

**St. Matthew's CE Primary School**  
**Policy Statement on Worship**

**Christian Vision**

**Witnessing to Christ with our lives and our learning**

Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete.

Hebrews 12 v1-2

**Our Christian Values**

**Forgiveness, Peace, Friendship, Truthfulness, Courage, Thankfulness**

At St. Matthew's Primary School daily worship is central to school life. Acts of worship are Christian in nature, with an opportunity for reflection. This is achieved using a variety of stimuli and provides experiences that contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of individuals. It is a time to promote the shared values and ethos of the school.

Collective worship may take place within the school or church and as a whole school or in key stages.

**Aims**

- To foster spiritual awareness.
- To develop Christian beliefs and practices and enable children to gain a knowledge of the bible.
- To foster a reflective approach to life
- To develop an appropriate understanding of the experiences, beliefs and religious practices of others in line with the school's curriculum and activities.
- To support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- To reflect the ethos of the school through worship.
- To encourage a sense of unity and identity among pupils and between staff and pupils.
- To mark and celebrate occasions of importance to the school and the wider community.

**Organisation of Collective Worship**

There is a daily act of worship, which on most occasions takes place in the school hall. (COVID restrictions in place and timings and grouping vary slightly)

Monday	9.05	Whole School Collective Worship	Headteacher
Tuesday	9:05 KS 1 9:05 KS 2	Key Stage Collective Worship	Member of staff
Wednesday	9:05 Music Assembly	Whole school worship through music.	Music Teacher
Thursday	9.05	(Clergy Collective Worship)	(Clergy)
Friday	9.05	Whole School Celebration Worship	Headteacher

Acts of collective worship are presented within half-termly/ termly themes to ensure a structural provision of material. The theme and contents of each assembly are recorded to ensure continuity and no repetition.

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from worship but it is our aim that all children will participate in daily worship. We invite parents with a concern to discuss the matter with the Headteacher.

### **Expectations**

- All collective worship sessions must include time for prayer (Lord's prayer, school prayer or personal prayer).
- Children enter and leave the collective worship session with suitable, calming worship music.
- A candle must be lit as part of collective worship to symbolise Jesus as the Light of the World.
- All collective worship sessions must include time for personal reflection.
- A cross must be displayed as part of collective worship.
- Children must be included wherever possible in the delivery of the collective worship sessions.
- Resources used in collective worship sessions should include visual and auditory stimuli (including the use of ICT)
- All collective worship sessions should include a worship song or an appropriate reflective song.
- There should also sometimes be opportunities for the children to share thoughts, experiences or prayer requests.

Date: April 2023

Next review date: April 2024