

Marsh Baldon Church of England Primary School

'Small but Mighty'



Policy for Collective Worship

'Collective Worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10.' Church of England Guidance for School

Christian Vision

'I came to give life, life in all its fullness' John 10:10



Vision

We aspire for all to:

- Flourish as unique, respected individuals
- Love learning, and aim for excellence
- Be confident, free thinkers who manage setbacks and take risks
- Be spiritual and embrace Christian values, so that they grow a deep sense of themselves and their responsibilities to the world

The parable of the Mustard Seed is an example of how Jesus teaches us how to live life in all its fullness

Our core Christian values

INTEGRITY

Integrity is about being honest and wanting to do the right thing (even when no one is watching)

'Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.'

Proverbs 24:25-26

RESPECT

Respect is about showing consideration towards others feelings, wishes or rights

'Love your Neighbour as you love yourself'

Mark 12:31

EQUALITY

Equality is about making sure that everyone has equal opportunity to live life to the full.

So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women;
Galatians 3:28

COOPERATION

Cooperation is about working together

So then, we must always aim at those things that bring peace and that help to strengthen one another
Romans 14:19

LOVE

Love is about affection and relationships. Love is also about warmth, care and consideration for others.

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs, love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth
1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a

COURAGE

Courage is the ability to do something that is frightening, painful or difficult.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
Psalms 23:1-4

Definition of Collective Worship

'Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.'

Religious Education and Collective Worship Circular 1/94 (para 50)

Aims for Collective Worship

- To explore the school's vision and values in order to bring moral and spiritual depth and meaning to our lives
- Without compulsion, to provide opportunities to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship, reflection and celebration
- To promote appreciation of the relevance of faith, and Christianity in particular, as taught by the Church of England, e.g. by encountering teachings of Jesus and the bible

- To teach the principle concepts of Christianity and associated language/vocabulary e.g The Trinitarian nature of God
- To understand the Christian calendar and significant events
- To enable children and adults to ask big questions and be comfortable with open ended answers
- To create fellowship and cohesion within the school community and beyond
- To use Collective Worship to respond to significant personal, local, national and world events
- To teach Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding including British Values.
- To help children deal with difficult concepts such as pain, loss and bereavement

Collective Worship at Marsh Baldon CE Primary School

Collective Worship at Marsh Baldon CE Primary School is of a broadly Christian character and aims to be inclusive, invitational and inspiring. We welcome children and adults of all world views and aim to provide Collective Worship that is relevant and spiritually enriching for all.

Collective Worship may take place together in the school hall, classroom or church in the form of an assembly or service, but we provide many additional opportunities for worship and spirituality such as:

- Providing opportunities for contemplation/reflection during lessons e.g. Jigsaw (PHSE) or RE
- 'Forest Church' in our forest school site
- Prayer Spaces (BE SPACE)
- Quiet time in special spaces around the school grounds
- 'Camp fire contemplation' on site
- Reflective displays
- Philosophy for Children

Organisation of Collective Worship

The Staff and Governors of Marsh Baldon CE Primary School place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life. Whole school worship is led by different members of the school community including staff, the local clergy, visitors and the children. This enables us to provide an inclusive and varied approach and greatly enhances the schools Christian distinctiveness. The whole school attends St Peters Church in Marsh Baldon at least once each term.

The Headteacher (Collective Worship and RE coordinator), in consultation with local clergy, staff and children produces a half termly plan for Collective Worship, which include the themes to be developed, stories, bible references and related values, the suggested material to be used, the praise to be included as well as other practical elements such as the introductory music. Children are involved in the writing of prayers.

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is as follows:

	Main feature of worship	Assembly usually led by:
Monday	Values Assembly (Exploration of worship theme)	Headteacher
Tuesday	Singing Assembly (Worship through song)	Headteacher
Wednesday	Reflection/prayer in Classrooms	Class teacher
Thursday	Church Assembly (Christian teaching, worship and liturgy)	Church member/vicar
Friday	Celebration assembly	Headteacher

Formal Collective Worship typically follows the following format:

Entrance:	Children enter silently to music with an image or object on display
Welcome:	Lighting of candle and greeting 'Peace be with you'*
Sung worship:	Song is selected to link with the worship theme
Christian message:	Follows the theme outlined in the Collective Worship plan
Response:	Focal point of worship - Reflection, prayer or action
Sending:	Conclusion that links worship to daily lives**

* Peace be with you in sign language as seen here
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ColRm5HQGFg>

**may include school or Lord's prayer or *'I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you'*. John 13:15 or *We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world*

Developing Staff Expertise and Knowledge

The staff and governors uses the expertise and guidance of ODBE and wider services to develop knowledge and understanding of Collective Worship through:

- Online and published resources
- Training events
- OBDE Advisory service
- OBDE and Governor monitoring activities

Equal Opportunities

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in the church's view, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability or special educational needs.

Evaluation of Impact

Through:

- Governor monitoring
- Pupil Voice (e.g. working lunches)
- Parent, staff and visitor feedback
- Photographs
- Reflections

Legal Requirements

There are legal requirements for Collective Worship, which include: Collective Worship in a Church of England School should be in accordance with the trust deed or Diocesan guidelines. These include the tenets and practices of the Church of England. In other words, in a church school, it should be clearly Christian.

The school must provide an act of Collective Worship for all children every day. Daily Collective Worship must be provided for all registered school pupils on a daily basis, (unless they have been withdrawn by parental request). It also means that it is illegal to withdraw any pupils from Collective Worship on any other grounds (for example support groups, music lessons, booster classes, etc). The act of Collective 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 unit.

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

Adopted: January 2023

Date for next review: January 2026