

ST. MARK'S C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY

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ST. MARK'S
C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

'Inspiring minds, achieving excellence, nurturing faith'

Collective Worship Policy

2017

Our Vision

Inspiring minds, achieving excellence, nurturing faith

We are a small and caring, family orientated Church of England Academy serving our local community.

Our vision for our children is to inspire them through our values based ethos, encouraging a life-long love of learning and a determination to excel and grow into compassionate, resilient and responsible adults of the future.

Our Mission

As a Church of England Academy, Christian values are central to the life of our school, where we worship together, serve together and grow together. We build relationships based on honesty, respect and trust. Our learning environment provides a happy, calm and purposeful atmosphere with a culture of high expectations for all. We educate and nurture the whole child through an exciting and creative curriculum which develops children's knowledge, skills and experience across a broad subject range encouraging all to excel.

Reviewed by Faith Group: January 2017

Approved by Local Governing Body: January 2017

Next Review: Spring 2018



St Mark's Church of England Primary School
Inspiring minds, achieving excellence, nurturing faith

Collective Worship Policy

School Context

We are a one form entry Church of England Academy in South Norwood. The majority of children attending the school are practising Christians. We value our close links and partnership with parents, Governors, St Mark's Church, the Southwark Diocese and the local community.

Statement

We are a small and caring, family orientated Church of England Academy serving our local community. As a Church of England Academy, Christian values are central to the life of our school, where we worship together, serve together and grow together. We build relationships based on honesty, respect and trust. We educate and nurture the whole child through an exciting and creative curriculum which develops children's knowledge, skills and experience across a broad subject range encouraging all to excel. We aim to develop a concern for others, self awareness and a sense of spirituality by ensuring that opportunities exist for the children's social, moral, cultural and spiritual development within a Christian framework.

Legal Requirements

The daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement in all schools. In a Church of England School it should always be Christian worship and it should reflect the traditions of the Church of England, developing learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.

Interpretation

The word worship comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'Weartherscipe' and can be defined as either 'the adoration of God or a supreme being,' or 'to honour, value and praise someone or something of worth.' We believe that worship has cause and effects. Our worship is wholly Christian based, although at times we draw on the wisdom of other faiths to support our understanding of Christian teaching. We aim to provide experiences which deepen the inner senses and engender feelings of self-worth and the uniqueness of the world, reverence and respect and a sense of belonging to the community. We encourage the whole school community to reflect on ways in which worship affects the values, attitudes and spiritual dimensions of themselves, our learning community and society. We aim to create an atmosphere in which genuine worship may take place and where pupils own beliefs are valued and each one has the opportunity to respond in their own way. Prayer is a significant part of our Collective Worship.

Format

Weekly Pattern and Leadership

The whole school comes together for a daily act of worship, beginning and ending with prayer. Calming music is played in the hall and the children are encouraged to enter quietly and settle quickly. An Anglican greeting is shared, and various strategies are used to create a special atmosphere e.g. focus boards, images on the interactive whiteboard, candles, flip board, and appropriate music. We listen to and learn from the Bible; a Bible text is shared at each Collective Worship. At the end a 'sending out' Anglican greeting is said, and the children are encouraged to lead out in a quiet and ordered manner.

Each day the worship has a different style in order to allow the children to actively participate, share each others' successes and to continue to be aware of the responsibilities involved in belonging to our school community.

A Collective Worship plan is devised by the Collective Worship co-ordinator in collaboration with the Headteacher and incumbent, who reflect on the theme and break the plan down into weekly foci, linking the Church calendar and Biblical teaching.

Worship throughout the week is as follows:

1. Teacher led; following the theme, including highlighting Christian festivals and significant events.
2. Church Service every Wednesday afternoon.
3. Visitors are invited to speak on the current theme. This may be a staff member from St. Mark's, a local minister or someone who can share their own spiritual understanding.
4. Praise; Children's demonstration of the distinctly Christian School Values, their achievements both within school and from outside clubs, and activities are recognised and celebrated. Any member of the learning community may nominate any other for a certificate of recognition; age is no barrier to nomination. Any type of positive behaviour may be nominated.
5. Child led Collective Worship based on the current theme, organised and led by the children.
6. Class led worship for Parents and Carers through sharing information and ideas about their learning.

Collective Worship may reflect what is happening in other areas of the curriculum, school life, Church calendar, local, national and international events.

All Collective Worship includes prayer.

Special Occasions

We celebrate major Anglican festivals in St Mark's Church; a Eucharist Service is sometimes included. The worship on these occasions is led by a member of the ministry team, the Bishop or visiting clergy, with considerable involvement of children.

Parents are invited to Church Services and Class Collective Worship.

Strategies for Implementation

1. Collective Worship will be planned for the term
2. All teachers will have opportunities to lead Collective Worship
3. A range of styles and input should aim to create the required atmosphere:
 - a) Reflection of the School Values, ethos and Christians beliefs.
 - b) Degree of pupil involvement
 - c) Sense of a special time and place
 - d) Use of music, songs, hymns, poetry and prose.
 - e) Involvement of visitors.

Content Element and Timing

Structure of Collective Worship:

Timetable

Day	Time	Age	Leader
Monday	10:25-10:40	Whole School	Headteacher
Tuesday	10:25-10:40	Whole School	Teacher Led/Visitor
Wednesday	1:20 Church Service	Whole School	Incumbent
Thursday	10:25-10:40	Whole School	Teacher Led
Friday	9:15	Whole School	Class led/Visitor

There are times for collective worship and prayer throughout the school day:

Following morning arrival

At the start of the school day each class will say the School Values prayer, and ask a child to volunteer to say the opening prayer.

Midday

Before children eat their midday meal GRACE and the School Values prayer will be said.

At the End of the Day

At the end of the day each class will say the School Values prayer, and ask a child to volunteer to say the closing prayer.

Resources

The school makes use of Collective Worship material from a variety of sources, including the use of the internet. Religious artefacts from the schools R.E. resources, St Mark's Church and other relevant establishments may also be used to support worship.

Music is often taken from the teacher share drive, internet, or a compact disc. Hymns are mainly chosen from 'Come and Praise', and on occasion are sung acapella.

Music Resources: Internet, Music teacher, CDs, Saved music on the Teachershare drive.

Some Collective Worship materials are also stored on the school's computer in teachershare.

NOTE: Messages and other general matters are dealt with after the finish of the worship as necessary.

Guidance on Delivery

- Be age related and appropriate
- To be understood by all age groups
- Child participation should be encouraged
- A different range of learning styles are encouraged

Monitoring

The Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, the Faith Group and Governors monitor Collective Worship to ensure that it meets the schools policy and statutory requirements. Evaluations of monitoring inform development and improve practice.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children. As a church school, built on faith, we would encourage children to take part fully in the life of the school, including Collective Worship and would meet with parents to discuss their request.