



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”

Corinthians 12:12

1. Introduction

Collective worship at **St Mary's Church of England Primary School** plays a central role in the life of the school. It reflects our Christian foundation and supports our school vision:

“Small school, big heart, learning and growing together.”

At St Mary's we are a **community, a family and a team**. Rooted in our Christian ethos, we care for and nurture our children, preparing them for future life. We have high standards and ambitious aims for our curriculum and outcomes. Children at St Mary's become **independent, confident, inclusive learners** who develop a love of lifelong learning and growth of the whole self.

Our vision is **theologically rooted in Romans 15:5**:

“Even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.”

Our school values of **Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust** shape the character of our collective worship and are woven throughout daily school life.

This policy outlines the aims, statutory responsibilities and practical arrangements for collective worship at St Mary's.

2. Legal Framework

Collective worship at St Mary's complies with: - The **School Standards and Framework Act (1998)**. - The school's **Trust Deed** and the **Christian foundation** of the school. - National guidance for collective worship in Church of England schools.

By law, collective worship in a Church of England school must be: - **Christian in character**. - Held **daily** for all registered pupils (unless withdrawn by parents). - Age-appropriate, inclusive, and invitational.

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship. The school will make this clear in communications and meet with parents to discuss alternative arrangements if required.



3. Aims of Collective Worship at St Mary's

Collective worship at St Mary's is shaped by our vision — **"Small school, big heart, learning and growing together"** — and our belief that we are **many individuals, yet one body in Christ** (Romans 15:5). Our aims are to: - Provide opportunities for pupils and staff to **worship God** within a loving Christian community. - Celebrate and deepen understanding of our Christian values: **Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust**. - Foster a sense of **belonging**, reflecting our identity as a community, a family and a team. - Encourage pupils to grow into **independent, confident and inclusive learners**, developing spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally. - Inspire pupils to develop the **whole self**, nurturing curiosity, reflection and a lifelong love of learning. - Explore the teachings of Jesus and their relevance to daily life. - Provide space for spiritual reflection, awe and wonder, drawing pupils into shared experiences that unite us as one body.

4. Christian Distinctiveness and Anglican Tradition

Collective worship at St Mary's reflects our Christian distinctiveness, our Anglican heritage and our vision to **learn and grow together as one community**. Worship includes: - Bible readings that highlight themes of unity, love, compassion and shared purpose, reflecting Romans 15:5. - Celebration of our core Christian values of **Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust**, helping pupils live them out in daily life. - Use of Anglican traditions, including the liturgical year, prayer, blessings, and moments of shared reflection. - Worship that strengthens our identity as a **small school with a big heart**, nurturing supportive relationships and a sense of family. - Contributions from clergy and parish links, reinforcing our place within the wider Christian community.

5. Organisation and Delivery of Worship

Collective worship at St Mary's is organised to reflect our vision of **learning and growing together** as a family, a community and a team. Worship will occur **each school day** and may take place as: - Whole-school worship, strengthening our identity as one body in Christ (Romans 15:5)

Worship themes are planned to align with: - The Christian liturgical calendar - Bible narratives and teachings of Jesus - Our school values: **Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia, Trust** - Our vision: **"Small school, big heart, learning and growing together"**

We use roots and fruits to support the delivery of our collective worship.

Staff take it in turns to lead collective worship.



Reverend Martin/Reverend Karen lead us in worship once a week.

A range of leaders will contribute, including staff, local St Mary's church clergy, visitors and pupils, reflecting the belief that each individual has a valuable role within our shared Christian community.

At St Mary's we use the '**Roots and Fruits**' resource to support the delivery of collective worship. This provides biblically grounded themes that link directly to our Christian values and vision, offering structured, engaging and reflective worship that helps children understand the *roots* of Christian teaching and the *fruits* it produces in their daily lives.

6. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is carefully planned to ensure it supports the spiritual growth of the whole school community and reflects our vision and values.

- The **worship leader** ensures themes embody our Christian values and vision, helping children learn and grow together.
- Governors, including **Foundation Governors**, monitor the impact of worship with reference to the school's Christian ethos and theological foundation in Romans 15:5.
- Evaluation considers how worship nurtures:
 - A sense of belonging and koinonia
 - Compassion and friendship in action
 - Trust within the school community
 - Opportunities for pupils to flourish as confident, reflective individuals

Pupil voice is central in evaluating how worship contributes to their experience of St Mary's as a caring, nurturing family with a big heart.

7. Inclusion and Participation

In keeping with our identity as a **small school with a big heart**, collective worship at St Mary's is **inclusive, invitational and inspiring**.

- All pupils are welcomed to participate at their own level of comfort and understanding.
- Worship reflects our commitment to nurturing every child, recognising that we grow best **together**, as one body made up of many individuals.
- Practices are respectful of diverse backgrounds while remaining authentically Christian.
- Language, music, stories and activities are chosen to ensure pupils feel valued, included and able to contribute.



Worship helps pupils understand that they are part of a caring community rooted in **Compassion, Friendship, Koinonia and Trust**, where everyone is supported to flourish.

8. Right of Withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. - Requests must be made in writing to the Headteacher. - The school will discuss the request with the parent to fully understand their concerns and agree suitable arrangements. - Staff may withdraw from leading or attending worship unless contractually obligated.

9. Safeguarding

All visitors leading worship are expected to follow the school's safeguarding procedures. Approved visitors will be supervised as required.

10. Responsibilities

- **Headteacher:** Ensures statutory requirements are met; oversees worship provision.
 - **Worship Leader:** Coordinates planning, themes, and resources.
 - **Foundation Governors:** Monitor Christian distinctiveness and quality of worship.
 - **Clergy and Church Links:** Support planning and delivery.
 - **Teachers:** Participate in and support the worship life of the school.
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11. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every **two years** by the Governing Body, with input from staff, pupils and parents.

Richard Moss Sep 2025

Glynis Ashford Sep 2025