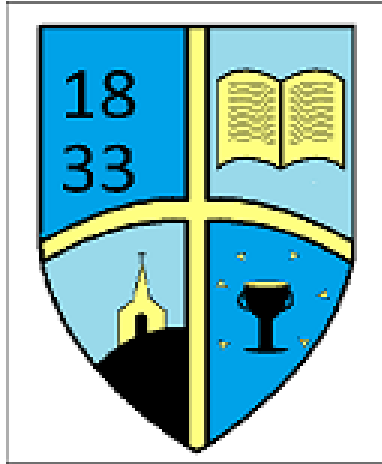


# *Mellor St Mary CE Primary School*



*Believing, Learning  
& Sharing Together*

# **Collective Worship Policy**

**Academic Year 2024-25**

“Believing, Learning and Sharing Together .”

## *Policy for Collective Worship*

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Through our Christian Faith, we acknowledge our responsibility to all, to enrich lives and show love and respect within our school family. We believe in lifelong learning aiming to equip our children to live life today and for tomorrow rooted in Christian love.

**For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)**

*For with  
God nothing  
shall be  
impossible.*

*- Luke 1:37*

At Mellor St Mary CE Primary School we believe that each and every one of us are special because we are made in the image of God and we must avoid at all cost diminishing the dignity of any individual to a stereo type or a problem.

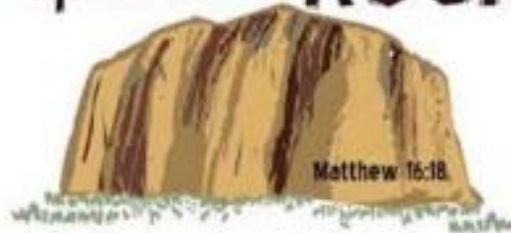
Our teaching and learning ethos is underpinned by the scripture ‘*For with God nothing shall be impossible*’ (Luke 1:37) and we believe that every child has the right to reach their full potential, no matter what their starting point in life may be. This policy has been created to ensure that all our pupils are able to reach their full potential by living life in all its fullness.

### **Our School Mission:**

Our school is the church on the hill; the light that brings Jesus into the lives of all in our community.

***Upon this rock I will build my church (Matthew 16:18)***

# Upon This **ROCK**



# I Will Build My Church

### **Introduction**

At Mellor St Mary C.E. Primary School our Religious Education and Collective Worship includes a daily act of worship and regular services in Church, all of which follow the rites, practice and doctrine of the Church of England. In our school we follow Jesus by believing, learning and sharing together.



It is the duty of the Governing Board to secure that, subject to the legal requirements which apply to Voluntary Aided schools e.g. The Education Reform Act 1988, section 6, all pupils at school shall take part in the daily act of collective worship as required by the Act in accordance with the traditions of our school and the demands of Diocesan Policy.

Collective Worship clearly plays a major part in promoting the Christian aims, values and ethos of the school as expressed in our mission statement. Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and Governors see it as an essential part of all the pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and to ensure

that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to legal daily acts of worship; opportunities will be taken to use prayer and in the curriculum generally.

### **Worship or Assembly ?**

Schools have traditionally often referred to “assembly” rather than “collective worship”. We believe the two do not have to be distinct; “assembly” being the gathering together to share a common purpose e.g. celebration of achievement, “worship” being a time to acknowledge, reflect on and respond to God. We believe that our achievements should be seen within the setting of our Christian beliefs and values and as a realisation of our God given gifts and talents. Collective worship is also the place where we acknowledge the infinitely larger world we live in and are touched by its mystery and wonder. We do recognise that there are times when we assemble together for purposes other than worship e.g. simple notices or announcements – such times are legally distinct from worship and hence withdrawal rights do not apply.

Forms of worship within the Church of England do differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship including the rich tapestry of practice in the world wide Christian church. Stories and other material from another faith may be used from time to time where these might effectively illustrate Christian values and support the development of respect for self and other people.

Whatever the approaches and material used, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the following key beliefs and aspects of our Christian faith and helped to explore them:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through His life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity’s relationship with God
- The nature of human beings, made and loved by God.
- The central virtues of compassion, courage, kindness, humility, joy, responsibility and love.
- The central place of the bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance. (God’s Big Story)
- The importance of prayer.
- The central symbols of Christianity notably the cross.
- The cycle of the Church year.



Our school policy sets out a framework within which all staff can operate and gives guidance on content, organisation and resources. This document is designed for all staff, school governors, inspection teams and LA and Diocesan advisers/inspectors. Copies are provided for all teachers, for the Chair of the Governors, Curriculum Committee (to be made available upon request to any Governor) and for the Head teacher (to be made available on request to supply teachers, support staff, trainees teachers and parents.) An additional copy is kept in the office for LA advisers or inspection teams.

### **Responsibility for this policy**

Responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Governing Board in consultation with the Head.

Governors should:

- Contribute to and then agree the school policy for collective worship.
- Receive oral/written reports on school worship along with reports for all other curriculum areas.
- Ensure that there is a lead for collective worship.
- Ensure that funding is identified for resourcing collective worship.
- Agree those occasions when collective worship will be held in Church.
- Attend collective worship in school or Church when possible.
- Ensure that collective worship has a place in the Development Plan.
- Agree when and how collective worship is reviewed .
- Agree wording about worship in the school prospectus.

### **Aims**

Within the context of a Church School, collective worship should support both the children and adults taking part in developing their own beliefs, values and attitudes through an exploration of shared human experience with an emphasis on Anglican beliefs and practices as is appropriate to the school situation.

Collective worship is an integral part of the ethos of the school as expressed in our mission statement. Pupils are given a sound foundation in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith as appropriate for their age and abilities. Through knowledge, discussion and thought, pupils are helped to explore and define their faith.

Therefore the aims of collective worship at Mellor St Mary CE Primary School are to enable all pupils to:-

- Experience and participate in a caring Christian community.
- Develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes.
- Develop self-confidence and a positive self-esteem.
- Gain in their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith as appropriate to their age and abilities.
- Begin to understand the nature of God as revealed in Jesus.
- Celebrate the major festivals and of the church year.
- Learn about the place and significance of the Bible.

- Develop an understanding of and confidence in Anglican beliefs and practices.
- Learn the Lord's Prayer, the Grace and other appropriate prayers and responses.
- Develop the ability to be still and reflective.
- Understand what worship is and begin to develop their own relationship with God.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder at creation and the gift of life.
- Explore important questions about life and creation, including areas such as love, truth, loss, suffering etc.
- Share the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community in the presence of God.
- Develop performance skills and participate confidently in group preparation and performance.
  
- Explore, but not share, the beliefs of others through story and discussion.

## **Organisation and Delivery**

In order to achieve the aims outlined previously, collective worship at Mellor St Mary CE Primary School is organised into either whole school or class worship.

Worship usually takes place at 10:20am until 10:45am in either the main school hall or in classrooms when separate key stage worship is taking place.

Worship can be led by the head, staff, pupils, clergy and visitors. We have invited guests from other Christian denominations to lead worship on occasions. Members of the clergy and trained Lay people from Mellor St Mary Church as well as local churches regularly visit the school to lead worship.

Parents are invited to attend celebration worship led by clergy, pupils, faith group, individual classes and on key occasions the school worships at St Mary's Church. Governors are welcome to join our assemblies whenever they are able to join the school community at this time.

It is very important that we create a worshipful atmosphere for effective collective worship to take place. Children who arrive late for worship are encouraged to join in by quietly entering the hall and joining the class nearest the door.

Music is played as children enter the hall, to ensure all children are aware they are entering a "special space".

The trinity candles are lit and once all the children are assembled a welcome is used to signal the start of our worship time.

At the close of worship the candles are blown out and once again music is played as the children leave.

We also display images linked to Christian virtues to help create a reflective atmosphere.

We celebrate all achievements made both individually or as a school community as part of our Friday worship time.

On occasion other messages are given to the children at the end of our worship time, once the candle has been blown out but prior to the music starting for the children to lead out.

At least once a term the school community worships at St Mary's Church.

Weekly worship is held in class using the theme 'What would Jesus Do?' as we think about event happening in and around our world – this gives all children, even those less confident the opportunity to contribute.

Each class has a designated worship area and as with all worship a candle is lit or welcome is said to signify the start of this special time in the day.

### **Content and Approaches**

In planning collective worship we try to ensure all worship is scripture led, links to God's Big Story with a range of story, song, video content and activities.

Any worship time might include:-

- Singing
- Silence and other reflective moments
- Readings and storytelling
- Rituals and responses
- Drama
- Music
- A talk
- Discussion or questioning
- Interviews/role play
- Use of religious symbols
- Prayer
- Challenges/problem solving
- Recognition of achievements
- Use of visual aids
- Art

The content of our collective worship tends to follow a five fold approach:-

1. Observance of the church year, supported with specific services
  2. Celebration of the Bible ( God's Big Story)
  3. Understanding of our core virtues and fruits of the Spirit
  4. Celebrations of curriculum work
-

## 5. "One off" assemblies

Within these 5 approaches content of our worship includes:-

- Sharing and taking note of common experiences
- Expressing concern for others, both those known to themselves and people from the news
- Looking at the world and our place within it
- Exploring common values, standards and rules
- Exploring specific incidents and issues
- Sharing biblical stories
- Sharing other literature, poetry or art with a Christian theme
- Sharing information about other faiths
- Celebrating and sharing achievements
- 

## **Cross Curricular Links**

Collective worship has clear links to the teaching of R.E. in our school, but there are also links to many other areas of the curriculum. The importance of cross curricular teaching is clear; no subject can be taught in isolation, a broader experience of learning will undoubtedly lead to a greater level of development in all areas of the child's experience – intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual.

1. English – Speaking and listening are central to taking part in collective worship. Children are encouraged to listen to Biblical and other stories, poems, experiences and opinions. They are equally encouraged to retell stories, take part in role play and explain their views, ideas and experiences. Reading and responding both to the Bible and other reference books is also a fundamental part of collective worship.

2. Science – There are of course some specific areas of linked study for example the universe and the story of creation, but in more general terms an understanding of the uniqueness of every individual adds an important dimension to children's scientific investigations about themselves.

3. Geography/History - The study of Biblical stories and events inevitably leads to an examination of the impact the environment had on those events and the shaping of beliefs. Children will be involved in contrasting Biblical societies with now, vital if faith is to be relevant to their own lives not just a story of other people from distant lands and in distant times.

4. The Arts– The arts can provide a valuable insight into both Christian and other faith practices. Music, pictures, photographs, films and artefacts all help to bring faith and worship alive and real.

5. PSHE/RSE – Exploring religious and moral beliefs is a major element of PSHE/RSE – developing an understanding of the differences between people and how to develop relationships with those who hold different beliefs to yourself. We use the SCARF and JIGSAW materials across the school. Exploring feelings and using biblical stories to explore concepts such as right/wrong and forgiveness are all vital elements of both collective worship and PSHE.

Collective Worship frequently includes the celebration of achievements within our “school society” and hence provides an understanding of how citizenship works.

6. Physical Education – A celebration of talents and achievements of both sporting teams and individuals is an important part of collective worship.

All the above happens in most schools, but at our school all of the above are done clearly and explicitly in the presence of God, in a way which points to God and brings our concerns and joys before Him.

### **6. Resources**

The requirements of the Diocesan syllabus and the age and ability of the children in school leads to the use of the following types of resources:-

- Teachers’ books and articles
  
- Audio-visual aids
  
- Story books, posters, artefacts and art work
  
- Human resources - clergy, advisers and visitors.

### **7. Equal Opportunities**

Equal Opportunities at our school is carried out according to our agreed Equal Opportunities Policy.

All staff leading worship are responsible for ensuring that all pupils irrespective of gender, ability, ethnicity and social circumstances, have access to worship opportunities at a level appropriate to them whilst in our school.

The monitoring of the policy for Equal Opportunities is ultimately the responsibility of the Headteacher, but every member of staff is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the policy in terms of promoting good practice.

### **8. Recording and Reporting**

Records of the Acts of Worship that take place in school are kept by the Worship lead. All records kept are straightforward, brief and understandable to those who need to use them. They serve two key purposes:

- To show the range of approaches used.
- To show the content covered (including songs used).

Reporting to the Governing Board takes place in line with our procedures for reporting all areas of the curriculum. Governors take a strong personal interest in the collective worship in school, regularly leading or attending acts of worship and discussing worship with staff.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation is carried out to enhance the collective worship within our school.

Monitoring takes place in a number of ways:

- personal evaluation by the worship leader
- discussion with individuals or groups of children
- discussion with members of staff.
- reflective diary
- prayer tree and worship area comments
- Faith Group.

## **The Role of the Leader**

The Worship Leader is responsible for:

- Determining the aims for collective worship throughout the school and, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, staff and governors, documenting these aims within the school policy for collective worship.
- Ensuring that the Diocesan Guidelines for RE and collective worship are known and understood by all who lead worship in our school.
- Keeping clear records of the acts of worship taking place in school.
- Monitoring the collective worship in the school thereby ensuring that worship holds its central place within the broad and balanced curriculum of our school.
- Undertaking an annual review of collective worship in school.
- Submitting reports to the Governing Board as required.

### ***Appendix***

The legal requirements for Religious Education.

#### **A. Legal requirements.**

Religious Education in Church Schools is governed by the 1996 and 1998 Education Act.

The legislation requires Religious Education to be provided for all pupils (1996 Education Act, Section 352)

#### **B. Parental rights of withdrawal in a Voluntary Aided School.**

All pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship unless the parent requests that he might be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school.

The worship and Religious Education provided by Mellor St Mary CE Primary School is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. **Our faith position is not confined to collective worship and R.E. lessons; it is also reflected throughout the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the whole ethos of our school reflects our Christian faith, removal of pupils from Worship or R.E. (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of our school.**

This policy was last updated by the Worship Leader. It is based on Diocesan Guidance and was presented to the Governing Board for approval.

**REVIEW Date:**

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years

**Signed:** *J.Embley-Peers* (Head teacher)

**Signed:** *P Skupski* (Chair of Governors)

**Date:** September 2024

**Next review:** Academic Year 2026-27

**Reviewed by:** Curriculum Committee