



# St Mary's Hampton

## Church of England Primary School

*Flourishing through faith, hope and love*

## Collective Worship Policy

Review Frequency:	Two Yearly
Agreed by local governing committee:	January 2026
Next Review:	January 2028

This policy sets out the aims, principles and strategies we will take to ensure that we meet the needs of learners, which is a statutory requirement. We follow the practices of the Church of England and aim to fulfil the distinctive nature of a Church School within Collective Worship and its ensuing impact upon our whole school community, each and every day.

### HOW IS THE POLICY A REFLECTION OF OUR THEOLOGICALLY ROOTED CHRISTIAN VISION?

At St Mary's our theologically rooted Christian vision is based on 1 Corinthians 13:13:

*13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

Daily collective worship is structured to reflect our three core values of faith, hope and love, which form our school vision statement: 'flourishing through faith, hope and love'. Worship is carefully and thoughtfully planned to help us live out and be inspired by these values.

*In Faith we Trust, In Hope we dream, In Love we Flourish*

## INTRODUCTION

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and will be offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

*We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> The Church of England Education Office, *Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a whole school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values of faith, hope and love.

## AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
- To reflect the parish tradition of worship, while giving experience over time for pupils to experience the breadth of Anglicanism.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals. ***(Where appropriate, and in liaison with your incumbent, this may include the Eucharist)***
- Explore the school's Christian vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues.

- Enable pupils the opportunity to make a positive contribution to worship through involvement with aspects of the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

### Collective worship:

- Should be conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and Instrument of Government and be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Unless the right of withdrawal has been exercised all pupils must take part each day in an act of collective worship (DfE circular 1/94 para. 51) and the Governing board should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage in a distinctively Christian act of worship.
- Arrangements for collective worship in foundation schools of a religious character (i.e. church schools) are the responsibility of the Governing board, after consultation with the headteacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52&53).

## PLANNING OF WORSHIP

The Headteacher plans the overall programme of collective worship, our iShare Learning Themes. These themes provide an annual overview each year and an ideas' planning sheet for each theme.

Senior Leaders and clergy plan the specific content of collective worship they lead for each theme. Our music and RE subject leaders, in liaison with the Headteacher, plan appropriate songs of worship to learn for each of the iShare Learning themes.

The Headteacher, in liaison with clergy, plans the content of our special whole school services through the year which our held in St Mary's Church for Christmas, Easter, and our end of the academic year service in July. The Headteacher and RE Leader share responsibility for the planning, implementation and monitoring of collective worship.

On occasion, the worship programme may be changed to reflect and respond to current affairs, locally, nationally or internationally.

Each half term, as part of our worship, we share learning on our iShare theme as part of our iShare buddy activity.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and our planning incorporates a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT and media.

When planning acts of worship for our iShare themes, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- *Inclusive – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.*
- *Invitational – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so.*
- *Inspiring – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.*

## OUR PROGRAMME OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Our worship at St Mary’s Hampton is centred around half termly ‘iShare Learning themes’ which focus on different aspects of our school’s vision and values and each theme is encapsulated in a particular Bible verse, which we explore and unpick through theme, as outlined below for 2025/2026:

<b>Term</b>	<b>iShare Learning Theme</b>	<b>Supporting Bible Verse</b>
Autumn 1	<b>Good Deeds for Today</b>	“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16
Autumn 2	A Fair Share	“God loves justice and fairness, and he is kind to everyone everywhere on earth.” Psalm 33:5
Spring 1	Do Not Be Afraid	“Do not be afraid – I am with you. I am your God – let nothing terrify you. I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you.” Isaiah 41:10
Spring 2	Amazing Grace	“Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another.” John 1:16
Summer 1	Inspired	“For in him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:28
Summer 2	Our Daily Bread	“I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “Those who come to me will never be hungry; those who believe in me will never be thirsty.” John 6:35

## PATTERNS OF WORSHIP

The weekly pattern of worship is as follows:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Whole school Collective Worship /visitor led assembly</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Whole School – Class led assembly</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Whole school – Class led assembly</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Whole school – Hymns of Worship</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Whole school – Celebration Worship/ visitor led assembly</b>

There are also other special times of collective worship, as follows:

- Excellence worship: A half termly collective worship, which includes a celebration of pupils picking up the 'Excellence Award' for their class over that term. Parents of award winners are invited to join the worship.
- Class-led worship: A collective worship presentation, which also reflects on the children's learning. Individual classes present this to their parents and other classes in their key stage.
- Year 6 worship leaders' worship: A termly collective worship, planned and led by our team of Year 6 worship leaders.

## CONTENT OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Although flexible, the format of our collective worship usually includes:

- the children coming in and going out to music and images
- the lighting of a candle to set the atmosphere and indicate a special time for the children to reflect and think and remember that Jesus is the light of the world.
- a beginning prayer of the peace of the lord be always with you.
- a focus on Bible teaching or Bible stories, which is often interactive or visual acting out, video material or use of other artefacts
- a time for reflection on their own or others' experiences or on the theme of the worship, for children to apply the teaching of the worship to their own lives (sometimes still and quiet)
- opportunities to learn more about the world in which they live, including other communities, cultures and faiths
- invitational prayer (this can be spontaneous, read out, responsive or something written by a child)
- singing a song of praise, sometimes with actions
- when possible, children being involved in the worship through discussion, demonstrations, quizzes, games or drama
- times of quiet and reflection
- concluding the worship time by saying the grace together

## THE WORSHIP ENVIRONMENT AROUND THE SCHOOL

We aim to ensure that our school reflects our Christian ethos. To this end, we have created worship areas around the school as outlined below:

Worship table and area in the main hall as a focal point for when we gather for collective worship. This also doubles up as a reflective space that offers a quiet and calm place for fellowship and reading or prayer.

Interactive class prayer corners, reflecting our current iShare Learning themes and resourced with Bible stories and a class prayer book, as a quiet focal point in the classroom.

## VISITORS LEADING WORSHIP

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its context and our school's vision. Please refer to LDBS guidance for visitors leading worship.

## CPD AND TRAINING

Parents, pupils and adults in school are entitled to be led in Christian worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a church school context. Therefore, everyone leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular diocesan led training.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF WORSHIP

The Senior Leadership Team, RE Leader and governors monitor collective worship over each year. Pupils are also asked for their views and ideas concerning collective worship each term through pupil voice discussions. We also invite informal feedback on worship from staff, parents and other leaders of worship. This is to ensure we continuously strive to develop and improve on planning and delivery to ensure the children have a deeper understanding of Christian values and faith.

The quality of the worship environment across the school is monitored by the headteacher or the RE leader at least twice a year.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

## PARENTS AND CARERS

As a school, we recognise that a partnership with parents/carers is essential to help pupils flourish. Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity.

We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the Headteacher before making their decision. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw pupils from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

## EVALUATION / REVIEW

This policy is reviewed regularly by the collective worship leader and Headteacher and ratified every **two years** by the local governing committee.