

St Martin's C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

'though many, we make up one.'

Introduction

As a Church School, we at St Martin's C of E Primary School are proud of our links to St Martin's Church, local churches and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. We view ourselves as an important element of our local community and describe being a member of our school as being part of a caring family. We view our daily acts of Worship as an important element of our school life in which we promote a culture of aiming high in a caring and nurturing environment.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school, meet together in order to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

The aim of Collective Worship:

- to teach children how to worship
- to provide an opportunity for children to worship
- to inspire children
- to reinforce our school vision/ethos, Christian Values and British Values
- to understand Christian values, teachings and festivals
- to learn about other key festivals, teachings and values of other religions
- to broaden and enrich our knowledge of different cultures, art and music
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues
- to enable children to explore their own and others beliefs
- to encourage learning, participation, reflection and response
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit (local, national and international)
- to promote a common ethos, using our shared values while to reinforcing positive attitudes
- to celebrate individual talents, abilities, efforts and achievements
- to respond to local, national and international topical issues or events
- to make links with the curriculum
- to share moments of awe and wonder

Policy statement

At St Martin's, the daily act of Collective Worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision statement. Our acts of worship will offer a range of themes including Christian and Bible stories and celebrations from a wide range of religions, SMSC and British Values and PSHE.

It is a time when we all come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and marvellous mistakes) together. The worship of the school

is based on promoting Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

As part of our work with the children, we identify the values of friendship forgiveness, compassion, wisdom, thankfulness, hope, endurance and trust. They form part of our school vision aims and values. We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

British Values

Our assemblies also link and promote the British Values of Democracy, The rule of law, Individual liberty and Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self esteem and well being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. We teach the children to understand the importance of our 3 school rules of: being respectful, being respectful and being safe and support the children in following these as part of our school community. The introduction of the common values vocabulary goes hand in hand with vibrant displays around our school and in our classrooms. These displays enable children to grasp the shared ethos to learning, attitudes and behaviour throughout the school.

Legal requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6(1) and 9(3), which states that the need for each child to attend daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading or taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children.

Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship
Tuesday	In class worship focusing on British values and diversity
Wednesday	Hymns, songs and music worship, with prayer and reflection time.
Thursday	In class worship, including faith days and festivals from a variety of world religions and denominations as well as current topics in the news.
Friday	Whole school worship

Prayer and Reflection

Our acts of worship are always invitational. They always include a time of prayer and/or reflection, including Hymn Practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, our School Prayer and prayers written by children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet reflection. At the beginning of the whole school worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of three candles (representing the Holy Trinity and Jesus as the way, the truth and the light) and our greeting of 'Peace Be with you'. Our school cross or other Christian symbols are displayed on the table.

There are links close links between the school and the local Parish church of St Martin's and visits and services are held regularly in the church. The vicar also regularly leads whole school worship on a Monday.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding for our tolerant and trusting society, regardless of pupils' beliefs. Where acts of worship are led by classes, they may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements. British Values also play an important role in the moral and cultural focus of our assembly themes.

Record keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

The RE lead collate and keep details of our rolling Worship Plan. Training is available for those who wish to lead acts of worship via the Diocese or through in-school coaching..

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St Martin's C of E Primary School ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge - their role is to educate not evangelise. St Martin's Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource.

Parents/ Governors/ Diocesan Liaison and Local Community issues

Children may be withdrawn from RE lessons and worship at the wish of the parents. The Head teacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils. Governors play a vital role in the school and collective worship. RE coordinator and Link Governors liaise to discuss various aspects of RE and Collective Worship and ensures an affective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body.

Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of RE. At each key stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.

Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- The Governing Body is consulted about the broad nature and arrangements for Collective Worship
- A daily act of Collective Worship is provided
- Alternative provision is made for pupils whose parents request that they do not attend the Collective Worship

All **staff** are invited to participate in and make an active contribution to collective worship, and encourage pupils to become actively involved.

The **Governing Body** will consider the arrangements for collective worship, and any requests for exceptions before approving.

It is the responsibility of **parents** to inform the school if they wish to withdraw their child/ren from acts of worship.

Karen Maynard
Collective Worship Leader 2025