



Reaching our Potential Together in Christ

# WORSHIP POLICY



Devonshire Street, Accrington BB5 1DW



Mrs Helen V Bird | Headteacher



Mrs L Morgan | School Bursar



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**ST MARY MAGDALEN'S**  
CE Primary School



'Reaching our potential Together in Christ'  
We seek to help all of our learners to 'live and  
live splendidly' (John 10:10)

Policy Name: **WORSHIP POLICY**

Subject coordinator: Helen V Bird

Date reviewed: September 2024

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## VISION STATEMENT

**'To live and live splendidly' *John 10:10***

**By reaching our potential together in Christ.**

We believe that through the teaching of God's word at St Mary Magdalen's Church of England Primary School, we prepare our children for all challenges that lie before them, enabling all our school family to, **'live and live splendidly' *John 10:10*** **'By reaching our potential together in Christ.'** We endeavour to provide a rich soil, enabling our children to flourish socially, morally, and spiritually in a safe environment. We do this by being prayerful and accepting of God's word, following our Christian values where love is central to all we do ***Galatians 5:22-23.*** *It is our vision to inspire our children by creating a love of learning throughout our unique curriculum.* We worship by celebrating our uniqueness in the acceptance and respect all our differences whilst remembering our faith's diversities and spirituality. ***John 13:34.***



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## PURPOSE

This policy reflects the Christian Vision and Values of St Mary Magdalen's Church of England Primary School. It is consistent with the school's agreed aims and objectives and sets out a framework within which teaching and support staff can operate. This policy document should be read in conjunction with the "Guidelines for Collective Worship" document which provides further details and advice on the following areas.

- Adult roles and expected behaviour
- Details of Organisation of Collective Worship
- Resources/materials available
- Special acts of collective worship

## AUDIENCE

This document is intended to give a clear outline of the school's approach to the Collective Worship to all staff, governors and parents. It is also intended for the use of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education when assisting the development of the school's curriculum and for any authorised inspector. Copies of this document are provided for all teaching staff and are available when necessary to support staff, members of the School's Governing Committee. A copy of this document is available for the use of parents.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

At St Mar Magdalen's Church of England Primary School, we aim to foster a lifelong love of learning, through adopting a highly practical and cross curricular approach to learning. Being a Church of England school, we aim to fulfil all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education.

We are proud of being a Church school at the heart of our local community – a place where everyone is valued, respected and encouraged to develop resilience and confidence. Our strong ethos strives to ensure that each pupil achieves their very best.

**Academically** – through a knowledge rich, focussed and sequenced curriculum.

**Culturally** – through an extensive programme of extra curricular activities and visits.

**Spiritually** – through an ethos of interdependence that flows through the life of both the school, church and the wider community.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

To ensure that daily Collective Worship is seen as a central and important part of the education of this school as determined by our Christian Vision..

- Engage in an act of community.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.



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- 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.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

#### THE OBJECTIVES OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ARE:

- To enable all children to experience the togetherness and reverence of joining in acts of Collective Worship.
- To ensure that Collective Worship is provided in line with a broad traditional Anglican framework.
- To be mindful of the sensitivities of pupils from other faiths in our school community and whilst recognising that most acts of Collective Worship will draw upon Christian Traditions, we shall be aware of the evidence of God's Spirit in other religions.
- To encourage all pupils to grow in Christian goodness.
- To encourage children to participate in Collective Worship through sharing their own sensitivities and thoughts.
- To allow pupils to experience and explore the spirituality of traditional and contemporary prayer.
- To provide acts of collective worship in a variety of settings, e.g. Classroom, Hall, Church.
- To give pupils experience of traditional and contemporary worship styles.
- To allow pupils to experience traditional and contemporary religious music, hymns and songs.
- To provide a framework in which stories from Christian and other faith backgrounds can be explored to illustrate moral and spiritual dimensions.
- Through silence and meditation, give children the opportunity to reflect upon their thoughts and their relationship with God.

#### THE ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AT ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### CREATING AN APPROPRIATE SETTING FOR WORSHIP

In order to achieve the above aims, all teaching staff, support staff, and parents are expected to set a positive example and to encourage children to fully participate in collective worship.

All children should experience an act of Collective Worship at some point during each school day. This may be class based, Key Stage based, or whole school. During the year, services will be arranged in school and Church to celebrate the passage of the Christian Year.



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All teaching staff will be expected to attend acts of Collective Worship and lead them as directed by the Headteacher. The school's Priest will also lead acts of worship, and members of other faith communities will be invited to share our worship where appropriate.

An overall theme will be given to Worship each half-term and acts of worship will follow this theme. The theme will be clearly communicated to the children at every act of worship, allowing links to be made between PSHE and RE.

Special events in the Christian calendar will be celebrated, as will the festivals of other world faiths.

The subject leader is responsible for planning the half-termly theme and providing suggested ideas for staff to use when leading worship. The plan is displayed on the Collective Worship board in the staff room.

Worship normally takes place in the school hall, the classrooms or the church. In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for worship the school creates a focal point through:

- Displays on the value or theme
- A Worship Table
- A cross
- 3 lighted candles representing the Holy Trinity
- Other artefacts to enhance a message
- Music
- Silence for reflection

We follow a routine which is used for all our acts of worship:-

- Music and accompanying power point to enter
- Children to enter singing the chosen Worship song/hymn preparing to praise the Lord adults to model this behaviour.
- Begin with 'The Lord be with you' followed by the response 'And also with you'.
- Light three candles in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- All present to say the School Prayer– created by The Chaplains - or the Lord's Prayer.
- Worship Song
- Planned delivery of value or theme.
- Prayer – time for personal prayer too.
- End of worship signaled by 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord' followed by the response 'Thanks be to God'.
- Extinguish candles.
- Leave singing the chosen Worship song/hymn.



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## THE ALLOCATION OF TIME TO COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

MONDAY HALL	TUESDAY HALL	WEDNESDAY IN CLASS	THURSDAY HALL	FRIDAY HALL
GOD'S BIG STORY	PICTURE NEWS	HAPPY MINDS	CHOIR CHURCH	CLASS LED WORSHIP
FR DAVID and/or SLT	NOMINATED LEAD ADULT	LEAD ADULT	ELIZABETH PARRINGTON AND MEMBER OF SLT	NOMINATED CLASS

Each school day will normally begin with an Act of Collective Worship between the end of registration (9.05 a.m.) and 9.30 a.m. When special services are arranged, suitable timings will be agreed.

During any school day staff may take time with their class to reflect upon incidents or issues that may need a period of quiet reflection or thought.

### MATERIAL AND RESOURCES

Materials and resources specifically purchased for use during Collective Worship include music (stored in the C.D. cabinet in the Hall and on the server. The school will follow God's Big Story, Worship Picture News, Choir Church Plan and each week Classes will be nominated to cover People of Significance as stated on the Worship Plan.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- All relevant staff will ensure that Collective Worship is implemented in accordance with this
- Policy;
- The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to;
- The governing committee will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the Head teacher to account for its implementation.

### INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

Collective Worship is planned in order to set high expectations for all pupils.

- More able pupils



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- Pupils with low prior attainment
- Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Pupils with SEND
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)

Collective Worship is planned to ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. We believe all our children are entitled to benefit from equal access to work and equipment within collective worship regardless of race, gender, intellectual and physical ability, in line with the nine protected characteristics.

To ensure equality for all, teachers are committed to planning worship that:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Promote equality of access and opportunity within our school and within our wider community;
- Promote positive attitudes to difference and good relationships between people with different backgrounds, genders, cultures, faiths, abilities and ethnic origins.

### **SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BRITISH VALUES**

The school sets out to plan a provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, but it is also expected that many unplanned opportunities will occur (especially for spiritual development) and staff are encouraged to "seize the moment" when appropriate. Such moments may have a profound effect on individuals.

The promotion of the 'British Values' of

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs is central to our education as British Values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation.

### **EARLY YEARS**

Reception children should be involved in collective acts of worship activities at an appropriate level with appropriate interest. Working with Blackburn Diocese appropriate resources have been purchased to work in conjunction with children's learning and the EYFS Framework 2024. Reception attend whole school acts of Collective Worship as soon as the it is decided.

### **RECORD KEEPING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

All special acts of worship, children's contributions during worship and assemblies are collected and stored centrally in our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural File which is available for all stakeholders to look through.



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## **SAFETY**

At all times, staff will consider the safety of pupils and this will be reflected in classroom organisation, and adherence to school procedures and practices.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Safeguarding in school feeds through the curriculum. Staff are aware that certain topics covered within Collective Worship may prompt discussion or work in books relating to children's personal experiences and relationships. If a child discloses something that is a concern, staff will follow the procedures in place as outlined in the Safeguarding policy.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

At all times, staff will expect and demand that pupils behave during Collective Worship in a way which fully reflects the reflective, respectful nature of worship and contribute, where appropriate, to the best of their abilities.

## **PARENTAL RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL IN A VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship as they may in any school. The Church of England Board of Education and the Methodist Church states that:

*'The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England or Methodist Church Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England or Methodist Church ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and/or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate them from the religious life of the school.'*

If such a request for withdrawal is made, the Headteacher should explore the reasons for the request and seek to arrive at an accommodation. It may be that only some elements of Worship are objected to.



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