



St Martin and St Mary C of E Primary School

Agreed Collective Worship Procedures

Approved by	
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Our School Vision and Values

As a Christian school, St Martin and St Mary is an inclusive and happy community; nurturing confidence, a thirst for learning and resilience in a safe loving environment. Our priority is developing the whole child spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically to live the most rewarding life.

'Life in all its fullness' John 10.10

Our school values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens. The aim of this school is to provide a rich, broad and balanced education within a caring and stimulating Christian environment, serving the whole school community. To create an environment in which learners are encouraged to fulfil their potential and make a positive contribution to their society.

We want every child 'to be the best that they can be...'

At St Martin and St Mary these are the Christian values that are the most important for our school. These values will help make our school a great place to be.

Friendship Love Forgiveness Trust Honesty Faith

Rationale

The staff and governors at St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School view Collective Worship as a time when the school, Key Stage or class meet together in a calm and purposeful way. When appropriate, the pre-school and or nursery class may join in with Collective Worship. Collective Worship draws together and underpins the Christian nature of the school. Collective Worship wholly supports the schools vision; 'life in all its fullness'. Collective Worship recognises and helps us to celebrate the different background, experience and commitment of children gathered together in school.

Legal Framework

Since 1944 Collective Worship has been a legal requirement in maintained schools. The law requires that all registered school age pupils take part in an act of worship each day. In a church school these acts must be distinctively Christian in nature. By inviting the school community to worship, we need to consider the varied backgrounds that the school community come from and therefore Collective Worship is invitational and inclusive rather than confessional in nature.

At this school Collective Worship is conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and is consistent with the beliefs of the Church of England.

Collective Worship takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the 1998 Education Reform Act. Both Key Stage 1 and 2 children visit at least one of our Churches (St Martin's Church in Bowness on Windermere or St Mary's Church, Windermere) each term and partake in an act of Collective Worship. The content of all acts of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deeds of the School. The policy has been drawn up by the Headteacher on behalf of the governors and has been developed through consultation with the teaching staff.

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive: At St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School worship is collective; it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In our school, pupils, their families and other adults encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all.

Many pupils and staff in our school come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Many pupils, naturally, are at different stages in their spiritual journey. Pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions. Pupils are welcome to participate and to stand back; and to consider.

Our staff use language that avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching. Collective Worship is not 'done to' children but involves meaningful contributions from our whole school community, including pupils. Pupils bring their own experience to worship and, when practicable, are involved in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, Collective Worship in our school grows out of our local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults are invited to worship. There is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship provides an opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable.

(Taken from: The Church of England Education Office - 'Collective Worship in Church of England Schools: Inclusive, Invitational, Inspiring': Guidance Document Version: 18.5.21)

Pupils and adults are invited to pray if they wish to do so and are invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

The music and liturgies used in our worship reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship; it connects with the theme and explores the sacred to educate and engage.

Inspiring: We strive to make our Collective Worship inspirational. Our Collective Worship enables our pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It is intended to motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

We want our children to be inspired to become courageous advocates of different causes. It encourages children and adults to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools; we recognise the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. See Withdrawal and Inclusion section below.

Our Aims for Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School is intended to;

- Reflect the Christian Foundation of the school.
- Help the children and adults to understand the meaning of Worship and for believers to share in it and others to reach the 'threshold of Worship'.
- 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 both personal and 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.

Purpose

Collective Worship provides our school with the opportunity to;

- encourage a sense of awe and wonder
- celebrate achievements and special occasions
- share and experience differences and diversity
- foster a sense of group identity - a sense of belonging as part of the whole school family
- contribute to the religious education of all
- experience different forms of Worship including reflection and music
- examine and reflect upon common values
- widen the children's learning
- learn how to behave appropriately in a social gathering
- respond appropriately to a performance
- be joined by members of the wider community e.g. parents or other visitors.

Collective Worship – a sense of occasion

Collective Worship will enable the children to appreciate an atmosphere, generate a response, participate and reflect. It is a time when the whole school or part of the school can be gathered together as a family, when the ethos of the school can be explored, discussed, maintained and developed. The children enter and leave the hall to music - a selected piece that contributes to the atmosphere; to encourage listening and appreciation.

There is a special table on which are placed candles, a bible, prayer book and a cross. Teachers and our support staff are present in worship time and sometimes take an active part in assemblies. The Head teacher, Deputy Head teachers and other teachers and on a Thursday, our Vicar, the Reverend James Richards, lead Collective Worship.

Timetable and Agreed Procedures

The following timetable is used as a guide, but can change around subject to Christian festivals or other events.

	Downstairs – EYFS and KS1	Upstairs – KS2
Monday	Praise Assembly 10.10am	Praise Assembly 10.00am SB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Peace be with you... And also with you...</i> ✓ <i>Song or a hymn</i> ✓ <i>Praise Certificates</i> ✓ <i>Effort Tokens</i> ✓ <i>Attendance</i> ✓ <i>A moment or reflection</i> ✓ <i>Music of the week</i> ✓ <i>Prayer to finish</i> <p><i>(Handwriting and Spelling Certificates awarded in class).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Peace be with you... And also with you...</i> ✓ <i>Song or a hymn</i> ✓ <i>Praise Certificates</i> ✓ <i>Effort Tokens</i> ✓ <i>Attendance</i> ✓ <i>A moment or reflection</i> ✓ <i>Music of the week</i> ✓ <i>Prayer to finish</i> <p><i>(Handwriting and Spelling Certificates awarded in class).</i></p>
Tuesday	Class Worship and Circle Time Classes or Year groups	Singing and Worship 10.00am
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>A period or reflection</i> ✓ <i>A prayer</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>A prayer to finish</i>
Wednesday	Whole School Collective Worship (SEAL/PSHE) 10am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Peace be with you... And also with you...</i> ✓ <i>School prayer</i> ✓ <i>Learning from the Bible</i> ✓ <i>A period or reflection</i> ✓ <i>A prayer to finish</i> 	
Thursday	Whole School Collective Worship Reverend Richards 10.10am	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Peace be with you... And also with you...</i> ✓ <i>Thank you Father God that you;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Guide us (Candle)</i> - <i>Teach us (Bible)</i> - <i>Love us (Cross)</i> ✓ <i>A hymn or song</i> ✓ <i>The Lord's Prayer</i> 	
Friday	Birthdays, Singing and Rewards 10.10am	Class based Worship and PSHE/Circle Time CTs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Peace be with you... And also with you...</i> ✓ <i>A prayer</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>A period of reflection</i> ✓ <i>A prayer</i>

The nursery children participate in circle time once a week and meet together during each session. When appropriate the Nursery children join with the whole school for Collective Worship.

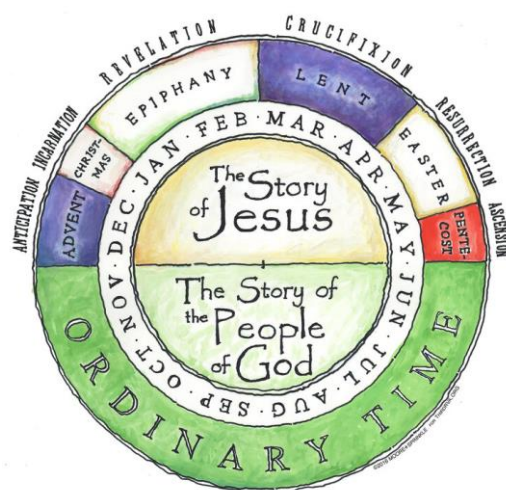
Within the school grounds we have a 'Quiet Garden' (north side of yard on the Junior side of school) and a 'Sanctuary' (outside the Year 1 classrooms). Both of these tranquil spaces lend themselves to be used for circle time and class/year group Collective Worship when the weather (or our clothing) allows.

Content and Approach

Collective Worship is seen as the thread that links all the classes together. It is an invitational yet intentional learning experience, that is given careful planning, preparation, execution, evaluation and resources.

Collective Worship is planned over a 4-year cycle and built around the following key areas; (please see our 'Long Term Collective Worship Plan' on our school website);

- Our School Vision (the foundation of our curriculum, our learning and our experiences in school)
- Our School Christian Values – a Value is selected for each half-term to provide focus to our thinking and learning. In addition, a complementary value is included to deepen our experience; 'Trust' and 'Courage' for example.
- The Liturgical Calendar – including the main celebrations and festivals of the Christian faith.
- Key events in the calendar of other faith groups (many studied in school as part of our RE curriculum)
- Our PSHE curriculum – a key question each half-term from a Year Group PSHE focus; 'How can we manage our feelings? (Y4 PSHE)' for example.



The assembly theme or themes for a term of half term are often reflected in art work and displays in the hall and corridor. This is seen as an especially important link across the school. Every child contributes to this theme and this underpins our ethos and aims.

Collective Worship is presented in a variety of ways including:

- Celebration of the festivals of Christianity
- Information and learning about major festivals of other faiths, sometimes linking these to Christian festivals, stories, people and celebrations
- Stories from the Bible
- Reflecting on Christian symbols e.g. cross, bread, chalice
- Values; our school Christian values are Friendship, Love, Faith, Trust, Honesty and Forgiveness, however this is not a limiting choice and we will often consider other values in our worship and our learning.
- Topical material from the news or locality
- Literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity
- Appreciation of the talents and achievements of others and ourselves.
- Prayer in different forms - formal, children's own prayers, silence, reflection and meditation.
- Music as an aid to Worship, as an introduction or ending and singing.
- Invited visitors from our community or further afield.

The Headteacher draws up the terms planning for Collective Worship, this is discussed in depth with the Senior Leadership Team, the RE co-ordinator and the Vicar.

School Eucharist

The Governors at St Martin and St Mary do not feel that it is appropriate at this time to offer a school Eucharist. Although we regard developing the children's understanding of the importance of the Holy Communion, as a vital part of the curriculum and ethos of our school.

Resources

The school has a broad range of resources upon which to draw on for Collective Worship. These are kept in the Head's office. Books to support worship time are displayed for teachers and children to use at any time. There is a budget allocation and the Head teacher manages this.

Evaluation and Review.

Evaluation and review is done in a variety of ways. Children are invited to give feedback and respond during a service. An annual evaluation is sent to the children. The Head and Vicar meet regularly to review what we do and the impact of this on children's spiritual, social, physical and academic development. Collective Worship features at a regular staff meeting item at the beginning of each term as well as having a dedicated staff meeting at least twice per year. Governors are kept informed of the themes through the Headteachers regular report to the Governing Body. Our school is reflective in nature and points of action are put in place following reviews.

Withdrawals and Inclusion

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship. This request can be made to the school office via phone call, email or in writing. Parents can choose to reverse this decision at any time. School will enact any request for inclusion or withdrawal as soon as is practicable depending on the circumstances. Children who are withdrawn will be supervised during assembly time.

Spiritual Development

'To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.

William Blake

Rationale

Spiritual development is implicit in and made explicit through the school ethos and aims statement. As a Church of England school spirituality is of fundamental importance.

Aims

The children will have opportunity:

- To develop an appreciation that people have individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives.
- To celebrate all that is good and lovely.
- To express thankfulness for the joy of being alive.
- To share what is meaningful and significant to them.
- To respond and participate at their own level.
- To be kind and thoughtful towards each other and the world around.

Approach

Our school is a vibrant, purposeful and inspiring place to be. Together we work tirelessly to provide stimulating and creative environments in which children can become self-motivated and independent learners. Spiritual development is ongoing throughout each day and is the responsibility of all people connected with the school.

The school's ethos statement fundamentally underpins the work of the school. Every member of staff has as part of their job the responsibility of supporting the Christian nature of the school. It is the particular responsibility of the Foundation Governors to secure the purpose and character of the school.

'Quiet Garden' and the 'Sanctuary'

Our school has 2 special outside spaces, both ideal for supporting spiritual development. Our 'Quiet Garden' (north side of yard on the Junior side of school) and our 'Sanctuary' (outside the Year 1 classrooms) are tranquil spaces that lend themselves to be used for circle time and class/year group Collective Worship when the weather (or our clothing) allows.

The space can be used by a whole class or group for acts of Collective Worship, circle time and other reflective activities. Resources, to support outdoor Collective Worship, are kept in the resource room.

Evaluation and Review

We rely on the atmosphere and feedback from parents and visitors to inform us of the spiritual development of the children. As a school, personal and social development is the key to all that we do. This is reflected in our philosophy. Evaluation is integral to the school development plan. The school development plan supports the ethos and aims of the school.