

St Mary's C.E. (A) School



St. Mary's C.E. (A) Primary School

Greenfield

Collective Worship Policy

Last Review Autumn 2022

Next review: As appropriate in relation to any changes in legislation or policy.
This policy will stand until the next review.

'We enjoy learning and achieving in a Christian environment'

ST. MARY'S C.E. (A) PRIMARY SCHOOL
GREENFIELD

CURRENT SCHOOL POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

**O magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.**

Psalm 34:3

Mission Statement

'We enjoy learning and achieving in a Christian environment'

Equality Statement

This policy and procedure is subject to The Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual orientation and Disability.

KCSIE

This policy and procedure is subject to the statutory safeguarding and child protection guidance for schools in England, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, DFE 2022) which outlines a child-centered and coordinated approach to safeguarding. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and every person who comes into contact with children in whatever capacity has a role to play. They should therefore consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child and take prompt action where necessary.

Introduction

As a Voluntary Aided school of the Church of England, it is the responsibility of the Governors of St. Mary's school to ensure that children attend an act of collective worship each day. It must be provided in accordance with the Trust Deed. This document is held in the Public Record Office in London but copies are held at the Diocesan Registry in Manchester, as well as with the church and school.

The Trust Deed states that.....

".....the said school shall be under the management and control of the said incumbent for the time being."

which is interpreted as meaning to be in line with the doctrine of the Church of England and is accepted by the governors as such.

Daily collective worship is seen as a key activity in the life of the school and provides opportunities to celebrate and explore Christian values. Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctiveness of our school, and reaffirms our vision and associated values of our SCARF principles. It also celebrates the central role that each child

has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year.

The daily act of collective worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Aims

Collective worship at St Mary's School is planned to

- Introduce all children to worship with the Church of England
- 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 an 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 pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading, and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice
- Be inspirational and inclusive, engaging all learners. They can talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school

Expectations of Children

Every person is on a spiritual journey. Collective worship is seen as part of the process which introduces children to the mysteries of existence and the sharing of experiences.

No one can predetermine the outcome of each child's search, but it is the hope of the governors that it will result in an informed understanding and awareness for the spiritual dimension of life.

Links with the parish and other religious groups

* the Team Rector, the vicar(s), non-stipendary ministers (NSMs), self-supporting ministers (SSMs), curates, lay readers and authorised lay ministers (ALMs) all have a role in worship and teaching

* school attends Sunday services in church on four occasions annually – Harvest, Advent, Education Sunday, End of Year service.

* school attends weekday services on occasions such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Ascension Day

* appointment of foundation governors nominated by the PCC

* Manchester Diocesan Board of Education provides advisory services to the governors on R.E. and worship and provides a diocesan representative on the governing body

* St. Mary's church gives spiritual and pastoral support

* Manchester Mission Groundbreakers Project lead half termly collective worship and a lunchtime club

Acts of Worship

There is a daily act of collective worship, led by...

* Leadership Team

- * vicar, curate, reader, authorised lay minister and other members of St. Mary's Church
- * friends of the school
- * staff members
- * children

When people other than staff conduct collective worship, it is always in the presence of school staff member.

Collective worship will include some/or all of the following elements....

- * Assembly table with cross, candle and flowers
- * the lighting of a candle as a focus
- * song/hymn
- * story
- * Biblical passage or précis of a Bible story
- * prayer (covering praise, adoration, confession, thanksgiving, etc)
- * music
- * participation using some or all of the five senses

We encourage 4 stage planning including 'Gathering', 'Engaging', 'Responding', 'Sending'

A 2 yearly programme of collective worship is kept in the Head Teacher's office. Provision of worship at St. Mary's school is in accordance with Manchester Diocesan Policy.

A grace is said each day before lunch; a prayer is always said in the classroom at the close of each day; modern version of the Lord's Prayer and other suitable prayers are used during worship.

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship, is undertaken by pupils, staff and governors on a termly basis through the collective worship evaluation books.

Parental right of withdrawal

At St. Mary's School collective worship is seen as a vital part of the Christian ethos of the school. There is a parental right to withdraw their child from collective worship and this should be done, in the first instance, by writing to the Head Teacher of the school.

There is no provision made for such withdrawal and neither can be a guarantee be made that children could be withdrawn from those aspects of the provision which espouse the Christian ethos of the school.

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