



At St Mary's we champion every child to be the **best that they can be**. Our knowledge-led curriculum therefore endeavours to develop our children's **character**, **core skills**, **creativity** and sense of **community**.

Supported by our school's vision, ethos and position as a junior school, we believe that our specialist knowledge of the Key Stage 2 age range ensures **improving outcomes, opportunities and experiences for all our children**. To achieve this, we are aspirational for our pupils, instilling high expectations, the passion, perseverance and stamina to succeed.

Collective Worship Policy

Ely St Mary's CofE Junior School

Written/reviewed by:	Hazel Law	Date: 30 th October 2021
Next review due by:	October 2026	

Introduction

Worship is in accordance with the school's trust deeds and is based on Anglican principles

At our school, we welcome and respect each other and all our visitors.

Our vision is to ensure that children of all faiths and none can be the best that they can be, in an environment where everyone is valued, respected and challenged. In our school, individuals are supported in their personal journey of learning, growth and development, within an ethos of nurture, encouragement and love.

Hebrews 10:24. Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds.

- **Responsibility:** We will be responsible for our learning and our behaviour.
- **Excellence:** We will strive for excellence.
- **Spirituality:** We will open our eyes in awe and wonder at God's creation.
- **Perseverance:** We can achieve anything with effort, resilience and the right strategies.
- **Energy:** We will give our best at all times: our focus, positive attention and determination to succeed.
- **Caring:** We will care for each other, our school and the world.
- **Tolerance:** We will celebrate our differences

Aims and Philosophy

Collective Worship aims to make a major contribution to school life through:

- Providing an opportunity for pupils to worship God and to reflect and consider life; its joys, trials and meaning.
- Exploring and reflecting on what the Bible teaches us.
- Learning and reflecting on what Jesus' life, death and resurrection means to us.
- Celebrating Christian festivals together, and alongside our partner Church.
- Fostering feelings of awe, wonder, mystery and joy.

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- Marking times of tragedy, grief and loss in the context of a biblical narrative of Hope.
- Enabling pupils to make an affective use of silence for reflection, contemplation and prayer.
- Providing a variety of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Conveying the school's ethos.
- Helping to build a community and directing thoughts and efforts towards common goals.
- Participation which encourages pupils to learn about worship, express their responses to it and to respect the beliefs and attitudes of others.
- Providing an opportunity to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community including local churches.
- Celebrating God's gifts to us, our talents and achievements.
- By giving memorable and enjoyable collective experiences.

Legal requirements

All registered pupils take part in a daily act of Collective Worship. The head teacher, acting on behalf of the Board of Governors takes responsibility to ensure the legally required daily act of Collective Worship takes place.

Collective Worship is Christian and Anglican in character, and is in harmony with the churchmanship and forms of worship of our partner church, St. Mary's. The majority of our Christian families attend either St Mary's Church, or the several free evangelical, charismatic churches, whilst a few attend the more traditional services. Across the week our Collective Worship reflects both styles from contemporary through to meditative.

Collective Worship has an informal liturgical pattern. Prayer and Praise is addressed to Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the children are guided in their understanding of the Trinity in particular through songs of worship and prayer and through the symbolism of the sunflower.

Worship is sometimes organised for certain age groups, but is more often than not for the whole school together. By necessity (due to the recent Covid restrictions) we presently meet together for Collective Worship in upper and lower school phases, apart from on a Friday, where Collective Worship is online.

Pupils may be withdrawn from Collective Worship by their parents on religious grounds. The school continues to be responsible for any child who is withdrawn.

At St Mary's we are committed to respect each individual's position in relation to belief and faith.

Conduct of Collective Worship

All acts of Collective Worship follow a similar liturgical pattern:

- Greeting "Jesus the light of the world is here..." Response: "We welcome Him today" (Or other, depending on the time in the liturgical year)
- Bible Verse
- Sung worship
- Bible Story- drama- dance, visiting speaker, local clergy, visiting groups (i.e. "Gen R8" and "Light and Life"), use of props and children's participation where possible.
- Teaching or discussion points
- Time for reflection and prayer
- Sending out (a challenge to think, pray, discuss, act in a certain way relating to the theme), including saying of 'The Grace' together: "May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen"

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A clear distinction is made where the worship ends and the notices or presentations begin.

Each Friday the achievements of the children are celebrated at this time.

At St Mary's leaders of Collective Worship choose their words with care as we recognise the distinction between "collective" and "corporate" worship. Children are invited not compelled to worship. For example the phrase "Christians believe" is used not "we believe". Children are invited to say "Amen" after a prayer, not told to.

Music also plays a significant role in Collective Worship at St Mary's. In particular, opportunities to regularly sing together enhances the atmosphere and sense of community; music provides opportunity for reflection and contemplation when listened to; also staff and pupils sing as an expression of inner thought and feeling as a form of spiritual knowing.

Planning Collective Worship

Collective Worship is carefully planned; several themes are chosen for each term, although sometimes we plan a single "Value for Life" theme. Christian festivals, special dates and national events (Children in Need, Remembrance, New Beginnings, Comic Relief, Operation Christmas Child, Lepara fundraising, Leavers etc.) are built into the Collective Worship programme. There is also flexibility to allow for response to any special events (tragic or joyful), which may occur. Plans and resources are to be found in the Collective Worship Lead's office.

The whole school come together three times a week for whole school Worship (where restrictions limit pupil numbers, school phases meet instead). Once a week, one year group meet for Meditative Worship (based on Taize style worship), while the other year groups have either Class or Year Group Worship and on the remaining day, half the school have Sung Worship.

Record keeping

Each act of Collective Worship is recorded in an electronic file kept by the Collective Worship Lead.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Planning for Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Collective Worship Lead; it is used to ensure the legal requirements are being met and to see if they comply with the aims of the policy. It is important that the pupils enjoy Collective Worship and engage in it respectfully and with meaning. Staff and pupils are invited to suggest improvements either by way of questionnaires, discussion or pupil interviews. Resources from the Diocese of Ely are available to support with this process: https://www.elyeducation.org/main/?page_id=38

Collective Worship is observed and evaluated by governors, and members of the church community too. Governors monitor throughout the year, often attending Collective Worship at the same time as visiting for other purposes. Usually, a visiting governor will also talk informally to some children about that morning's assembly and their wider experience of assemblies too. An annual Collective Worship Monitoring Week affords observers the opportunity of evaluating the Collective Worship experience for children across the week. Written reports are requested and presented to the Headteacher and all members of the Board of Governors.

Resources

The large variety of resources is kept in the Music Room, though accessible to all. There are written materials, music and on line resources. The excellent music centre and laptop and screen have enhanced the delivery of Collective Worship. Resources are also available from the Diocesan resources centre in Ely and on their website.

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RE and Collective Worship

We recognise that the act of Collective Worship can contribute to the teaching of RE, however, it cannot replace the teaching of the agreed syllabus for RE. It can also provide valuable contributions to P.S. H.C.E, SMSCD, environmental issues, art, music, dance and drama.

CPD and Development

Collective Worship is kept fresh by making on-going links to worship themes at St. Mary's Church. Inset has been delivered by the Collective Worship co-ordinator and by Dr Shirley Hall (Ely Diocese) to all the staff. We welcome our link vicar from St Mary's Church to also lead Collective Worship and share best practice with staff.

Appendix 1 Supporting Resources for Collective Worship

The Holy Trinity



Within Ely St Mary's we use the sunflower as a symbol of the Holy Trinity. Each class has their own sunflower that they bring to each Collective Worship as part of coming together as a community

Each part of the sunflower represents part of the Holy Trinity as follows:

God the Father – the roots. Unseen, but crucial in the process of creation in the darkness, moving from darkness to light and feeding future growth.

God the Son – stem and flower. Sunflowers grow tall and conspicuous – they are visible amongst all flowers. Jesus made himself visible as He told stories on hills and mountains and in public places such as synagogues, so that people could see him. He did not wish to hide away to do God's work, but to make sure that he was seen and known.

God the Holy Spirit – sunflower seeds – seeds give us both energy and hope for the future, knowing that the seeds, once planted, will create new life and more sunflowers. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God in the world, sent to the disciples by Jesus (and subsequently to their disciples) when he went back to heaven to encourage them and give them strength to follow his example. Through the seeds, new life and new hope can be created.

The roots, stem and flower and seeds work together to complete the circle of creation. The same can be said for the Holy Trinity.

Our School Grace

Each time we eat,
May we remember God's Love. Amen.

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May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen”

Our School Prayer

God be in my head,
And in my understanding.
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking.
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking.
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking. Amen.

Collective Worship – shared at the opening of CW

“Jesus the Light of the World is Here”

Liturgical Colours & Banners

The colour of the liturgical vestments changes from time to time. This is because the Church uses different colours to indicate the season or feast that is being celebrated.

The different colours are drawn from creation to remind those participating in a liturgy of the different blessings of God.

The colours used are white (or gold), purple (or violet), green, red and rose pink.

WHITE

White (or gold), since it is a festive, joyful colour, is used during the Christmas and Easter seasons, and on major feast days, such as, on the celebrations of the Lord other than of his Passion, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the Holy Angels, and of Saints who were not martyrs, and on the Solemnities of All Saints.

Because white symbolises the Resurrection, it is also the colour often used for funerals.

PURPLE

Purple (or violet) symbolises repentance and penance. Vestments of purple or violet are used during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

The colour reminds us of the violet flower that bows its head and is a symbol of humility. Lent is the season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a quiet season of reflection. The colour of Advent is more of a rose-purple, like the sky just before sunrise. This is the time of year when the Church waits in joyful hope to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Purple or violet dye was very expensive. An early Christian, Lydia from Thyatira, made her living from the purple dye trade and was able to support St Paul in his missionary work (Acts 16: 14-15).

GREEN

Green is a sign of life in nature and as such it represents growth, life and hope.

Green is the colour worn most often during liturgies in Ordinary Time. It symbolises the graces that draw people into the life of God. Most of the Church's year is Ordinary Time.

RED

Red symbolises both blood and fire. It is the colour that is used on Passion (Palm) Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, and for celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is also the colour that has traditionally been associated with martyrs – those who have shed their blood for their faith – and so it is worn on the feast days of martyrs.

ROSE PINK

Rose pink is an optional colour that may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent. On both of these days, the Entrance Antiphon calls us to rejoice, so the pink vestments mark a softening of the penitential tone of the season.

Collective Worship Display Areas



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