



# THE MINSTER NURSERY AND INFANT SCHOOL

SCHOOL OF INSPIRATION

**DETERMINATION HONOUR BELIEVE**

PREPARING FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE WITH INNOVATIVE AND EXCITING LEARNING

## Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed on: 02/07/2020

To be reviewed on or before: July 2022



**WE ARE A VOLUNTARY AIDED (VA) SCHOOL WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK**

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## **Our Vision, Mission and Values**

Our Vision to be a 'School of Inspiration' underpins all that we do as we strive to provide our children with innovative and exciting opportunities in preparing them for their own bright futures.

Our core values: determination, honour and believe are explicit within our Collective Worship themes, in collaboration with our embedded 'Fruits of the Spirit' ethos and Christian values. Together, these are central to every thought, decision and action made. This policy has been compiled mindful of these factors to ensure they develop and sustain all aspects of school life at The Minster Nursery and Infant School.

## **Rationale**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the contribution that Collective Worship makes in strengthening and supporting the Christian Distinctiveness of our school. It sets out the aims, principles and strategies used in worship at The Minster Nursery & Infant School and has been developed being mindful of our schools aim to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

## **Aims & objectives**

As a Church Of England Voluntary Aided School our daily act of collective worship reflects the traditions of the Church of England, developing understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. We regard collective worship as an important and valued time for children and staff to share together and it is an inclusive time enhancing the spirituality of all present as well as it sets the tone for the rest of the day. Our central aims of Collective worship (as detailed in the Southwark Diocesan policy statement *Collective Worship In Church Of England Schools-June 2016*) are to:

- **sing, pray and give praise and thanksgiving to God**
- **reflect on the attributes of God and on the teachings of Jesus Christ**
- **listen to and learn from The Holy Bible**
- **promote and affirm Christian Values**
- **celebrate special times in the Christian Calendar**
- **share each other's joy and challenges**
- **foster respect and unity**
- **deepen spiritual awareness and reflection**
- **experience services of The Eucharist, depending on the tradition of the parish church**

## **Legal Requirements**

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of The Minster Nursery & Infant School and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England; although in accordance with modern ecumenical good practice it may reflect and draw upon non-Anglican (Christian) traditions.

The Act of Collective Worship in The Minster Nursery & Infant School is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher and the policy for collective worship has been drawn up by the Faith Group, in consultation with the teaching staff and with the approval of the Governing Body.

## **Withdrawal**

This is an important part of our school day and as collective worship is central to our school ethos we hope that everyone will feel able to participate. However, in accordance with the DfE Circular 1/94 (31<sup>st</sup> January 1994), parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. We would appreciate it if parents would discuss this with the Headteacher prior to making the decision.

## **Organisation**

Worship is seen as a special occasion, when members of the school community come together to celebrate and worship God. We expect children and staff to behave in an appropriate way and we ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and songs, giving time for silent reflection and exploration of inner space. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and light a candle to act as a focal point for the attention of all.



The content of our collective worship is based on Christian teachings and values, with the Bible at the centre and we follow the liturgical order of ‘gather, engage, respond and send.’ We conduct collective worship in a dignified and respectful way, ensuring that the experiences provided are relevant to the age, aptitude and family background of the children.

Services marking special occasions and events in the church year are held at The Croydon Minster, to mark Christmas and Easter and the Year 2 Leavers’ Service. Parents and other family and friends join with the children on these occasions. We also invite parents to class collective worship and encourage them to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors’ attendance at our collective worship at any time.

### Structure

Collective worship is delivered through a daily act of worship. This is timetabled to last for 15 minutes (KS1) and 10 minutes (EYFS), though on occasions this may be altered, for example when a visiting speaker is invited. We aim to have a variety of groupings (Key stage, class groups and whole school) so that worship is personalised and appropriate to the age of the children.

Acts of worship for KS1 are organised on a bi-weekly timetable as follows:

Week 1:

<b>Monday</b>	Introduction of weekly theme	Headteacher
<b>Tuesday</b>	Continuation of theme	Assistant Headteacher
<b>Wednesday</b>	Clergy from The Croydon Minster lead the act of worship reflecting and complimenting the weekly theme.	Clergy from The Minster Church
<b>Thursday</b>	Theme of praise through singing and hymns. During the singing of songs we also aim to ensure that the children understand the vocabulary used where it is not self-evident.	Music Rotation of Staff
<b>Friday</b>	Weekly celebration of children who have lived out <i>The Fruits of the Spirit</i> the Christian Values that underpin the fabric of our school.	Rotation of staff

Week 2:

<b>Monday</b>	Introduction of weekly theme	Headteacher
<b>Tuesday</b>	Continuation of theme	Assistant Headteacher
<b>Wednesday</b>	Theme of praise through singing and hymns. During the singing of songs we also aim to ensure that the children understand the vocabulary used where it is not self-evident.	Music Rotation of Staff
<b>Thursday</b>	Reverend Weaver from St. Mark’s Church, Woodcote lead the act of worship reflecting and complimenting the weekly theme.	Clergy from St. Mark’s Church
<b>Friday</b>	Weekly celebration of children who have lived out <i>The Fruits of the Spirit</i> the Christian Values that underpin the fabric of our school.	Rotation of staff

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) follow a similar structure with the introduction of a theme, musical and celebration but they also hold a weekly class collective worship. The children in the Nursery have their own daily collective worship, with prayers, stories, songs and moments for reflection.

### Centrality of Prayer

Prayer and praise are very much part of what we do within the life of our school. A variety of prayers are used, some of which are written by the children. The Lord’s Prayer is introduced by the clergy from the Croydon Minster in KS1 and prayer features in the daily classroom routine at the end of the day. Each class has a quiet/reflective



space where children can pray and reflect and there is a prayer net in the school which also encourages children to pray.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural**

Acts of collective worship will aim to:

- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer;
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words.
- provide a sense of occasion that separates them from the rest of the school day;
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

### **Inclusive**

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus we welcome children and staff of all faiths. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every child to attend;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children;
- foster active roles of children, parents and members of the local community - in preparation, participation and leadership.

### **Planning**

The collective worship programme is drawn up by the leadership team in conjunction with the clergy from the Minster Church. Planning for the school's collective worship is done termly in advance and a copy is given to each member of staff, to the clergy and kept for reference in the collective worship file. The termly plans also allow for different members of the senior staff to lead the worship and build on the chosen theme without unnecessary repetition.

When planning collective worship staff consider the following:

- that it is inclusive, appropriate and relevant to the children;
- conducive to building a relationship with God;
- inspiring, in that it creates feelings and senses from which worship can arise e.g. awe and wonder, a sense of beauty, awareness of thankfulness, feelings of compassion, peace, sadness or joy;
- spiritual, by creating a special atmosphere and time for stillness and reflection;
- that there is a sense of a special occasion created by the attitude of the people leading the worship and the participants joining together.

### **The Understanding Christianity Project**

Our Collective Worship Themes are linked with the core concepts from 'The Understanding Christianity Project.' The following core concepts are explored in the Understanding Christianity approach, as part of the 'big story' of salvation, as understood within Christianity.

God	Fundamental to Christian belief is the existence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Creation	Christians believe the universe and human life are God's good creation. Humans are made in the image of God.
Fall	Humans have a tendency to go their own way rather than keep their place in relation to their creator. This attitude is called sin, and Genesis 3 gives an account of this rebellion, popularly called 'the Fall'. This describes a catastrophic separation between God and humans, between humans and each other, and between humans and the environment. This idea that humans are 'fallen' and in need of rescue (or salvation) sets out the root cause of many problems for humanity.



People of God	The Old Testament tells the story of God’s plan to reverse the impact of the Fall, to save humanity. It involves choosing a people who will model a restored relationship with God, who will attract all other people back to God. The Bible narrative includes the ups and downs of this plan, including the message of the prophets who tried to persuade people to stick with God. The plan appears to end in failure with the people of God exiled, and then returning, awaiting a ‘messiah’ – a rescuer.
Incarnation	The New Testament presents Jesus as the answer: the Messiah and Saviour, who will repair the effects of sin and the Fall and offer a way for humans to be at one with God again. Incarnation means that Jesus is God in the flesh, and that, in Jesus, God came to live amongst humans.
Gospel	Christians believe Jesus’ incarnation is ‘good news’ for all people. (‘Gospel’ means ‘good news’.) His life, teaching and ministry embody what it is like to be one of the People of God, what it means to live in relationship with God. Jesus’ example and teaching emphasise loving one’s neighbour – particularly the weak and vulnerable – as part of loving God.
Salvation	Jesus’ death and resurrection effect the rescue or salvation of humans. He opens the way back to God. Christians believe that through Jesus, sin is dealt with, forgiveness offered, and the relationship between God and humans is restored.
Kingdom of God	This does not mean that no one sins any more! The Bible talks in terms of God’s ‘Kingdom’ having begun in human hearts through Jesus. The idea of the ‘Kingdom of God’ reflects God’s ideal for human life in the world – a vision of life lived in the way God intended for human beings. Christians look forward to a time when God’s rule is fulfilled at some future point, in a restored, transformed heaven and earth. Meanwhile, they seek to live this attractive life as in God’s Kingdom, following Jesus’ example, inspired and empowered by God’s Spirit.

Through these concepts, pupils encounter a range of biblical texts, placed within a wider theological context. They consider the nature of God and what it means for Christians to be in relationship with the Creator. They explore Christian understanding of the relationship between God and his people in the Old Testament, and make sense of messianic expectations and Christian belief in their fulfilment in Jesus.

Our hymns and songs of worship are discussed to support our children’s religious literacy and understanding of the Christian meaning in different genres of text.

### **Minster Lights**

The Children’s Faith Group the Minster Lights meet regularly with the Deputy Headteacher to plan and discuss matters around faith and collective worship. The Children’s Faith Group meet with visitors, to share the vision and distinctive Christian ethos of the school and they also plan and lead collective worship termly.

### **Resources**

A variety of multi-media resources are used to support collective worship including the use of sound system, laptop and projector, downloadable internet resources as well as books, artefacts, props and music. Staff are aware and model appropriate ways of handling, displaying and storing religious artefacts. Visiting speakers are sometimes used to contribute to collective worship providing us with the flexibility to respond to national and local events, all will be met beforehand and briefed on the schools’ requirements.

### **Monitoring and review**

The Faith Group under the direction of the Headteacher are responsible for monitoring the effectiveness and impact of collective worship on the school community. They will:

- participate in the formal monitoring process;
- observe collective worship;
- look at feedback monitoring sheets from both staff and children;
- report annually on collective worship to the FGB meeting including a précis of findings and recommendations for development.

School self-assessment on collective worship is also completed as part of the SIAMS Toolkit by the members of the Faith Group and collective worship is also inspected under Section 48 of the Education act.



The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed every two years unless there are any changes in the legal requirements for collective worship or new guidance needs to be taken into account.

**Review Date:** July 2022