



Inspire Learning Ignite Curiosity

Marlow Church of England Infant School Collective Worship Policy 2022

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness"

Genesis 1:26

Rationale

At Marlow Church of England Infant School our curriculum vision is to inspire learning and ignite curiosity within a welcoming Christian and spiritual community. We embrace the uniqueness of everybody and are inclusive of all. Our values of respect, kindness, perseverance, forgiveness, thankfulness and service guide all that we do and our aim is for every child to feel nurtured, supported and safe.

Our Christian vision is that every individual is created in God's image and therefore is precious and valuable. We believe in treating everybody with respect and dignity because we acknowledge everyone's God given value and unique identity

We aim to achieve this by providing children with the opportunity to work towards achieving their full potential by:

- Embracing the uniqueness of everybody and be inclusive of all
- Empowering all to be enthusiastic learners
- Ensuring that every child feels nurtured, supported and safe
- Enriching learning through progressive teaching methods and technology
- Being responsible to and for society
- Being good citizens of the planet

As a school we support the rights of children and these rights are encompassed in UN Convention of the Rights of the Child and links are made between articles within the charter and themes for worship. This policy focuses on helping to realise Article 28 *All children have the right to a quality education* and Article 30 *All children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion – even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.*

Collective worship is heartbeat of our school life. It offers the pupils and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our school's Christian vision. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.

Collective Worship and the Law

Collective worship in community schools is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be *'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'*

In Church schools the requirement instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re-imagined there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means in the Church school.

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the school's Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance, parents who may wish to exercise this right should make an appointment to speak with the headteacher.

Aims

Our collective worship provides pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - school values associated with our vision;
 - Pupils' and adults' achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- feel safe and affirmed;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology

Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring

Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. At Marlow Church of England Infant School pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all.

Invitational

In our School, parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Our Collective Worship provides the 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.

Inspiring

We aim for our Collective Worship to be inspirational as well as formational and transformational: We strive to enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. Motivating pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions is a key objective of our Collective Worship. As a result of inspirational collective worship, we aim to inspire them to become courageous advocates of causes. Pupils and adults are encouraged to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Planning

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs of the pupils. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our school vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values.

Throughout their time at our school, children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song. Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate.

Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship. Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

The Pattern of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place in a variety of groupings, in the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. On occasion worship takes place in All Saints Church. We follow the seasons of the Church year and within these significant festivals and other special days are observed, these always include Harvest, Christmas, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance and the Leavers' Service also feature in collective worship. Parents, Governors and members of the local community are especially welcome to attend.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Themes will be set for each term to provide a linking point for all worship. Key elements of worship will be included. (See Appendix 1)

Termly: Worship led by pupil groups e.g. School Council, Rights Respecting School Ambassadors, Eco Warriors

Spring Term: Each class will lead a whole school worship to which parents are invited.

Worship Timetable

Monday	Theme
Tuesday	Hymn Practice
Wednesday	Theme
Thursday	Theme
Friday	Celebration

Links with the Parish and other schools

Clergy from Marlow Team Ministry will lead a whole school worship ideally, at least once a half term. Where possible and appropriate the school will join with the Parish community to celebrate other religious festivals and services.

The school will support activities where the church schools in Marlow or in the diocese are able to come together to worship.

Leading Worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church community. Pupils are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our Collective Worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths. Occasionally outside speakers, such as representatives from charitable organisations, will lead worship

Records and Assessment

A termly plan is produced with themes and resources to be used. This also includes special services and input from other staff and visitors. Assessment of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Headteacher and the RE subject leader through

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives
- Observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Obtaining feedback from pupils via the annual pupil questionnaire and exit polls (as pupils leave worship) Classroom feedback from children both written and verbal
- Comments from parents, visitors and governors
- Self-evaluation

The Role of Governors

Governors determine, support, monitor and review school policies. They support the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively. They are responsible for:

- Ensuring the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed.
- Ensuring the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored.
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out Section 48 Inspection of a church school in line with the SIAMS timetable.
- Monitor the delivery of Collective Worship and this policy through Governor Visits.

The role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Managing the worship on a day to day basis.
- Ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with.
- Ensuring suitable resources are available
- To meet with the clergy to plan their effective involvement

The role of the Collective Worship leader

The leader is responsible for:

- Writing the school policy
- Ensuring all staff are aware of and use the policy document
- Reviewing the policy on a regular basis
- Planning an overall balanced programme of worship for the year
- Drawing up worship rotas
- Involving colleagues, pupils and visitors in worship
- Advising on planning, ideas and resources
- Ensuring links are made between articles within the United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child and worship themes and that these are shared with the children.
- Administering the budget for collective worship
- Monitoring and evaluating collective worship in all its forms
- Arranging INSET as appropriate
- Keeping up to date with new developments and publications
- Liaising with clergy, diocese and governing body on matters relating to collective worship

Review

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally three years from the date of adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place when required.

Policy written: March 2022

Review of Policy: March 2025

Appendix 1 – Elements of Worship

“There are times when worship will be quiet, contemplative and serene and others when laughter, music and dance will be appropriate forms of expression.”

Atmosphere is all-important in creating the right foundation for Collective Worship. Quiet, orderly behaviour and respectful attitudes on entering, leaving and throughout the assembly are expected. Staff enhance the atmosphere by their presence and participation. A covered table with flowers /a cross /a bible and a candle help to set the scene.

Music is played at the beginning and end of the assembly. One piece is selected each week appropriate to the theme. Pupils’ attention is drawn to it each day and a simple explanation/ description may be given in the Hymn Practice.

Stories and talks are carefully chosen to fulfil the objectives of Collective Worship. Stories of a religious or secular nature may be used whilst personal anecdote from pupils, teachers and visitors is effective in expressing that which is important in our own lives. Particular emphasis is laid upon helping children to understand themselves better, to develop empathy and to face up to moral issues.

Songs are chosen from a wide variety of traditional and modern hymns and choruses. One or two are used at each assembly, relative to the theme and there is sometimes percussion accompaniment provided by the children. Some are learned by heart and actions are incorporated, whilst others are displayed on the overhead projector. Hymns and songs create the opportunity for children to express thoughts and feelings that are difficult to put into words; and they provide a real source of pleasure.

Prayer and reflection are the most personal part of an act of worship. Collective Worship in school provides opportunities for children to be taken to the threshold of prayer, and to cross it if they wish, in a way that respects the integrity of all present. Participation in prayer can never be imposed but we stress the need for stillness, reflection and respect for others.















Silence, written prayers, impromptu prayers, The Lord’s Prayer, children’s prayers and the school prayer may be used. A large candle is lit and provides a focus for pupils’ thoughts.













Reflection and thinking time are given some direction by the leader in order to concentrate pupils’ response.

Scripture sentences may be quoted from the Bible and, where appropriate, from sacred books and writings of other world faiths. Longer passages may be used as readings.

Presentation sets the tone within the act of worship. In keeping with the reverent atmosphere, use is also made of visual aids, artefacts, drama, demonstration and video.

Appendix II Collective Worship Timetable Example

	Date	Value	Theme	Bible Link	Lead	Season	UNCRC	Spirituality	Songs
WEEK 1	Monday 28.02.22	FORGIVENESS	Lent – Shrove Tuesday https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/539/shrove-tuesdaylent	Matthew 4:1-11	SR				Shine Jesus shine No 16
	Tuesday		Singing Worship		EP				
	Wednesday		Fairtrade Fortnight P29 21/02/22 – 6.03.22		ECO Warriors				A little Bit of Kindness no.1
	Thursday		World Book Day P26		VB/SR				Thank you Lord no 6
	Friday		Celebration Worship		SR				
WEEK 2	Monday 7.3.22	FORGIVENESS	Waste Week	Matthew 6:14	Eco Warriors/VB				He's got the whole world no9
	Tuesday		Singing Worship		SR				
	Wednesday		Lent Ash Wednesday Introduce the Easter timeline		SR				Easter Jubilation no.4 (vocal)
	Thursday		What is Forgiveness?		SR				Thank you Lord no.24
	Friday		Celebration Worship (End of Fairtrade Fortnight)		SR				Thank you Lord no. 24
WEEK 3	Monday 14.3.22	School Vision	Science Week - Growth https://www.britishtscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/	School Vision Genesis 1:26	Science Councillors MT				
	Tuesday	FORGIVENESS	Singing Worship		EP				
	Wednesday		International Women's Day		SR				Be Bold no.2
	Thursday	FORGIVENESS	To encourage forgiveness when we feel we have been wronged. https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/971/forgiveness	'We should learn to forgive.' (Ephesians 4.32)	SR				A little Bit of Kindness no.1
	Friday		Celebration Worship		SR				A little Bit of kindness no.1

	Date	Value	Theme	Bible Link	Lead	Season	UNCRC	Spirituality	Songs
WEEK 4	Monday 21.3.22	FORGIVENESS	Forgiveness - What happens when we make mistakes or wrong choices? https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3164/when-things-go-wrong	Mark 14: 66–72	SR	[Purple Bar]			Lord the Light no.18
	Tuesday		Singing Worship		EP				
	Wednesday		School Prayer	School Vision Genesis 1:26	SCHOOL Councillors - MC				Kum ba Yah no.17
	Thursday		Forgiveness – Showing that you are sorry	Matthew 6:14	All Saints				Forgive One Another no.6
	Friday		Celebration Worship		SR				Easter Jubilation no5 to sing in Church Sunday
WEEK 5	Monday 28.3.22	FORGIVENESS	World Water Day P40, 22.03.22	Genesis 2:15	SR				Have you heard the Raindrops? no.8
	Tuesday		Singing Worship		EP				
	Wednesday		Hindu Festival of Holi – Festival of Colours https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/231/the-hindu-festival-of-holi		SR				I am looking for Hindu song
	Thursday		Forgiveness – showing that you are sorry & asking each other for Forgiveness	Matthew 6:14	SR				Be Still for presence no.3
	Friday		Celebration Worship		SR				Easter Jubilation no.5
WEEK 6	Monday 04.04.22	FORGIVENESS	Palm Sunday	Matthew 21: 1-11	SR			Lord of Dance no.11	
	Tuesday		Singing Worship		EP				
	Wednesday		Jesus at the temple Justice – How can we make the world a better place?	Mark 11: 15-19	All Saints Video			Lord of the Dance no.11	
	Thursday		Easter Service at All Saints (incl Maundy Thursday/Good Friday and Easter Sunday)	Gospels	Worship Leaders			Lord of the dance piano Easter Jubilation no 5, We have a King piano Lord of Dance no.11	

	Friday		Celebration Worship		SR			Easter Jubilation no.5
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