

# St. Martin's Church of England (Aided) Primary School



**St. Martin's**  
C. of E. Primary School  
*Serve one another in love*  
Galatians 5v13

## Collective Worship Policy

*'Serve one another in love'*  
*Galatians 5v13*

"St. Martin's School isn't just a school, it's a family. Firmly rooted in the Christian faith, the St. Martin's family will share the love of Christ with our diverse school community – all unique and special, made in God's image, with everyone welcomed and included."

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Collective worship forms that part of the whole curriculum designed to promote the spiritual and moral development of the children in a shared experience of celebration, praise, reflection and thanksgiving to God in accordance with Education Reform Act (1988), the Trust Deed of the School and the recommendations of the York Diocesan Board of Education.

### Rationale- Living out our vision during collective worship

Collective Worship in our school is a highly valued time which is a specially set apart time in the school day. The whole school community gather together in a time that is honouring and worthy to God. The planning of our Collective Worship ensures that the school community has the opportunity to arrive for worship prepared with the right attitude, engage with their own spirituality and learn from Biblical teachings and leave feeling refreshed and inspired.

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated 5 ways to flourish values of 'service, trust, community, hope and respect' and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Therefore Collective Worship in St. Martin's C of E VA Primary School is planned:

- to be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- to encourage children's natural sense of wonder of God and his creation and to develop their qualities of curiosity, celebration, gratitude and awe, which form the foundation of worship.
- to regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the schools core Christian values
- to have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness.
- will 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."
- will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

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Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

## Guidelines

An Act of Worship will take place each day. Mostly this will involve the whole school, but on some days separate acts of Worship may be held for KS1 and KS2 children or in classes.

The worship will be 'Inclusive, invitational and inspiring' as stated in the Church of England's Collective worship guidance.

The worship will be planned to be relevant, meaningful and inclusive of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. It will allow for a variety of responses, from awareness and appreciation through respect and commitment to devotion and adoration. Themes for worship will be taken from the Roots and Fruits cycles to encompass a range of Christian Values.

Acts of Worship will reflect the ethos of the school and help children to understand its' spiritual, moral and cultural values.

The acts of Worship will be led by all teaching staff, Deanery Clergy, the collective worship team or by carefully chosen visitors.

Worship will be shared, when appropriate e.g. Christmas, with the wider Church Family and families at St. Martin's-on-the Hill Church. Worship will also take account of the major festivals of the Church year and with the curriculum plan of the school year.

The act of Worship will follow a recognisable format.

- The worship should last approximately 20 mins from 1.05 – 1.25pm
- The Year 6 worship support team will have set up the reflective space
- The act of worship will be started by lighting a candle and the the worship support team engaging the whole school in a call and response for holy trinity
- There will be songs in appropriate places, which will, whenever possible, relate to the theme of the worship
- There will be a quiet time for reflection, sitting or prayer. Prayers may be taken from a variety of resources including teachers own resources or children's own work. Regular use of the Lord's Prayer whether said or sung as well as the school prayer
- The worship will have a clear focus and will often involve pupil participation
- Elements used in the worship may include music (including live music), listening to stories, bible readings and other relevant passages, drama, video content, photographs, artefacts, and other material may be used.
- Opportunities for stillness, silence and reflective prayer should be offered to think about the key thoughts and the Bible message.
- All worship should end with a thought or a question for children to ponder, to encourage them to act following the worship session.

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- The act of Worship will be closed by the candle being blown out, the person leading worship will say "God be with you." And the pupils respond "And also with you."
- Any notices will be clearly separated from the act of Worship.
- Collective Worship will be monitored by the RE Lead, Headteacher and governors

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Head of School.

### Home School Values

To promote additional reflection and activity around our values or spirituality, activities from the Home School Values Roots and Fruits or the Prayer Spaces at home are used to set various challenges or encouragement for further reflection. These are shared via our school website and Class Dojo app.

### Conclusion

The daily collective worship needs to be meaningful and valuable; it should create a sense of belonging. If it is carefully planned and encompasses the guidelines defined, it will form a spiritual experience for pupils and staff which is central to the ethos and fundamental aims of the school. It will offer experience of worship and offer time for spiritual reflection. It will be a time where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences, affirm the beliefs and values of the school community and the Christian Church of which they are a part.

How our collective worship is Invitational, inclusive and inspiring:

Invitational	Inclusive	Inspiring
All children are invited to worship through the lighting of the candle with collective worship support leader leading the call and response.	The whole school community gathers together for collective worship five days a week. Collective worship as a class is sometimes held.	At the end of each collective worship, children are challenged to 'make a difference' or 'make a change' based on what they have heard.
During prayers, children are invited to end the prayer by saying Amen, to make the prayer their own.	The content of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure all children receive their right to engage in worship that is appropriate to them.	Inspirational stories of Christians who have made a difference in the real world are included in the planning of Collective worship.
During reflection time and moments of stillness, children are invited to close their eyes and be calm to think.	A range of styles is planned into the timetable to ensure all are able to access and engage in the worship. Styles such as, artwork stimuli, music, multimedia, drama,	During each collective worship we have reflection questions, these are designed to engage the children, to make them think, and to be inspired by

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	prayer and stillness, story, sung and reflection time.	the teachings of Jesus.
During collective worships, and collective worships that visitors lead, children are often invited to help lead parts of the worship.	Sentence stems are included in collective worships to enable children to be able to participate and share their thoughts.	Worship follows four clear parts: To gather, to engage, to respond and to send out. This is to inspire and set the purpose for each element of worship
Children are invited to participate in sung worship through appropriate song and prayer choices.	During class collective worships, children are encouraged to share their reflections, using the reflection area and by contributing to these.	The Worship Team deliver collective worship once a half term. To become part of the worship team, children need to be role models who display our Christian values. Children aspire to become like the collective worship team.
Children are often invited to share their input and reflections when 'big questions' are asked as part of collective worship.	The length of worship considers the age of the children, sensory needs and need for prompts to ensure understanding and ability to engage in the worship.	Children's interests are taken into account when collective worship is planned, to ensure that it will be inspiring. Video clips are often used to inspire pupils.