

St Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School

Powder Mill Lane
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 9DY



Act of Collective Worship Policy

Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Hayward
Chair of Governors: Mrs Karen Stevenson

Ratified: May 2020
Next Review: May 2022

Policy written by: Nicola Deacon

Fulfilling God-given potential

*Distinctive Christian values-
Honesty, Kindness, Respect, Responsibility*

St Matthew's High Brooms Collective Worship Policy

'Fulfilling God-given potential'

At St Matthew's School we recognise that each person has unique gifts and seek to enable them to fulfil their God-given potential.

"See how very much our father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3 v1, New Living Translation)

"I feel proud to be part of a community that has been designed by God. We are all part of his plan. If we are made in God's image, he must think that we are perfect." Joshua Y5

Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of honesty, kindness, respect and responsibility (with the addition of guest values) and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in our community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, reflecting in particular the Anglican tradition of St Matthew's Church and recognises and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of Christian beliefs.
- d) Pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.
- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school's provision for collective worship

Our collective worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes. For example

- It helps pupils' spiritual development by teaching them about God and giving them the opportunity to worship Him together. It offers pupils the opportunity to hear about Him from the Bible, to develop their own relationship with Him through prayer and to reflect on themselves and their place in His world. It encourages silent reflection, helping children to recognise the spiritual dimension of life.
- It helps pupils' moral development by taking time to develop a common ethos and shared values based on Christian standards.
- It promotes pupils' social development by helping them feel part of a community and by reinforcing positive attitudes to others. Our worship will encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- It helps pupils' cultural development by drawing on our Christian heritage through the Bible and through religious festivals and practices. Pupils are also given the opportunity to experience and respond to appropriate music, art and artefacts.

Organisation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the youth workers from our local church and external visitors (Cross Teach, Life and Soul). This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We provide an act of worship for all pupils every day, thus fulfilling our statutory duty, organised as follows:

Monday	Key Stage	Sung praise and worship
Tuesday	Key Stage	Led by visitors from St Matthew's Church
Wednesday	Whole School	Led by SLT linked to RDBE ACW plan
Thursday	Key Stage	Planned by phase leaders and led by class teachers
Friday	Key Stage	To include a celebration of achievements

- We aim to create an atmosphere of worship. To aid this, appropriate music may be played for entry and exit from the hall or children may be encouraged to sing together.
- The usual format consists of an input from the leader, an appropriate song, followed by a time of prayer and / or quiet reflection. Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils through for example questioning and drama.
- A display area is kept in the hall which includes a 'Godly Play' style clock demonstrating the seasons and colours of the liturgical year which are also shown on the alter which also has a cross and Bible on
- The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time.
- Each class leads an ACW once a year to which parents are invited to. Parents are invited to the Christmas Service, Nativity Plays, Yr R Mother's Day Service and Yr 6 Leaver's Service.
- Governors are invited to attend worship when they visit the school

Church Links

The school values its special links with the St. Matthew's Church. The school visits the church for special festivals and services: Harvest, Christmas and Easter and for the Leavers' Service. The children prepare their own songs, drama, prayers and readings for these services and their parents are welcome to attend as space permits. The children also make visits to the church to learn about the life and activities of the church.

Use of Visitors

The Headteacher is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. By drawing on people from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion. Speakers from local or national organisations are occasionally used to introduce pupils to a wider audience.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Resources

A wide range of resources are available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship. Online resources, such as music and film clips are used as appropriate.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion and with valued feedback from pupils, parents and governors. School self-evaluation is completed as part of SIAMS and worship is independently inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester.

Participation in and withdrawal from Collective Worship

Worship is regarded as a special time which reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. However, parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from this school activity. Before reaching a decision to exercise this right, parents would be asked to discuss this issue fully with the headteacher.