



St Matthew's C E Primary

Collective Worship policy



Introduction

St Matthew's CE Primary School is committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing our Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation and collaboration of worship are all taken seriously by the school.

The Church of England Vision for Education 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good' states:

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. (p.10).

At St Matthew's collective worship is seen as the unique heartbeat of the school and is 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. Worship is central to realising our aims and vision which is based on Matthew 5: 16 'Let your Light Shine'.

Vision: *We nurture a school community where everyone experiences a love of learning and of life; everyone is able to 'shine' and grow in God's love.*

At St Matthew's we aim:

- To know Jesus, Light of the World;
- To be the guiding light on the path of each child's learning journey;
- To light the spark for a love of learning and of life;
- For our children to become leading lights in our community and our world;
- For every child to shine.



Why do we worship?






Faith means we believe in a God or Gods and for Christians we join together in an Act of Collective Worship to thank our God through our prayers and praise Him through songs. Worship is at 1pm each afternoon; it is when we make time for God in our busy lives. We worship for at least 15 minutes every day. In those minutes we make sure that we 'Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our souls and with all our minds and all our strength', just as the song says! We want everyone to feel respectful and calm but relaxed and comfortable and welcome in God's family.

Collective worship is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring. At St Matthew's collective worship is:

- Invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage in the act of worship, whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Inspiring and creative, impacting the whole community and motivating them into action.
- Inclusive, where all are included, have a voice and are listened to.
- A valued part of the culture of the school, breathing life into every aspect of the school day.

No assumption is made that we all have the same beliefs and values.

Through Collective Worship, we blend Christian, Biblical teaching and values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally, spiritually and intelligently. We do this by following a weekly structure:

Day	Focus	What	Who?	Where?
Monday	A celebration of our School Values in Action. Let Your Light SHINE!		Mr. Murphy and Pupil Leaders All classes	Hall
Tuesday	Picture News Collective Worship		Pupil Leaders	Classroom
Wednesday	A focus on Christian Values ~ Roots and Fruits		Class Teachers and Pupil Leaders EY/ KS1 and KS2 assemblies	Hall
Thursday	Worship led by our vicar		Reverend Job	Hall
Friday	Celebration Worship		Mr. Murphy and Pupil Leaders All classes	Hall

Legal background

We accept that:

"All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of collective worship" unless "the parent . . . requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school" [1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3)]

We acknowledge the parents' right to withdraw their children and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. We make it clear that the act of worship is central to the life of the school and is not an occasion for evangelism. We also affirm that the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship would not isolate them from the Christian teaching the school gives.

For our school:

"The daily act of collective worship required by law in the school shall be consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England."

Collective Worship at St Matthew's CE Primary is delivered in accordance with the Church of England Guidance for Collective Worship: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring.



Who worships?

At our school parents can choose for the child to join in our worship or to have quiet time in another area. Most people join us as a family who worship God in our Church school. Church schools are not just for Christians. Children who follow a different faith also come to our school and we all respect each other's ideas about our faith. Worship is invitational to all our children and staff and we all respect each other's beliefs and ideas about our faith.

Worship Aims

Through our collective worship we aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- 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.
- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- 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, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Who do we Worship?

Our God is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. These three persons are called the TRINITY. Everyday our worship reminds us of:

God the Father: We say a prayer to God the Father called 'The Lord's Prayer' and it begins with 'Our Father'. In the Bible it tells us that Jesus taught it to us.

God the Son: Our school Prayer begins 'O Jesus' and we ask for help to follow in His footsteps and try to be as good and kind as He is.

God the Holy Spirit: At the end of our Worship we say the Grace to ask that God as 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' be with us in our daily life. We know that as the Spirit, God can be with us everywhere and that He is in all of the created world. God is LIFE.

Worship Structure

When planning collective worship, we build in a spiritual dimension with opportunities for prayer, reflection and quiet. Children are invited to pray or sing and there is a sense of respect for the integrity of our pupils. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way.

Each Act of Worship will follow the same agreed format for worship, this includes class led worship. The worship table at the front is special, the focal point for worship and should be treated as such. Nothing should be placed on it – no pens, books, Worksheets, water bottles, the House Cup etc. If you are using the hall and it is likely to get damaged please put away the items on the worship table so that they are not damaged. Worship in the classroom still needs a focal point which includes a candle.

	Key Ideas	What we do at St Matthew's
Gather	<p>We are invited to prepare our hearts and minds to meet with God.</p> <p>We gather together for this special time of fellowship as a community.</p>	<p>Music playing as children and staff enter – relevant to topic. The screen is used to display slides, songs or videos with questions, reflections and prompts. Everyone can listen or sing along. Talking is not allowed and this should be modelled by staff.</p> <p>Worship Leader: Welcome to Worship Worship Leader: We gather in Jesus' name <i>Response: Help us explore, discover and learn together</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: We light the Candles to remind us Jesus is the Light of the World, Our School Motto is Towards the Light and we carry God's Light in Each and Every one of us.</p> <p>Worship Leader: Peace be with You <i>Response: And Also with You</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: I invite you to join with me in saying the Prayer that Jesus taught us... <i>Our Father... (traditional version)</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: And our School Prayer <i>O Jesus...</i></p>
Engage	<p>We engage with the big things and the little things in life.</p> <p>We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible</p> <p>We listen to God's message and consider how it might apply to our own lives.</p>	<p>How do we share and illustrate the story, message and or theme? (examples: story, video clip, drama, artefacts, pictures, poems etc.)</p> <p>How do we relate it to the Bible if it is not a Bible story? What verse can we share?</p> <p>What questions can we ask our community to engage them into the story, teaching or message?</p> <p>Some examples~</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder what you think this story might teach <input type="checkbox"/> Christians or us as a school community? <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder why Jesus told this story? <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder if this story makes you think of an example from your life? <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder why Christians thinks this story is better? <p>How do we link it to real life (e.g. the playground, classroom, home) or link to local community or world events?</p> <p>Link to Christians around the world, charity events.</p> <p>Check List/prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to a piece of music together. • Sing together • Read from the Bible • Share the message • Use a variety of strategies (video, artwork, music, drama, props etc.) • Discuss and question the community

<p>Respond</p>	<p>We respond to what we have heard and seen through prayer, silence, stillness and reflection. We are given the invitation to worship God in different ways.</p>	<p>How do we allow the community to respond? (Think, question, act) Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder what I can do differently in response to this story? <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder how you felt after watching the video clip? <input type="checkbox"/> I wonder what you can do ...help./care for others, forgive, persevere or be a better friend etc. <p>How will you incorporate reflection, silence or stillness into the worship?</p> <p>What opportunities will there be for formal or informal prayer? (e.g. teacher led, child led, spontaneous, planned, up on the screen, personal in your head, call and response, prayers used in Anglican Liturgy)</p> <p>Check List/prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to respond • Prayer time • Reflection time, opportunity for silence or stillness • Listen to a piece of music to reflect on
<p>Send</p>	<p>We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the World We are all sent out with God's blessing</p>	<p>A worship song if required – match to the theme where possible or make the link as to why we are singing this particular song.</p> <p>Worship Leader: God's message as you leave the hall today think about... A reminder to everyone about how they can apply what we have heard at school, home and beyond.</p> <p>Worship Leader: Closing Prayers – I invite you to join me in saying Our School Aims Prayer <i>Dear Lord...</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: And The Grace <i>May the Grace...</i></p>
		<p>Worship Leader: As the candle go out remember that we carry God's light in each and everyone of us. Use it to guide your actions.</p> <p>Worship Leader: Go in Peace to Discover God's world and your place in it We go in Jesus name. Amen</p> <p>Music playing as children leave – relevant to topic. Again – no talking which must be modelled by the staff. The screen is used to display slides, songs or videos with questions, reflections and prompts.</p> <p>This is often the same song as we entered to. This could be the worship song for today. Children are to leave the hall line by line, silently back to the classroom, staff to monitor.</p> <p>Check List/prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn out/blow out candle • Send the community out with a thought or action • Share a sending prayer or blessing

Worship table

<p>Items on the Worship Table will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible • A Cross • Candle • Thematic artefacts • Focus texts • Liturgical colour 	
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Liturgical Colours

Colour	2023-24
ORDINARY	29 May 2023 – 25 November 2023
CHRIST THE KING	26 November – 2 December 2023
ADVENT	3 December – 24 December 2023
CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY	25 December 2023 – 2 February 2024
ORDINARY	3 February – 13 February 2024
LENT	14 February – 29 March 2024
EASTER	30 March – 18 May 2024
PENTECOST	19 May 2024
ORDINARY	26 May – 23 November 2024

Colours play an important part of the worship of the Church and they change according to the seasons of the Church year. Colours are a primary source of symbolism, and communicate to worshippers much about the nature of the lessons heard during the Liturgy of the Word (which are themed according to the seasons), and about what is done during worship. On Good Friday, black is sometimes used. Some churches are simply bare at this time instead of using colours for symbolism.

Liturgical Colours & What They Mean				
Purple	Red	Green	Gold	White
				
Penance & Preparation Used during Advent and Lent	Sacrifice Used during Passion Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost and for the Apostles and martyrs	Hope, Life & Growth Used throughout Ordinary Time	Joy & Celebration Used for special days of celebration, such as Easter Sunday and Christmas day	Purity Used in the seasons of Easter & Christmas, and for saints who were not martyrs

School Prayers

Our School Prayer

*Dear Lord,
Thank you for our friends and family.
Thank you for our school and our world.
We are sorry for the times that we get things wrong.
Please help us to keep ourselves and others safe.
Help us to be ready to try our best.
Help us to be kind to other people, animals and property.
Amen*

Our School Aims Prayer

*Dear Jesus,
Light of the world.
Help our school to be a guiding light.
Help us to love learning and love of life.
Help us to bring light to our community and our world.
Help us all to SHINE brightly.
Amen*