

ST MARGARET'S COLLIER STREET CE  
SCHOOL

ACT OF WORSHIP  
POLICY

Review, rewrite: March 2018

Agreed by Governors: July 2018

Next Review: March 2020

**ST MARGARET'S COLLIER STREET**  
**ACT OF WORSHIP POLICY**

St Margaret's is a Church of England, Voluntary Controlled, Primary School where we place a strong emphasis on maintaining an ethos based on Christian principles. Worship is therefore a very important part of our lives. Collective Worship is in line with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England, as established by our trust deeds.

It is our aim to give all pupils the opportunities to extend their knowledge of, and to respect, other faiths.

**RATIONALE:**

This policy seeks to give clear expression to the practice of worship at St Margaret's School and the principles underlying it.

**AIMS**

School worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their age and aptitudes.

We aim in our Collective Worship:

- To encourage pupils' spiritual development by teaching them about God and giving them the opportunity to worship and praise Him
- To develop spirituality
- To celebrate what is good and lovely and express thankfulness for the joy of being alive
- To illustrate traditional forms of worship that others have found helpful in their spiritual development. e.g. silent contemplation
- To understand the gospel message
- To explore and share beliefs
- To experience the importance of prayer
- To give time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space
- To celebrate common Christian values, especially those identified within our aims; friendship, fairness, respect and helpfulness
- To give opportunities for the children to learn about the Christian heritage in Western culture as well as appreciating the rich diversity of other cultures in our society
- To nurture morality
- To teach respect for other faiths, cultures and views
- To provide a rich variety of forms of expression – art, drama, dance, music, story, and give pupils the space to experience these forms at their own level
- To help the pupils to be comfortable in an Anglican service, including a Eucharist, by the time they leave the school.

## **ORGANISATION**

In compliance with the law, we provide an act of worship daily for all pupils. This is organised by the Headteacher who is the Collective Worship co-ordinator. From time to time all members of staff will take the lead in our Collective Worship. Our Collective Worship will take place at the beginning of the school day, all classes will attend.

The weekly pattern is as follows:

- Monday: The Head Teacher – launches the theme for the week
- Tuesday: Teaching Staff/Visitors
- Wednesday: Praise and Reflect – led by Headteacher and Music Assistant, Mrs Karen Barton-Holman. Includes a separate act of worship, time for reflection, reference to words in the hymns, and a prayer.
- Thursday: Class Act of Worship/Visitors
- Friday: Senior Teacher – Following the Act of Worship, merits and certificates are awarded, as well as recognising other positive events in the life of the school.

Reception children will be introduced gradually to whole school worship once they are settled into full time school.

Themes and prayers will be planned for each week of each term by the Headteacher/Leading Lights. Each week a piece of music is selected to listen to as the pupils enter and leave the school hall. The children will enter the hall for our Collective Worship silently. The theme for the week and the title of the piece of music will be displayed in the hall. A range of prayers, traditional, children's, or from collections, will be used. The Lord's Prayer will be used regularly.

Other organisations such as the Family Trust visit.

Notices and other whole school information will be shared after the Collective Worship.

At the beginning of our Collective Worship a candle will be lit by a year 6 pupil. The children will respond to the lighting of the candle by saying 'The Lord is with us'. There will be regular opportunities for quiet reflection. At the end of worship, the whole school may sing 'This is the Day'.

At the end of each term all the school will attend Collective Worship in the church. As many children as possible will take an active part in this service. Parents, friends and Governors will be invited to attend and if possible to participate.

## **CONTENTS**

We organise Collective Worship under themes, provided by the Diocese, which are explored from different angles. These show that these themes can cover seasons, festivals, anniversaries and much more. Collective Worship is delivered in a variety of ways, but usually includes music and songs, story and discussion and a time for prayer and reflection.

Teachers may draw from a range of resources of their own or belonging to the school.

However, there are times when we need to be flexible and respond to current issues both in and around the school and to take account of world events and current affairs.

## **PARTICIPATION**

As a church school, worship plays a central part in our school life and is important educationally for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Therefore, although parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from this school activity, they are encouraged to discuss this fully with the Headteacher before reaching a decision. Teachers also have the right to withdraw, on grounds of conscience, but we hope that they feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school and to participate in this important part of it.

### **Children's Participation**

- Planning the themes from time to time and leading on occasions (Leading Lights)
- Lighting the candle to signify the act of worship
- Leading the prayers
- Evaluating
- Accompany by playing their musical instruments
- Arranging chairs and benches
- Organise the OHP/Data Projector

### **Budgeting and Resourcing**

The school purchases new resources to enhance collective worship especially those suggested by Rochester Diocese.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Evaluation takes place regularly by children, which encourages them to consider how Collective Worship will influence their day, as well as Foundation Governors who monitor, usually over one complete week so comparisons can be made based on one theme. These findings then form part of the overall annual SIAMS review undertaken by the Headteacher, Vicar, two Foundation Governors and a parent representative.