



St Mary's Collective Worship Policy

Ratified: Summer 2021 Next Review: Summer 2023

Aims

- Give expression to the common values which are consistent with God's values, as revealed in Jesus Christ
- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- Encourage an awareness of the global Christian community
- Encourage an awareness of other faiths and beliefs through the teachings of Jesus
- Give children an opportunity to acquire a secure knowledge of the Christian Faith as revealed in the Bible and to grow in prayer
- Enable people (children and adults) from across the whole range of Christian spirituality and commitment a chance to reflect and engage
- Enable children to recognise and appreciate the school's Christian Values: **caring, respect, faith, wisdom, equality, forgiveness, and truth.**
- Enable children to engage with the Eucharist in creative and innovative ways.
- Enable children to take a considerable lead in the development of worship within the school.

Organisation

- Dates and themes are highlighted on a termly basis and then shared with staff.
- One of our seven Christian Values is celebrated each week through assembly
- The church clergy lead our Monday assemblies and thus introduce the weekly theme which is then followed up.
- Parents and Carers are invited in to take part in our collective worship every Monday and Friday
- Through the pursuit of an inclusive approach we want parents and children to understand that worship is an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected.
- The worship of God is at the heart of school life and there is a normal expectation that pupils participate in the worship. However, the right to withdraw pupils from worship is available under Section 25 of the Education Act 1944.
- Members of the school community are encouraged to use the prayer boxes in classrooms and in the hall.
- Members of the school community are encouraged to write in the Book of Reflection after each assembly.

People & Worship

- The Head teacher oversees the school worship programme, which is planned in collaboration with the Parish of Walthamstow as directed or delegated by the worship leader and parish priest.
- It is expected that the Senior Leadership Team will regularly lead worship in school.
- It is expected that all teaching staff will be involved in leading worship.
- Many local church leaders, lay Christians and other visitors play an active and important role in sharing the leadership of our worship.
- Visiting speakers will be given guidelines regarding assembly procedures.

Patterns of Worship

- School worship takes place at the start of each day and is organised in accordance with the current agreed schedule:
Monday- Church clergy led assembly
Tuesday – Singing assembly
Wednesday – SLT led assembly
Thursday – Staff led Values assembly
Friday - Celebration assembly
- At the end of a term, and at Festivals as agreed, it is usual practice to hold an act of worship in the parish church. These events are:
Harvest, Christmas, Candlemas, Easter, Pentecost and End of Year Celebration.
- The content should reflect the range of ages and abilities present and reflect the theme
- Where school notices are required, they take place at an appropriate time in the assembly.
- A parent prayer group is offered on a monthly basis.
- In addition to assemblies, pupils and staff also say a prayer before lunch and a going home prayer at the end of the day.

In the Curriculum

- Worship lies at the heart of our school life.
- Our worship involves the children in a wide range of aesthetic, ethical, linguistic, social, physical and spiritual activities.
- This school recognises that planning worship, as with all curriculum preparation, needs to take account of how pupils learn and think.
- The quality of communal life at our school and the richness of personal relationships within it are both enhanced by worship and given a deeper meaning by it.

Worship Issues

- We encourage the children to be aware of and sensitive to the spiritual dimension of life and how Christians understand God as central to that.
- In all our acts of worship we actively foster a prayerful atmosphere, one of reverence.
- Collective worship will be Christian in focus and content, although examples or illustrations from other faiths may be appropriate.
- Collective worship will always have an awareness of the diversity of our school community, including the presence of those who hold no faith commitment but remain sympathetic to the Christian ethos of the school.

Monitoring

- A record is to be kept each week of all assembly activities.
- This evidence, along with any external monitoring conducted by the Diocesan RE Adviser and Section 48 inspections, enables the school to remain well informed about the effectiveness of its policy and practice in this area. Reviews of the materials leads to any changes required.