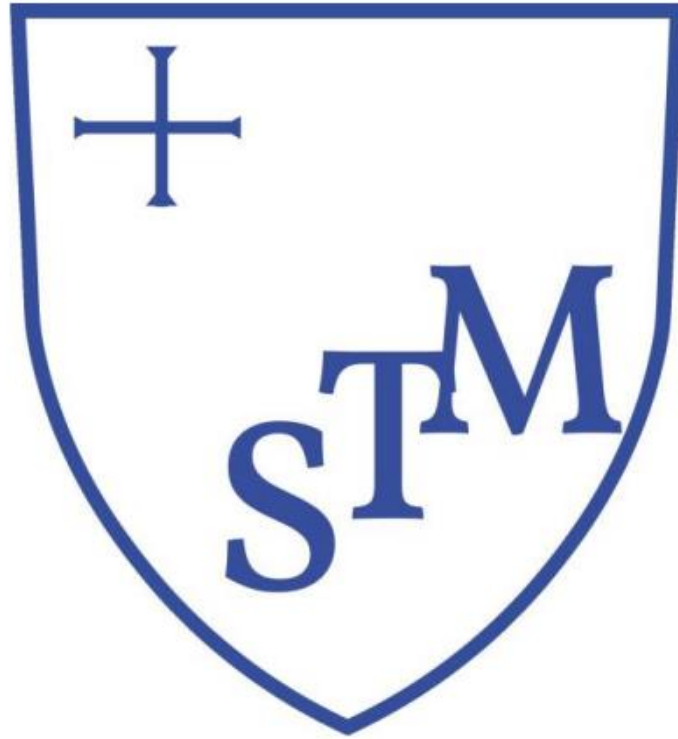


St Martin's C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

October 2023
Review 2028

Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide a transformative educational experience for every single one of our children. We value the importance of fostering love, respect and celebrating difference. We want all of our children to have the drive, courage and resilience to achieve personal and academic excellence. Children from St. Martin's will stand out: they will be reflective, think deeply and will look to make a positive difference to God's world in all that they do.

'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength' – Philippians 4:13

At St Martin's CE Primary School, we embrace the spiritual. Physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of our pupils.

All that we do is underpinned by the modelling and promotion of our five core values. These are: **Friendship, Respect, Empathy, Sharing and Humility.**

Worship is...

***Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.***

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Voluntary Controlled Status

St Martin's CE Primary is a voluntary controlled school. This means that the Local Authority delegate funding to the school. In this respect the school is subject to the same National and Local requirements as maintained schools. This includes Religious Education which must be taught in accordance with the LA agreed syllabus.

St Martin's enjoys a relationship with St Matthew's Church in Tipton. Reverend Larry is one of the school's Foundation Governors and joins us for acts of collective worship.

The collective worship that takes place in school is still the responsibility of the Governing Body and must reflect the Christian Foundation of the school. However, we are sensitive to the fact that the majority of children in the school come from a variety of faith traditions.

DfES guidance

We also take DfES legislation in to account.

The following link will take you to the current legislation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

*‘.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school **shall in each school day** take part in an act of collective worship’,*

And, that this should be,

‘.....mainly of a broadly Christian character’

Role of Collective Worship within our school vision

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of St Martin’s C of E Primary School and is a means by which the school’s Christian vision is expressed. As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school’s Anglican Foundation. We affirm every individual’s unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

As a Voluntary Controlled school, St Martin’s C of E Primary school will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community. Here at St Martin’s C of E Primary school, this inspection will evaluate the school’s/academies collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- 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 the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Intent of worship:

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition – during RE lessons.
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the school's Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines
- share local school and community information

Implementation and Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship needs to be:

- Appropriate to the age, aptitude and background of pupils
- Provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings and with a variety of leaders
- In sympathy with the cultures and beliefs represented in the School Community

At different times, worship will be organised for the whole school, for phases or for classes. The following timetable provides a framework but may be subject to alteration from time to time. There will be one weekly act of worship for celebrating good learning, behavior, effort and values.

Day	
Monday	Whole school collective worship led by the Head, Deputy Head or Reverend Larry – Use of Roots and Fruits EYFS – Roots and Fruits Jack in the Box theme
Tuesday	FRESH values, festivals or thematic worship
Wednesday	Whole school 'Open the Book' or Worship through singing
Thursday	Class – Picture News or thematic worship
Friday	Praise worship

All acts of worship should include prayer (traditional, contemporary or spontaneous) and time for stillness / reflections.

Leaders of collective worship are encouraged to use the following elements to maintain the engagement, interest and variety of Collective Worship.

- Reading and stories
- Special clothing or artefacts
- Use of senses
- Artistic imagery
- Dance and drama
- Interaction such as paired discussions, role play, sound effects for a story and demonstrations

The following attitudes should be developed:

- Thankfulness
- Sense of beauty, awe and wonder
- Feeling of belonging
- Respect for others irrespective of gender, social, racial or cultural differences
- Sense of pride
- Sense of empathy
- Sense of shared sadness or loss
- Sense of stillness in the midst of business

Creating a sense of occasion

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. Children should sense that collective worship is a special time to be quiet, calm and reflective. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and a candle that acts as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The role of the worship council

The worship council are chosen based on an application for the role. Their role in Collective Worship is as follows:

- Planning and leading Collective Worship once a term based on what they have learned from previous Collective Worship theme or what they themselves choose to share with the school.
- Setting out the worship table and other resources
- Monitoring Collective Worship and feeding back to the worship co Ordinator
- Choosing and reading prayers
- Other roles as appropriate and determined by the worship coordinator and/or leader of collective worship

Right of withdrawal

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff. We encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and to provide strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for Collective Worship lies with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of panning, resourcing, management and evaluating worship has been delegated to the senior leadership team and the worship coordinator. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. All stakeholders' opinions are sought including pupils (through pupil voice), parents, teachers and governors.

Policy written: October 2023