinctively Christian act of worship.
- Arrangements for collective worship in foundation schools of a religious character (i.e. church schools) are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consultation with the headteacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52&53).

4. Planning of worship

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, the incumbent of our linked church/es and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader and governors.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our Christian ethos. It makes an important contribution to the spiritual flourishing of the whole school community. We are committed to providing a daily act of Christian worship which is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school or key stage. Our school plans systematically, using both long term and short term plans

which enables continuity and cohesion. We use the following resources to support our worship <https://ldbs.co.uk/policies-and-templates>

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and our planning incorporates a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include: **music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT.**

When planning acts of worship, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- Inclusive – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- Invitational – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will 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 to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so.
- Inspiring – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

5. Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows

We gather for worship at 10:00–10:20am, Monday to Thursday, and again on Friday afternoons from 2:20–2:30pm. During these times, we draw on readings from the Church of England lectionary and follow the rhythms of the liturgical year, marking important festivals and seasons together.

Our worship consists of 4 parts:

- Gather – we welcome the community, for example, *(with music, liturgy and/or the lighting of a candle)*
- Engage – we share, for example, *(a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)*
- Respond – pupils, for example, *(discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)*
- Send – we share, for example, *(the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with a final prayer, music, liturgy and/or the blowing out of our special candle)*

6. Collective worship leader

The leader for collective worship is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship and supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading aspects of worship. The leader also monitors the quality of worship and evaluates its impact across the school community.

7. Visitors leading worship

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies <https://www.st-marks.islington.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Safeguarding-Policy-Autumn-2025-26.pdf>

This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders (Head of School) to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its context and our school's vision. Please refer to LDBS guidance for visitors leading worship.

8. CPD and training

Parents, pupils and adults in school are entitled to be led in Christian worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a church school context. Therefore, all those leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular diocesan led training.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on pupils and adults within the school community.

This involves monitoring by school leaders, the collective worship leader and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including pupils, parents, external agencies, other diocesan schools. We often ask for feedback on worship and some are included on our testimonial page. This feedback plays an essential part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

Foundation governors and the worship leader observe and evaluate worship once every term and report back to the whole governing body.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

10. Parents and Carers

As a school we recognise that a partnership with parents/carers is essential to help pupils flourish. Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity.

We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw pupils from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

11. Evaluation / Review

This policy is reviewed regularly by the collective worship leader in consultation with the Headteacher and ratified every **three years** by the Governing Body.

Reviewed and ratified by Governing body	Autumn 2025		
Next Revision (Please highlight as appropriate)	Annual	Biennial	Tri-annual
To be reviewed	Autumn 2028		