



## **Marshland St James Primary School & Nursery**

### **Collective Worship Policy**

**‘Believing, Belonging, Being’**

*In our school we want our children to be caring and confident learners. We aim to provide a loving, safe and secure environment, where every child has the belief to achieve and the sense of belonging to a Christian school family.*

*We will nurture and encourage children's ambitions enabling them to believe in themselves; to become courageous learners, and to be compassionate, tolerant and respectful members of our community.*

#### **Rationale**

This Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims, ethos and values and demonstrates the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school.

At Marshland St James Primary School we consider Collective Worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners. It is a time when we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements.

Therefore Collective Worship at Marshland St James Primary and Nursery School is planned to:

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It aims to engage all learners who should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school;
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and which will explore and relate to the school's core Christian values;
- have a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and his position central to the Christian faith;
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of prayer, reflection and stillness;
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to;
- be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity;

#### **Inclusion**

Marshland St James Primary School is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. Therefore, during Collective Worship, we are always sensitive to the very wide range of backgrounds and beliefs represented by our school community. This includes:

- those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief
- parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
- members of other faith communities
- those who may not share in any particular religious belief

### **Aims**

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at Marshland St James Primary and nursery school include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness and pressures of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience and learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness;
- valuing self and the views and opinions of others;
- promoting fundamental British values.
- developing a sense of community spirit

### **Legal requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation. Schools are obliged to give their reasons if they feel they are not able to comply with this part of the law. The School meets this requirement and this is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus. In such circumstances, parents are encouraged to discuss their reasons for withdrawal with the Headteacher, although they are not required to do so. The school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. The head teacher will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

### **Organisation of Collective Worship**

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly, which is normally a whole school assembly, although sometimes we also hold separate Key Stage and individual class assemblies.

We conduct assemblies in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that assembly time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct assemblies, but sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our assemblies as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place.

Our assemblies reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Marshland St James Primary School is a successful school and we shall celebrate the successes of all the children in assemblies

We invite parents to class assemblies on a termly basis and we 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. Parents are also invited to attend the termly services held at the neighbouring Anglican church.

Whole school collective worship is held on 4 days of the week with a class based worship held on the remaining day.

Whole school celebration Assembly. Once a week on a Friday, the school gathers for this worship, in which the achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Parents, carers and families are invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

	School Involvement	Leader
Monday	Whole school	Headteacher
Tuesday	Class/Key Stage	Class teacher
Wednesday	Whole school	Class teacher
Thursday	Whole school	Headteacher
Friday	Whole school celebration	Headteacher

Pupils are involved in the planning and leading of Collective Worship in the following ways:

- Each class takes a turn in planning and leading a whole school Collective Worship. Pupils are encouraged to suggest the theme and message of the act of worship and consider how they will deliver this message to other pupils;
- Each class may have responsibility for preparing and delivering part of a longer Collective Worship which may be held at Church to celebrate a specific time of year (e.g. Christmas, Easter, and Harvest).
- Year 6 prepare and deliver the act of worship in church that is their Leavers' Service;
- In most acts of collective worship, individual pupils are invited to lead prayers, which pupils of all ages are keen to do;
- Pupils are invited to be volunteers on an 'ad hoc' basis to act out or role play situations/stories.

### **Themes**

We follow the Diocese of Ely Collective worship collection which is on a two year rolling cycle, with a range of resources and links to other sites.

We have adopted twelve Christian values that form the basis of our worship and wider school life. Each value is looked at for half term and worship is planned around this value, as well as being promoted

throughout the school. Care is taken to ensure that understanding of each value is rooted in the Bible and the example of Jesus.

We have added in significant dates in the Christian year and days of particular importance such as Remembrance Day. We are also able to respond to local, national or world events (or a need from the children), that merit reflection and prayers.

Themes for collective worship are planned by the co-ordinator. There is a focus each half term on one of the schools core Christian Values.

	<b>Year A</b>	<b>Year B</b>
<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Friendship</b>	<b>Thankfulness</b>
<b>Autumn 2</b>	<b>Generosity</b>	<b>Peace</b>
<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Respect</b>	<b>Love</b>
<b>Spring 2</b>	<b>Compassion</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>
<b>Summer 1</b>	<b>Courage</b>	<b>Trust</b>
<b>Summer 2</b>	<b>Truthfulness</b>	<b>Hope</b>

### **Monitoring and review**

The monitoring and evaluation of Collective Worship forms part of the school's programme of monitoring. This is done through:

- formal observations of Acts of Collective Worship led by a range of leaders;
- pupil discussion groups with the Headteacher or Governor;
- informal observations of how pupils are putting the messages from Collective Worship into practice;
- pupils' responses and ideas during Collective Worship
- written evidence in response to prompts in the whole school reflection corner which links with the Collective Worship theme.
- written and photographic evidence from prayer spaces and the class reflection book.

The school's foundation governors have a role monitoring Collective Worship The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by The Worship co-ordinator. We welcome governor attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Approved by the Governing Body:

Autumn 2019.

Next Review Autumn 2022