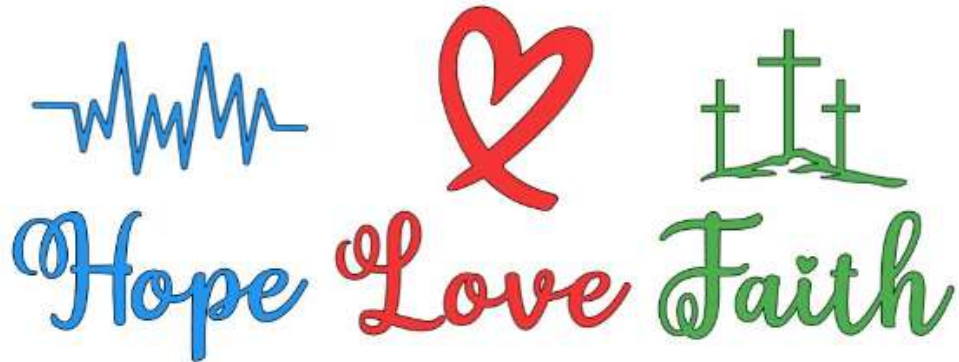




St. Margaret's
C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

September 2025

Review date: June 2028

‘Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs, to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.’ Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (para 50)

This policy is renewed to reflect and allow for the working out in our school of the Church of England Education Office’s Vision for Education (2016) ‘Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good’. In church schools the deeply Christian foundation for this vision will be seen in the ‘authentically Christian worship and ethos of those schools’. (p3)

Introduction

St. Margaret’s is a school with a living Christian foundation in which Collective Worship is an important feature of each day for children and adults alike.

Christian worship at St. Margaret’s School is in accordance with the trust deeds and is consistent with the traditions of the Anglican Church. Our worship regularly includes reading from the bible, the cycle of the Anglican year, Christian symbols, and liturgical responses from the Anglican tradition.

Legal position

St. Margaret’s is a Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be ‘in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England’ and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. All teachers are expected to attend the act of collective worship and support staff when practicable.

Vision

‘Our desire is that the strong Christian foundation children receive at St Margaret’s School will give them the confidence to explore the world around them with awe and wonder. We want to build a whole community based on the values of faith, hope and love. We strive for excellence aiming to develop children who are happy, intrinsically motivated, resilient and independent and who believe there is nothing they cannot achieve.’

Values

We believe in these gospel values – Faith, Hope and Love. In the context of our Christian community, they will determine all that we do in pursuit of our vision for children and adults.

We have identified values that will enable us to build strong foundations for a community in which we all join together and play our part to reflect the character and teaching of Jesus.

We have identified three core values that we believe are central to the work of our educational community. "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13) None of these values can be lived out in isolation with love being the most important of all of these.

- ❖ **Faith** is the cornerstone of this foundation and the motivation of those who provide this education. It is through faith that our community learns to trust in God's promises, believing that He is their refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). Faith empowers our community to step forward with confidence, knowing that their abilities are magnified by His power.
- ❖ **Hope** is the anchor that keeps children and adults alike steadfast. In moments of uncertainty and adversity, hope reminds them that God's plans for them are good, to give them a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11). This hope is not wishful thinking, but a confident expectation rooted in God's unchanging nature and His faithfulness.
- ❖ **Love** is the greatest of these virtues, as it binds everything together in perfect harmony (Colossians 3:14). Experiencing love compels our school community to act, to serve, and to persevere. It is through this love that they find the strength to overcome challenges, to forgive, and to extend love and grace to others.

Aims

In the context of our Christian values and ethos, a caring, safe and stimulating environment and our commitment to continuous improvement we aim:

Learning Aims

- To promote curiosity and enquiry and to foster a love and enjoyment of learning.
- To motivate all learners to engage in meaningful learning by responding positively to challenges and changes.
- To enable everyone to become successful life long learners by developing a range of effective learning skills and attitudes in order for us all to achieve personal excellence.

- To inspire the development of imagination and enable free, creative, and sensitive responses, to a range of experiences and opportunities.

Personal Aims

- To foster in our community deep and tangible respect for ourselves, all others and our world.
- To equip children to take their independent place in our changing world by encouraging children's responsibility for their own choices, actions and words and for their own health and well being,
- Embracing responsibility
- Embracing Christian values
- Healing brokenness and seeking justice
- Encouragement and working for change
- Giving and serving others

Aims of Collective Worship at St. Margaret's School

- To be a powerhouse of spiritual flourishing for children and adults
- To consider the big questions of life and respond to national/international events
- To create an oasis of calm and peace
- To express respect and thanksgiving
- To transform hearts and minds
- To enable everyone to be reminded that they are created and loved by God, to celebrate uniqueness and value diversity
- To promote theological and religious literacy (CEEO p5) including an understanding of the character of God and the person and teaching of Jesus Christ
- To imagine a different order of justice, mercy and hope
- To paint a picture of the Kingdom of God – life lived as God intends – and to invite participants to become a part of it
- To develop a sense of a family and community in which we can share each other's joys and challenges
- To grow children and adults who radiate, manifest encounter and live wisdom, hope, community and dignity
- To consider, celebrate and apply the Christian story
- To give children, staff, parents a taste of and desire for 'life in all its fullness'

Acts of worship

- a. A daily act of worship is a core feature of our school life. This will be wholly of a Christian nature.
- b. Worship will take place in whole school and class groups.

- c. The venue for collective worship will usually be the school hall, though sometimes children will gather in the Church or the classroom or even outdoors.
- d. The leader of worship will often be a member of the teaching staff or clergy from St. Margaret's or other denominations. Children will also play a part in leading aspects of collective worship.
- e. All teachers are expected to be involved in leading collective worship.

Each act of Collective Worship will follow this pattern:

1. Gathering

When gathering in the hall for worship the children will enter quietly whilst music is played and may join in worship songs that are being played. This music will over time reflect the wide range of musical traditions of the world and contemporary Christian worship. A thought inspiring image may be projected.

We have a wide range of worship CDs and songs from a variety of Christian traditions that can enrich the worship and engage the children. Children are consulted about the type of songs they enjoy singing in Collective Worship. We do not currently have a pianist.

A worship table provides a focus for our worship in the hall. This has a cross, candles and an open bible on and also a cloth appropriate to the liturgical year. Pupil leaders prepare the worship space on a daily basis and each class brings a cross with them to show that they are present.

2. Welcome

Collective worship will begin with a short period of quietness during which time three candles representing the Trinity are lit using a form of words. Worship will begin with a traditional greeting such as 'the peace of the Lord be with you ~ *and also with you*' or 'God is good all the time ~ *all the time God is good.*'

3. Learning

The learning aspect of it is intended to enable children to acquire:

Inner treasure – time to reflect on their uniqueness and worth, made in the image of God

Shared treasure – developing a sense of community and togetherness

Overflowing treasure – experiences, ideas, skills and attitudes that might overflow into their learning and lives in general e.g. empathy, appreciation

Lasting treasure – spiritual awareness and experience, faith in things unseen, awareness of God, a sense of eternity

(Based on Finding treasure – A guide for inspirational worship in Herefordshire schools 2007)

This part of worship may include visual images, video, drama, poetry based on Bible stories or other texts. The data projector is used to make visual aids accessible to all who are gathered for worship.

4. Reflecting

Time is taken to invite everyone to consider how the Bible story or stimulus has resonated with or challenged them. Searching questions are often used to focus reflection and participants invited to meditate, think, wonder silently or share their thoughts with a neighbour.

5. Prayer as a response

Opportunities to pray are always offered and take different forms. For example:

- Responsive Prayers
- Known Prayers
- Spontaneous prayers using the teaspoon model
- Written prayers
- Interactive prayers

6. Singing as a response

A range of traditional and contemporary worship songs are used in our worship and are chosen to reflect the theme for the day. These are both confessional and non-confessional.

7. Sending out.

Worship usually ends with the words 'Go in faith, go in hope, go in love ~ *in faith, in hope in love we go*' or similar. If clergy are present a blessing will be given. Music may be played as the children leave with their teachers, the children may sing as they leave the hall or sometimes we will leave in 'thoughtful silence'.

Distinctiveness and inclusivity

Although our Collective Worship is wholly of a Christian nature we welcome those of all faiths and none to join with us and invite them to engage in ways that are appropriate and enriching for them – this may include observing, learning, reflecting responding, being.

Planning for Collective Worship

We have a cycle of themes based on our Christian values and the church year .The plan has been designed to ensure a balanced exploration of Christian themes and other spiritual, social, emotional and cultural experiences and also to give children a sense of the Christian story through the chronology of the bible. The plan should be used creatively and imaginatively to develop the spiritual and worshipping life of the school and provides flexibility for those planning worship to do so in response to prayerful consideration of the emerging needs of the school, the community and the world.

Pupils will be involved in the planning and presentation of class collective worship including:

- Harvest thanksgiving
- Remembrance
- Advent
- Easter
- Family worship (Mothering Sunday)
- Pentecost
- Moving up

When possible, church services are held as follows:

- Christmas – carols and readings
- Easter
- Leavers’ service

Where possible, Communion Services take place in school or church each term, led by the incumbent or an alternative member of clergy. Parents decide how their children will participate – receive a blessing, take communion, remain seated.

In our ‘Celebration worship’ each week we focus on celebrating and thanking God for our achievements, our living out of our values and asking for God’s help when our learning or life in school is challenging.

In our class worship we use Picture News stimulus to focus on current issues in the world.

| St. Margaret’s CE School Collective Worship Programme | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Whole school worship – Introduction to the theme | Class Worship World wide issues / context Picture News | Story led worship linked to the value / Worship through song | Whole school worship | Celebration Worship Celebrating achievements including living |

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|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| | | | | out of our Christian values |
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Inclusion of parents, carers and visitors

Parents and other visitors are invited to join the school for communion services, class led worship, church services and to celebrate other special events.

Prayer

'Morning, noon and night'

Prayer is actively encouraged and we have a dedicated team of people who are willing to pray with colleagues, parents and children. We have a weekly staff prayer group, parent prayer group. Governors meetings all begin and end with prayer.

Preparation for the midday meal

Children are invited to give thanks for their food in their classrooms in a variety of ways. Teachers are provided with resources to support them with this.

At the end of the day

The tradition of a closing prayer at the end of the day is strongly encouraged. Teachers are provided with resources to support them with this. A short period of quiet time and reflection on the day past should give all the opportunity to end the day in a spirit of calm thanksgiving rather than of rushed chaos.

Prayer Spaces

Each classroom offers a reflective area that children can use independently. These include as a minimum a bible, candle, teaspoon prayers, and a cross.

We have a designated prayer space in the Key Stage 2 part of the school that offers children and adults a space to pray, reflect, be still. A range of resources are available including natural objects, reflective music, and a prayer tree. Creative ways of praying are introduced in worship times and then available for use in the prayer space. There are quiet spaces/spaces for prayer and reflection in both playgrounds.

Right of withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of acts of worship and should discuss this with the Headteacher.

Responsibility

The Collective Worship Policy document is the responsibility of the Governing Body and the Distinctiveness committee in particular. The lead for Collective Worship is a member of the senior leadership team.

Resources

A range of resources for prayer and worship are available near the Headteacher's office and we also make use of a range of online resources .

Monitoring and evaluation

Children, staff, governors and parents are invited to evaluate the impact of collective worship on them using an evaluation sheet and also through pupil interviews, parent questionnaires etc. The Distinctiveness committee consider the outcomes on a termly basis and adapt/improve provision as is appropriate.

Review

The policy will be reviewed in 2028 but changes may take place in the interim if felt appropriate.

Date approved by the Governing Body: