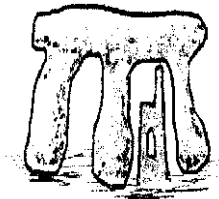


St Maddern's C of E School



Inspire, Believe, Achieve

Collective Worship policy

Date agreed: February 2018

Signed: H J Tyreman Headteacher

Signed: J Davis Chair of IEB

Date for review:

Collective Worship Policy

Collective worship plays an important part in the life of all at St Maddern's C of E School. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. It involves the school community coming together and participating in a daily assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

1. Rationale:

Collective Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school, in accordance with our Anglican foundation. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils and should be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". Our daily act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. We base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils. We recognise that in our school we have children from different faith traditions, including those who have no faith background at all. Great care and sensitivity is taken to ensure that all our children feel included, valued and special.

However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school. Parents and carers do have the right to withdraw their child from these acts of worship.

At St Maddern's it is our Mission to:

- Educate children for 'life in its fullness' by educating pupils spiritually, intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically and physically within a school firmly based on Christian principles and on the examples of Jesus in the gospels.

2. Aims and Purposes of Collective Worship:

Collective Worship plays an integral part in achieving our mission. We aim to achieve it by:

- Educating for Wisdom, knowledge and skills by following a curriculum that is broad, balanced and stimulates a sense of curiosity and excitement about the world and developed the full potential of every child in our care.
- Educating for Hope and Aspiration by providing a safe, nurturing and caring environment where child can take risks, build resilience and flourish.

- Educating for Community and Living well together by building positive relationships with our immediate school community, national and international community and for the school to be a hub of learning in the community.
- Educate for Dignity and Respect by promoting the character virtues of perseverance, respect and responsibility so that pupils leave the school resilient and trustworthy whilst displaying good manners and consideration for others.

As well as being central to achieving our school aims, Collective Worship at St Maddern's aims to develop a knowledge and understanding of:

- The work of the world wide church
- The Christian faith within our own community
- The School's ethos and expected standards of behaviour
- Tolerance of the beliefs and religions of others
- The Cultural diversity of our world
- The person of God and Jesus Christ, as others who worship see them.

Purpose of Collective Worship:

- To contribute to a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole
- To promote spiritual, cultural and moral development
- To develop an understanding of Christian values/virtues and how these are lived out in our community

Opportunities provided in Collective Worship:

Collective Worship provides an opportunity for the staff and children at St Maddern's to come together to:

- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

3. Responsibilities:

The Collective Worship co-ordinator, Hilary Tyreman, plans the assembly rota together with Rev Tim and representative of the Open the book Team

Each act of worship is planned to include a high level of pupil participation. The evaluation and comments of each daily assembly by the children are always taken into account when planning future acts of worship.

The school has newly appointed Year 6 children as worship leaders. Their role is to help with preparing the hall for worship day, helping decided on how to set up the space, setting up and running the IT and also helping to organise and/or attend some church events.

4. Procedures and practise:

Collective Worship is planned on a three year rolling programme which is based on the "Values for Life" pack from the Gloucester Diocese Resource Centre together with the "Roots and Fruits" book from Imaginor.

The act of Collective Worship is crucial in focusing the whole school on an aspect of the particular Christian value chosen for that half term. The eighteen values that form the themes for each half term are Creativity, Trust, Courage, Forgiveness, Humility, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Compassion, Hope, Justice, Friendships, Truthfulness, Generosity, Peace, Perseverance, Responsibility, Service, Respect and Reverence. These values have been planned to link in with special times in the Christian calendar (see separate plan).

The three core values that have been recently identified as underpinning our school ethos are Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility. In addition to the core value being covered in our Collective worship cycle the school is currently dedicating additional time to exploring the Core Values so that children are developing understanding of these and how they can be put into action in their daily life and learning in school.

It is acknowledged that for the majority of our pupils this daily act of worship is probably the only collective religious experience they will have. It is essential to make it as interesting, stimulating and thought provoking as possible and make it an experience to be enjoyed.

To support the value being explored the school is a developing a reflective space in the hall for all children. An interactive display is placed in the hall for all children to be able to respond to the Christian value being explored. This provides all children with the opportunity to respond to the Collective Worship in different ways.

At the end of every half term, an assembly is dedicated to reflecting and responding to the Christian value that has been explored over the half term. This currently takes the form of a reflective discussion with reception and year 1 children and ideas scribed by the teacher. Children from year 2-6 write their own reflections.

Parents and carers are informed regularly on the newsletter about the current value being explored in assemblies and a home school values sheet is posted on our website so that the value can be explored at home as well as in school. When appropriate, children are encouraged to e-mail photographs of themselves depicting a particular Christian value at home. These photographs help to form a display in the hall.

5. Planning for Collective Worship

Daily Assemblies:

Each school day has a collective act of worship held every morning. Assemblies at St. Maddern's are used to create an atmosphere of sharing, discussion, reflection and celebration and set the tone for the day ahead.

At the start of the assembly, pupils enter the worship space quietly to some music. The music played covers many different genres and traditions. In this way the pupils are introduced to music they may not otherwise be familiar with. Worship leaders choose music to fit with the assembly theme if possible.

This reflective time as children begin assembly is cherished and is an important part of the worship. A peaceful time for private reflection can be a rare occurrence in a busy school day. Candles are lit and prayers are read with the help of pupils at least twice a week. After a greeting, a hymn is usually sung. Music to accompany the hymns and songs is provided by the piano or backing tracks are also available. Pupils are actively involved in choosing the music and hymns that are sung each half term. The hymn or song is followed by an activity to engaging the pupils in thinking about the value being explored. Pupil participation and involvement is encouraged as much as possible. This includes children reading, saying prayers, participating in drama and leading worship sessions. A prayer and personal time for reflection always concludes the worship. Music is listened to again as the pupils leave.

A bespoke school prayer has been developed to further focus on the school core values of Perseverance, Responsibility and Respect. This prayer is used during Collective worship and shared with all who are involved in leading Collective worship.

This assembly time also plays an important role in developing and communicating the school ethos. The 'Golden Rules for Life', which underpin the Behaviour for Learning Policy, are regularly discussed.

In school there is much to say thank you for, much to praise, much to hope and request and these take high priority.

If there are concerns regarding discipline which need all the school to be brought together, then this is done at another time in the day so as not to intrude on worship.

As well as developing the pupils' knowledge and experience of Anglican beliefs, it is also important to explore the cultural diversity of the world. Knowledge and understanding are the basis on which mutual respect grows. On a rolling programme, at least two visitors from the local Christian community are invited in to lead an assembly every term to help to increase such knowledge.

In addition to this, the work of individuals and agencies in the wider community and in different parts of the world are explored and celebrated. In this way tolerance of those with different beliefs and cultures is actively promoted.

A new initiative introduced in 2018 is the children choosing a charity each year to support, this is organised by our School Council. Children have presented to the rest of the school about different local charities and have started to organise and run their own charity fund raising events throughout the school year.

Flexibility is an essential part of Collective Worship. Although assemblies are planned half a term in advance, there is always flexibility to respond to local, national and global events when necessary.

Weekly Plan of Assemblies:

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| Monday | Christian Value core assembly. All pupils attend led by the Head teacher. This is where the theme for the week is introduced to the children based on the Christian value being explored. |
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| Tuesday | Worship led by St Maddern's incumbent, Rev Tim Hawkin from St Maddern's Church expands upon the weekly theme, providing the children with knowledge and understanding of the Anglican Church Year and practices. |
| Wednesday | Praise and Worship assembly. All Pupils attend. Hymns and songs are introduced and practised and their meanings discussed. They link to the season and/or Christian value. |
| Thursday | Attended by all pupils, led by one of the teachers, a Christian visitor on a rota basis or led by a small group of children themselves. This involves exploring a range of stories which are used to enrich the children's understanding of the value being explored. |
| Friday | Celebration assembly. Attended by all pupils and staff, led by the Head teacher. Certificates are awarded for the week, house points added up, birthdays and any achievements out of school are celebrated. |

The class teachers are given ideas on how the particular value could be followed up back in their classrooms in class worship, PSHE and across the curriculum. In this way, Collective Worship at St Maddern's is being embedded in school life, contributing to the overall ethos of the school by impacting on all areas of community life.

Involving the wider community

Every half term at St Maddern's parents and carers are invited to an assembly to celebrate a Christian Festival, such as Harvest, Christingle at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost etc or to celebrate the core values e.g. A Perseverance assembly. Rev Tim is also invited to these assemblies. These special assemblies take place in either the school or Church

The children have other opportunities to visit St Maddern's Church during the school year. This encourages the children to know St Maddern's as their special church. feel that it is a part of their community. The school is working on developing involvement with the local church so that the children feel that it is an important part of their community and so the school and church are pivotal in building community.

6. Resources

Any resources required for Collective Worship are bought as appropriate. Training needs/resources are reviewed annually.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Since Spring term 2018 assemblies are recorded and evaluated by children in a special folder kept in class 2.

Children's interest levels and attentiveness are observed by those leading assemblies whilst pupils provide useful feedback after each assembly.

To gather on going views from the children, a child in class 2 is chosen each week and tasked with filling in the assembly reflection sheets.

Evaluation by Teachers, Visitors, Clergy and Pupils provide useful feedback. This helps inform all about the current Collective Worship being provided at St Maddern's and practise can be adapted accordingly.

A questionnaire about assemblies will be given to the children every two years. These questionnaires are evaluated and points raised are also used for future planning.

8. Special Needs and Equal Opportunities

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child will derive benefit from Collective Worship whatever their ability, gender, ethnicity or creed. In this way, every attempt is made to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of ages, abilities, aptitudes and interests. All pupils are encouraged to participate in our assemblies.

9. Health and Safety

All religious artefacts and candles are handled respectfully and safely. All relevant risk assessments are carried out in line with our Health and Safety policy. Any visitors to our assemblies are given a guide to the school and our met prior to the assembly by the Head teacher.

10. Parental and carer involvement

Should parents or carers wish to withdraw their child from Collective Worship we encourage them to contact the Head teacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties they may have.

Parents and carers are kept up to date with the Christian value we are focusing on through the school newsletter, topic leaflets and the website. An RE and Collective Worship questionnaire will be issued to the parents every two years where opinions are given about assemblies/Eucharist services. Parents are invited regularly to share our special festival assemblies.

11. Governor involvement

Currently with the Interim Executive Board of Governors a governor is responsible for all SIAMS areas. She visits the school regularly, paying particular attention to assemblies, RE provision, Pupil conferencing and children's behaviour. A cycle of reviewing provision for Collective worship, gathering the views of children and parents/carers has been established to ensure that all opinions are taken into account to help leaders review provision.