



# Collective Worship Policy

## DOCUMENT STATUS

Version	Date	Action	Review Date
Version 1	July 2019		July 2022



**St Margaret's Anfield CE Primary School**  
**Collective Worship Policy**

**Vision Statement**

As a Church of England School our Christian vision is central to all we do. Our vision is:

**Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you."**  
**Therefore, by faith and work, we will be the change we want to see.**

This motivates us to look to Jesus as our guiding light. He inspires us to live out our Christian values and to strive for excellence in all that we do; **celebrating life in all its fullness**. Our core values of **truth, fairness, justice and joy** underpin our approach to Collective Worship.

**Aims of Collective Worship at SMA:**

- To stimulate the spiritual development of pupils
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- To deepen their understanding about our school values; truth, fairness, justice and joy
- To worship in an open, honest atmosphere that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith by learning about the significance of Jesus and the Bible
- To explore ideas and ask questions about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- To challenge injustice through developing courageous advocacy
- To enable worship to impact all areas of the curriculum
- To experience a range of worship styles
- To observe the traditions of the Anglican Church including the major seasons, festivals and Saint's days
- To encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day
- To introduce the children to multi-cultural Christianity
- To encourage sharing, achievement, joys and challenges within a Christian school community
- To provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and a sharing of emotions such as love, joy, friendship, hope, forgiveness etc.
- To provide everyone with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of reflection, prayer, quiet, stillness and contemplation which might include praise, forgiveness, spontaneous prayer or Heart Prayer
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate our shared Christian vision, values and ethos
- To encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people, the environment and our local, national and global community



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act:

- There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils
- The character of the worship must be in accordance with the original foundation and trust deed
- Collective Worship should make a significant contribution to the ethos of the school and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils
- Responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Head Teacher after consultation with the Governing Body
- Acts of worship should be Christian in character, reflecting the traditions of Christian belief, and have regard for the age, aptitude and family background of pupils recognising the vulnerability of children
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship (This request should be made in writing to the Headteacher)
- Schools must make adequate provision for pupils who are withdrawn
- Collective worship is not 'curriculum time', and does not constitute religious education, but it ought to enhance it

At St. Margaret's Anfield CE Primary School, Collective Worship is based on the belief that our school has a Church of England foundation and that we will promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

It also makes a unique contribution to the vision, aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian education we provide. Our Mission Statement, taken from Luke Chapter 1, states "With God, all things are possible". The whole school community are fully aware of this statement and aim to build their lives upon it. Worship permeates everything we do, as Jesus Christ is central to our faith.

Parents are made aware that SMA is a Church of England school and as such, Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Anglican tradition. The Christian ethos and foundation of the school are made aware to staff through adverts for jobs and on their appointment.



## Jesus said, "Love one another, as I have loved you"

John, Chapter 15.

### SMA Ingredients for Effective Worship:

- The Bible as a source for inspiration & learning
- Reading passages from the Bible and re-telling stories
- Christian symbols, including candles
- Visual focus for prayer & reflection
- Observation of the religious cycle of the Christian Year e.g. Advent, Christmas, Easter, Ascension
- Observation of Saint's Days & Holy Days
- Recognition of other key Christian festivals e.g. Pentecost
- Participation in Eucharist (currently in initial planning stage)
- Opportunity for prayer, reflection and stillness e.g. Contemplation & silence through Heart Prayer and 'Calm Me' sessions
- Lord's Prayer & Grace
- Christian responses & greetings
- Stories
- Music for worship, from a variety of traditions
- Singing Hymns (traditional) & Songs
- Poetry, art, DVDs, PowerPoint presentations, Drama & role play
- Topical issues
- Outside visitors
- Picture News

### Evaluation

Evaluation is an integral part of the process to improve the quality of worship. Worship can be evaluated by those leading worship, other staff, pupils for whom the worship is intended and the Governing Body.

### Monitoring

The Ethos Team, Foundation Governors and Distinctiveness Committee have a key role in this. The following areas should be monitored regularly:

- The centrality of worship in the life of the school
- Clear policy agreed by Governors
- Agreed policy is implemented
- All staff are aware of the legal requirements for church schools
- Worship takes place daily
- Appointed staff are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school
- Themes are well balanced throughout the year
- Links are made with the local parish & community
- Resources are available to support worship

Reporting back to Governors is carried out at least once a year.



## **ORGANISATION**

We have an agreed programme for the format of daily Collective Worship.

### **Monday: 9:15 to 9.30am**

Whole school Collective Worship led by Father Peter.

### **Tuesday: 9:15 to 9:30am**

Class based worship led by class teacher, class pupils or Ethos Team.

### **Wednesday: Juniors: 9:15 to 9:30am**

Departmental worship led by staff member, visiting speaker, Ethos Team or whole class.

### **Wednesday: Infants: 9:15 to 9:30am**

Class based worship led by class teacher, class pupils or Ethos Team.

### **Thursday: Juniors: 9:15 to 9:30am**

Class based worship led by class teacher, class pupils or Ethos Team.

### **Thursday: Infants: 2:45 to 3:00pm**

Departmental worship led by staff member, visiting speaker, Ethos Team or whole class.

### **Friday: 9:15 to 9:45 am**

Whole school Celebration and Worship, led by Head teacher and Ethos Team.

Worship is continued during the day when all children say 'Grace' at the beginning of lunchtime in their classrooms. All classes join in in prayer at the end of the school day before going home. This is usually spontaneous prayer, where children give thanks for something that they have noticed or are grateful for.

## **Delivery**

We have a whole school Collective Worship Plan, delivered by Father Peter, the Head teacher, staff, Ethos Team and class pupils. Please see 'The Church Year' document for full details. An Altar Table with a Bible, candle and often a visual aid relating to the theme, is set up at the front of the hall. The colour of the cloth on the table relates to the season of the Church's year: e.g:

Green – ordinary time

Red – festivals – Christmas, Easter

Purple – special times – advent, lent.

## **Music**

Music is used at the beginning and end of each Act of Worship in order to help create the appropriate atmosphere for the Service. Singing is an important part of worship and a variety of songs are used to enhance the worship.

Hymns/songs are sung at some point during every act of Collective Worship.



### **Main Teaching/Worship Theme**

The person leading the worship will usually tell a story, or illustrate the main idea of the theme. Children often take part in the worship answering questions, performing parts assigned to them or leading prayers. Visual aids are often used to enhance the meaning of the story or idea, or as a focus for the children's attention. Effective use is made of the projector in our halls, enabling film clips and Power Points to be used by the Ethos Team, staff and children.

### **Reflection and Prayer**

There will be some time given in each type of worship for the children to reflect quietly on what has been presented, to pray and to make a personal response.

### **HARVEST SERVICE**

We hold a special Harvest Service in Church each October, which is led by the pupils of Year 3, and to which parents are invited.

### **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

Y6 lead us in a service of Remembrance at Church each November. Parents are invited to join with us on this special occasion.

### **NATIVITY PLAYS**

This is an important act of worship which is organised by both the Infant and Junior children, and their teachers in December each year. Parents are warmly invited to join us at Church for these memorable services.

Nursery and Reception children also perform their Nativities, based at school, to which parents are very welcome to join with us.

### **EASTER SERVICE**

This is organised by the staff and children in Year 4, accompanied by whole school singing. Parents are invited to attend and it is held at Church.

### **ASCENSION SERVICE**

Y5 lead us in a service about the Ascension. Parents are invited to join us in Church for this important service.

### **END of YEAR SERVICE**

Each year, the children from Year 6 attend the 'Leavers' Service' at Liverpool Cathedral for all those children who are leaving Church of England Primary Schools in the Liverpool Diocese.

We also hold our own special Leavers' Service in Church each year in June, also led by Y6.

### **Y6 GRADUATION SERVICE**

We are very proud of our special Graduation Service, held in school each July to which parents are warmly invited to attend.

### **EXPERIENCE EVENTS**

All year groups from Y1 to Y6 attend different 'Experience Events' held at SMA



Church over the course of the year.

### **WELCOME BACK SERVICE**

A welcome back service to school is planned for September each year.

### **Governors**

The Governors have given their approval to this policy document in consultation with the Headteacher.

### **Review and Development**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher in order to ensure that:-

- It complies with statutory requirements and any new legislation
- Any necessary actions are included in the School Improvement Plan

A full revision of the Policy will take place every three years and will be subsequently ratified by the Governing Body.

**Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you."  
John, Chapter 15.**