



St Margaret's CE VA Primary School: Collective Worship Policy

Policy Status: Statutory

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the provision for Collective Worship at St Margaret's CE VA Primary School. It reflects our commitment to providing a daily act of Collective Worship for all pupils, in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1944, the Education Reform Act 1988, and subsequent legislation. This policy is underpinned by our school's Christian vision: "Learn to love, love to learn, strive to serve" and our values: Respect, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Responsibility, and Truthfulness.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aims of Collective Worship at St Margaret's CE VA Primary School are to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils to worship God.
- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- Encourage a sense of community and shared values.
- Affirm the school's Christian foundation and ethos.
- Develop pupils' understanding of Christianity and other faiths.
- Promote respect and tolerance for diverse beliefs.
- Provide opportunities for reflection and prayer.
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder.
- Develop pupils' understanding of the liturgical year.
- Encourage pupils to participate actively in Collective Worship.

3. Legal Framework and Guidance

This policy is compliant with the following legislation and guidance:

- Education Act 1944
- Education Reform Act 1988
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Education Act 2002
- Equality Act 2010
- Guidance from the Diocese of Lichfield
- OFSTED Inspection Framework
- Catholic Schools Inspectorate Inspection Handbook (where relevant, given the VA status)



4. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Headteacher:** Overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and ensuring that Collective Worship is of high quality and meets legal requirements.
- **Religious Education (RE) Coordinator:** Responsible for planning, coordinating, and monitoring Collective Worship, and for providing support and training to staff.
- **Church Worker:** Supporting the RE Coordinator in planning and delivering collective worship, especially in relation to the SWITCH team and community links.
- **Staff:** Responsible for participating in and supporting Collective Worship, and for creating a positive and inclusive environment.
- **Governors:** Responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the policy and ensuring that Collective Worship reflects the school's Christian character.
- **Pupils:** Responsible for participating respectfully in Collective Worship and contributing to a positive atmosphere.
- **Parents/Carers:** Responsible for supporting the school's values and ethos and for informing the school of any concerns regarding Collective Worship.
- **Local Clergy:** Supporting the school in the delivery of collective worship and providing guidance on religious matters.

5. Implementation

- **Daily Act of Collective Worship:** A daily act of Collective Worship will be provided for all pupils. This may take place in the hall, classrooms, or outdoors.
- **Content:** Collective Worship will be broadly Christian in character, reflecting the teachings and traditions of the Church of England. It will also include opportunities to learn about other faiths and cultures.
- **Planning:** Collective Worship will be carefully planned to ensure that it is age-appropriate, engaging, and relevant to pupils' lives. The RE Coordinator, with support from the Church Worker, will oversee the planning process.
- **Themes:** Collective Worship will focus on a variety of themes, including Christian values, Bible stories, festivals, current events, and global issues.
- **Format:** Collective Worship may include a variety of formats, such as songs, prayers, readings, drama, storytelling, and reflection.
- **Pupil Participation:** Pupils will be actively involved in Collective Worship, through reading, singing, leading prayers, and sharing their thoughts and ideas. The SWITCH team will play a key role in planning and delivering Collective Worship.
- **Resources:** A range of resources will be used to support Collective Worship, including Bibles, prayer books, songs, videos, and artefacts.
- **Inclusivity:** Collective Worship will be inclusive and accessible to all pupils, regardless of their background or beliefs. Reasonable adjustments will be made to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
- **Withdrawal:** Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Any such requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.



Alternative arrangements will be made for pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

- **Celebration of the Eucharist and Reconciliation:** The school will prioritise the celebration of the Eucharist, especially on holy days of obligation and other significant days in the Church's or school's calendar, and to the Sacrament of Reconciliation at key times in the liturgical year.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring:** The RE Coordinator will monitor the quality of Collective Worship through observations, feedback from staff and pupils, and analysis of pupil outcomes.
- **Evaluation:** The policy will be evaluated annually by the Headteacher and Governors, in consultation with staff, pupils, and parents. The evaluation will consider the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its aims and objectives.
- **Pupil Voice:** Pupil voice will be actively sought in the evaluation of Collective Worship.
- **Self-Evaluation:** The school will conduct rigorous self-evaluation processes, including records of leadership meetings where planning improvements to collective worship were a priority.
- **Improvement Plan:** An improvement plan will be developed based on the findings of the evaluation.

7. Staff Training and Development

- **Professional Development:** The school will provide regular professional development opportunities for staff on prayer and liturgy, reflecting the significant role of prayer and liturgy in the life of the school.
- **Understanding Prayer:** Leaders, including chaplains, will understand prayer in the Catholic tradition, the spiritual development of pupils and the interplay between the personal and collective experiences of prayer.
- **Liturgical Participation:** Leaders, including chaplains, will understand the principles of liturgical participation and ministry and how well they draw upon the Church's liturgical sources.
- **Facilitation:** Leaders, including chaplains, will facilitate pupils and staff to provide high quality prayer and liturgy across the school, in a manner that reflects the age and capacity of participants.

8. Resources

- **Budget:** The school will allocate sufficient resources, including time, staffing, and dedicated spaces, to support Collective Worship.
- **Dedicated Spaces:** The school will maintain dedicated spaces for prayer and liturgy.

9. Links to Other Policies



This policy is linked to the following school policies:

- Religious Education Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality Policy

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governors. The next review is due: June 2026.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation (OFSTED and CSI Alignment)

This section specifically addresses how the school monitors and evaluates Collective Worship in line with OFSTED and Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) frameworks.

- **Pupil Engagement and Response:**
 - Regular observations of whole-school and class-based prayer and liturgy.
 - Gathering pupil feedback through surveys, interviews, and discussions.
 - Analysing pupil work in RE lessons to assess their understanding of prayer and the liturgical year.
 - Reviewing records of pupil planning of prayer and liturgy.
- **Quality of Collective Worship:**
 - Observations of class-based acts of worship, focusing on the content, delivery, and pupil engagement.
 - Review of Collective Worship plans to ensure they are age-appropriate, engaging, and reflect the school's Christian character.
 - Seeking feedback from staff, pupils, and parents on the effectiveness of Collective Worship.
- **Leadership and Governance:**
 - Regular meetings between the Headteacher, RE Coordinator, Church Worker, and Governors to discuss Collective Worship.
 - Review of the school's Collective Worship policy and its implementation.
 - Monitoring the impact of professional development on staff practice.
 - Ensuring that Collective Worship is a priority in the school's annual review cycle and that improvements are implemented as a result.
 - Reviewing the school's collective worship policy.
 - Reviewing records of pupil voice in the evaluation of collective worship.
 - Conversations with clergy linked to the school.

12. Appendix: Example Collective Worship Schedule



- **Monday:** Celebration Assembly KS1, led by the KS1 staff, celebrating pupils' achievements. Class-based Collective Worship, led by the KS2 class teachers, based on a Bible story.
- **Tuesday:** Celebration Assembly KS2, led by the KS2 staff, celebrating pupils' achievements. Class-based Collective Worship, led by the KS1 class teachers, based on a Bible story.
- **Wednesday:** Whole School Worship, led by class teachers on a rota basis.
- **Thursday:** Kay Stage Worship, led by the Church and Family worker. Class-based Collective Worship, led by the pupils, focusing on a current event.
- **Friday:** Whole School Worship, led by the Headteacher, focusing on a school value.