



St Mary's Infants

Collective Worship

Reviewed: January 2024
Next Review: January 2027

Our Vision

We aspire to be a community living life in all its fullness. We share, care, learn and love with God, valuing the dignity and respect of all humanity and creation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus' Kingdom comes and everyone can flourish together.

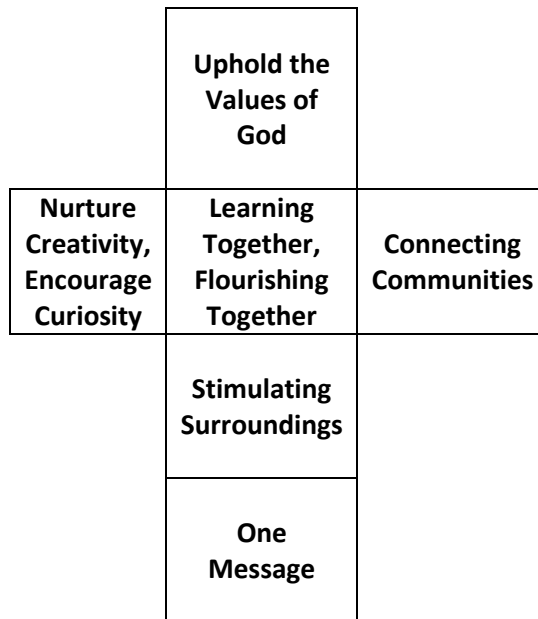
Our Mission

'Sharing, caring, learning and loving with God.'

Our Values

List the values from the newsletter header. These will also be on a tree.

Our 6 Key ideals that underpin our vision



Understanding our vision

Our 6 key ideals were created through the input of all stakeholders as being important factors in what we want from our school every day.

'We aspire to be a community living life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) Church of England vision for Education

'Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God' (School's mission statement)

'Valuing the dignity and respect of all humanity and all creation' (Reference to Jonah and the Whale and the Church of England vision)

'Through the power of the Holy Spirit' (The importance of the Holy trinity and that we can't do it alone. We must work together.)

'Jesus' kingdom comes.' (Themed verse, Lord's Prayer and the goal of the school for us to create a peaceful and successful kingdom)

Flourish: Achievement

Together: Community

Philosophy /beliefs about collective worship

Collective worship at St Mary's Infants gives school leaders and staff an opportunity to live out our Christian vision. It provides opportunities to share the love of God, His Son Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit with our children through Bible stories, inspirational lives of the saints and other Christian evangelists. It teaches children about the structure of Anglican worship and its liturgical phrases. Through our teaching and sharing of Christian values we aim to inspire, encourage, and bring positive role models to our children. This in turn enables them to build a strong moral code of how to behave in their relationships with others. This is demonstrated through teaching learning behaviours and a curriculum rooted in pupils living their lives through their values. We aim to build a community of both adults and children that treat each other with respect and love, inspired by the teachings and actions of Christ. Collective Worship enables us to come together as members of a Christian family. Close links with our local parish church of St Mary's enables both clergy and lay people to regularly attend worship and share their wisdom and knowledge with the children. All are invited and welcomed to share the daily act of worship.

Collective Worship and the Law

Church schools must fulfil two legal requirements for Collective Worship:-

The legal requirement for Church schools ensures that every child in the school is entitled to an opportunity for daily worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Collective Worship must be in accordance with the school's Trust Deed

All acts of reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church. Families and members of the wider church community are invited into our school to share in our worship.

Parents, when they first visit the school, are made aware that St. Mary's is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is clearly stated on the school website. The governing body are aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is also made clear to staff during interviews and on their appointment.

Aims of Collective Worship

It is our aim at St. Mary's Infants that worship should:

- reflect the Vision Statement and mission of the school
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils

- Offer an invitational opportunity to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- develop links with the local church, the diocese and wider church family
- celebrate special occasions in the Churches year and the life of the community
show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.
- Make links between faiths and how values are threaded through all of them

Impact of Collective Worship

We want our acts of collective worship to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. In order to ensure that these aims are being realised we need to evaluate the following areas :-

1. Are all present offered the opportunity to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection? Are there also other times during the school week when members of the school community can also develop their spirituality?
2. Are there a variety of opportunities offered to enhance worship, such as music, silence, liturgical phrases and prayers.
3. Does worship assist all present to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to grow in understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God.
4. Are pupils as well as adults able to engage in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship in ways that help to improve practices?
5. Do leaders of worship have access to regular training?
6. Do local church communities support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship

All of the above areas will be monitored and evaluated through ways listed in the '**Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship**' section.

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The collective worship leader takes on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship, supported by the clergy, governors and other members of staff as appropriate.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a special time in the school day when all children meet together for prayer and reflection. Through the week, children take part in whole school worship, class collaborative worship, singing collective worship, key stage worship and achievers. Collective worship takes place at the beginning of the school day as this enables children to reflect on the current theme and empowers them to ‘go through the door’ to good things. Starting the day with collective worship is transformative and empowers children to think about the bigger questions. The school also holds regular services in church throughout the year and these may be held at different times.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Collective worship is planned from a range of resources to meet the needs of the school community. Planning for each half term reflects the church year, Christian values and Biblical content. These plans are shared with the clergy and all delivering worship so that they know what themes are being followed at a given time to match to their worship. Worship leader and the music lead chose the appropriate music and hymns to accompany the themes. It is recognised that, on occasion, there will be changes to respond to school, local or national events.

Collective worship is clearly marked by ten stages: Engaging, light of the world, welcoming, hymns linked to the value, linking the value/theme to the Bible, reflection, response, prayer, signify the end of worship and leaving worship. Collective worship is conducted throughout the week, each day specifies where worship will take place and who will be carrying out worship.

Day	Collective Worship	Delivered by
Monday	Whole School Collective Worship	Worship Leader/SLT
Tuesday	Class Collective Worship	Class Teacher
Wednesday	Collective Singing Worship	Music Co-ordinator
Thursday	Whole School Collective Worship	Reverend Phillipa
Friday	Key Stage Worship Whole School Singing Assembly to celebrate values and vision in action	Key Stage Leader: EYFS/KS1 Headteacher

The Following 7-week unit covers:

- The value of Responsibility (With a link to serving others)
- Links to stories that demonstrate responsibility from a range of stories from the Bible.
- Links to stories that demonstrate responsibility in other religions e.g. ~~Ramadam~~ Ramadan.
- Links to elements of the church calendar e.g. Pentecost and ascension (led by our vicar)
- Hymns and music that link to the value of responsibility.
- Weekly class sessions with our link Vicar linked to the Bible.
- Roots and Fruits publication recommended by the Diocese of St Albans link to responsibility.
- Links to the big story of the Bible – Salvation
- Pupils take part in leading worship daily
- Acolytes perform every day rituals e.g. lighting of the candles.

Children engage through both formal and informal responses, prayer, and song. The content and style of worship varies and may include stories, readings, film clips, slide shows, concrete objects, role play or a variety of other support materials. Alternatively, they may be quieter and more reflective. Children are given the

opportunity to visit the spiritual garden where class collective worship will take place. The spiritual garden has been redesigned using children's innovative ideas and using resources such as 'creating a multi – sensory spiritual garden' by Shane Vickery. Children have a clear understanding of spirituality, which is sourced from the spirituality policy. At St Mary's Infants school, the definition for spirituality is 'Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking question, inspiration and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves.'

In addition to the daily act of Collective Worship, prayer punctuates the school day with prayers and the school vision before lunch and at the end of the school day. Children are also offered times and places to encourage quiet reflection during the school day. This is usually within the class 'spiritual area or the reflection area'. Each class has a reflection area where children can go and reflection on their day or the choices they have made. The area is a welcoming area and has a windows, mirrors and door sheet, which children fill in to reflect.

Throughout the school and church year children are also involved in planning and leading acts of worship through class assemblies, services in church (Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year), sharing of RE work to the school and contributing prayers, readings and other aspects to Services. Parents are invited to worship during Harvest , Christmas and the Easter church service.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Pupils put themselves forward to be a 'worship acolytes' and these roles are elected by pupils. Visitors are welcome to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our 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.

Our pupil Worship Acolyte group leads worship daily and supports the worship along with the adult or visitor leading worship that day. There are two Worship Acolytes in each class who support the planning and leading of worship in Class Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Foundation and other governors have a role in monitoring collective worship at the school. Those who volunteer in school may attend when in school for informal evaluation purposes and others regularly attend in school and special services throughout the year.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. Children offer their opinions on the content of worship through providing pupil voice and contributing to the future delivery of worship.

Attendance

Worship is attended by all class based staff and pupils, as well as non-teaching staff on occasions. Some pupils with high needs may find a whole school environment overwhelming and therefore, if agreed with the

headteacher, some pupils may have smaller, classroom based worship linked to the same as main hall worship where required.

Rights of Withdrawal

At St. Mary's Infants we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The parent/carer must provide an activity of a spiritual or religious nature for their child in this time and must be shared with the school a week in advance. Children will continue to be supervised within their hall, classroom setting, but they will engage in the task that the parent has set.

Lockdown

During lockdown, any remote worship is carried out and linked onto our website by our link vicar. When school is open, however restrictions are in place, all worship is carried out on Microsoft Teams.

Resources

A range of RE resources and different Bibles are kept around the school and are available for support. We use the 'Values for Life' and 'Roots and Fruits' documentation provided by the Diocese.