

St Mark's C E Primary School

A Policy Statement for

Collective Worship

Rationale

As an Aided school, we uphold the principles and practices of the Established Church. We believe that this policy for collective worship will reflect the importance that we place on the positive promotion of Christian values and prayer in our daily life.

Background

Our school community is made up of children and families who attend the churches within the Worsley Team Ministry, or other churches, as well as some children of other faiths and denominations, and some with no experience of religion at all. The majority of our acts of worship will take place within school but we will also worship together in Church for festivals of the church year and for significant events in the life of the School. The School values the Parish Church as a special and sacred place and our services in Church are intended to strengthen the links between Church and School.

Aims

- To put God firmly at the heart of our school life and to help the pupils to understand that God is with us throughout the day, in whatever we do and say.
- To provide an opportunity each day for quiet reflection on God's presence with us, both in school and in our world.
- To promote Christian values through Bible stories, moral stories, prayer, music and drama.
- To help the pupils to recognise the power of prayer as a means of communicating with God.
- To contribute to the pupils' spiritual development and to help them to build up their relationship with God.
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder and to celebrate all that is of value in life.
- To introduce the pupils to the varied traditions of worship found within and beyond the Church of England.
- To help the pupils to discover the qualities within themselves and others which provide a sense of purpose and meaning to life.
- To explore values, attitudes and traditions from other faiths by listening to stories and recognising their celebrations.

- To ensure that all pupils feel at ease in our acts of worship, secure in the knowledge that they can participate at their own level.

Planning

Acts of Collective Worship in school may be for the whole school together, for key stages or for individual classes. They may be lead by a member of staff, by the Rector or another member of the Team Ministry or by a visitor to the school. All worship will aim to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all the pupils, reflecting Christian beliefs, exploring the beliefs of other faiths and celebrating the life of the school.

Each class should say a thanksgiving Grace before the lunchtime break at the end of the morning session. The Grace, or another suitable prayer should be said at the end of the day. The School Prayer should also be said during the school day at the class teacher's discretion. These classroom prayers can be lead by the teacher or by a child.

Years Five and Six will join in a school Eucharist at certain times of the year. Staff, parents and members of St Mark's Church congregation will also be invited to attend.

An annual framework of 'Christian Statements of Belief' is set out for Collective Worship in school. This ensures that pupils can prepare their related readings and prayers, the Rector can support the Statement with his sermon and prayer, and that there is continuity throughout the school year.

Collective Worship will take place in the school hall centred facing the worship table under the cross. In order to provide a sympathetic atmosphere appropriate music should be played at the beginning and end of the worship. There will be opportunities for children to sing a song of worship within the assembly.

Classroom based worship should take place where the pupils are gathered together in a calm and reflective atmosphere. Years One to Four use Worship boxes to support their classroom based worship. Within the box is a piece of special fabric, a candle and a small wooded cross which are used to set the tone and introduce the theme of the worship.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. Staff have the right to decline to lead acts of worship. If this is the case, the member of staff should inform the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored by the Headteacher, the Rector and the Chair of Governors.

Approved by the Governing Body: January 2016

Review date: December 2018