

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

# **Malden Parochial C of E Primary School**



# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

Agreed: October 2021

Review: October 2024

(or as required)



## **Ethos Statement**

This is a Church of England Primary School. As such, its ethos derives from the Christian Gospel. In all that it does or aspires to achieve, the school is informed and strengthened by Christian belief and practice.

At the heart of the school's ethos is the conviction that God loves each person: that God desires the best for each person; that God longs for each person to develop their potential as human beings.

## **Mission Statement**

In accordance with the Ethos Statement, our school will aim to provide high quality education to the children of the local community within a safe, happy and stimulating environment

*Love, Learn Live!*

## AIMS

“Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through listening to and joining in worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.” (DfE Circular 1/94)

Collective Worship is central to the life of Malden Parochial and plays a significant role in reflecting the distinctive Christian ethos of the school. It is an opportunity to bring the whole school community together on a daily basis and provides time for reflection and Spiritual, Moral, Cultural and Social development.

## PRINCIPLES

- Collective church school worship provides the opportunity to:
  - *express praise and thanksgiving to God*
  - *reflect on the attributes of God*
  - *reflect on the teachings of Christ*
  - *affirm Christian values and attributes*
  - *share each other's joys and challenges*
  - *celebrate special times in the Christian calendar*
  - *foster respect and unity, deepen spiritual awareness*
- Worship should be inclusive - an activity and experience to which, in principle, all can contribute and from which all can gain.
- Worship should be curricular - to be meaningful, worship must be seen as part of the whole school curriculum, even if unique within it.
- Worship should be educational - as a learning experience for all members of the school community relating to all educational activities.
- Worship should both contribute to and reflect on the religious education of all pupils.
- Worship should have a sense of occasion.
- Worship should be shaped to the needs of Malden Parochial school.
- Worship should encourage and give opportunities for developing the spiritual dimension of all involved and to elicit a response to the feelings of awe, wonder, joy and mystery.
- Worship may take place beyond the school environment.

## PLANNING AND ORGANISATION

- The Collective Worship rota is drawn up by the Deputy Headteacher at the beginning of each term with input from the Headteacher, St John's Ministry Team and PSHE Subject Leader. Themes for Collective Worship are chosen considering events in the church calendar, events in the school calendar, PSHE topics and other areas of SMSC development.
- Consultation around Eucharist themes and readings, as well as themes for Ministry Team led Collective Worship, takes place with the Vicar of St John the Baptist Church.
- All teachers are expected to lead Collective Worship at least once a term.
- Each week there will usually be a Collective Worship led by a member of SLT, a Collective Worship led by a member of St John's Ministry Team, a Collective Worship led by another member of staff, Celebration Assembly and Hymn Practice. **Due to Covid19 restrictions in place, all Collective Worship is currently taking place in class.**
- Pupils in Year 1-6 attend Collective Worship from the start of the year with Reception and Nursery joining later in the year.
- Every half term there will be a Eucharist Service in the school for Years 2-6.
- Key events in the school or church calendar will be celebrated with a service either in school or at St John's. These include, but are not limited to, Harvest Festival, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Ascension and the End of Year. Years 3-6 attend these services at the start of the year, with Year 2 joining from the Easter Service onwards.

Variety is essential in a primary school and a balance needs to be achieved between a tight formal structure and a spontaneous freedom in worship. For this reason we acknowledge worship may be planned:

- Around the festivals and celebrations of the church calendar.
- Around children's own interests.
- By outside agencies and visitors.
- Around work related to the school's PSHCE curriculum.
- By a class or group of children.
- Around learning about other world faiths.

We encourage a variety of resources, artefacts and starting points to be used in Collective Worship. A candle is lit as a focal point. Slides and music are also used to enhance the experience and learning during Collective Worship times.

### **Staff-led Collective Worship:**

- The candle should be lit for all Collective Worship as a symbol of God's presence.
- Where possible and appropriate, there should be some biblical reference and content in the Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship should involve some time for reflection and/or prayer.
- Where appropriate, other faiths should be acknowledged and celebrated.
- Pupils are expected to remain quiet and respectful during Collective Worship times, and teachers should encourage pupils to come and leave in silence.
- Staff are requested to maintain a quiet and reflective presence so modelling the behaviour expected of the pupils.

### **Celebration Assembly:**

- This is a weekly celebration of the success and achievements of the pupils.
- Celebration assembly is led by the Headteacher or another member of SLT.
- Pupil birthdays are acknowledged, Good Work Bags are celebrated, Class Stars are awarded, the 'Tidy Cup' is given out, certificates and other awards are distributed and credited and other good news of the week is shared.

### **Hymn Practice:**

- Hymn practice is led by the Music Leader each week, supported by one other member of staff.
- Hymns are chosen and taught by the Music Leader and this is often an opportunity to learn music for special events and services.

- Hymn Practice provides an opportunity to learn new music, join together in sung worship, develop collaboration and team work skills and singing is proven to be hugely beneficial to children's health and wellbeing, improving their learning and development.

### **Eucharist at School:**

- Attended by pupils in Year 2-6.
- This will be led by a member of the ministry team who will select the reading and the theme of the talk in advance of the service.
- Each Eucharist service will be supported by pupils from one class leading prayers (approximately 3 pupils), reading the chosen Bible reading and taking up the offertory. The class supporting the Eucharist service will be included on the Collective Worship rota.
- The Music Leader will select a suitable hymn, according to the theme.
- Please be aware that some pupils do 'opt out' of Eucharist services at school and services at St John's.

### **Class Prayers:**

At the end of each school day children will be given the opportunity to pray and reflect. Prayer and reflection may occur at other times during the taught day e.g. as part of an R.E. lesson.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

### Weekly in School

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| <b>Monday</b>    | - | Whole school led by Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.  |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | - | Whole school led by a member of staff.  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | - | Whole school led by a member of the Ministry Team<br>Eucharist (Year 2 – Year 6) once every half term, led by the Vicar of St John the Baptist. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | - | Hymn practice led by Subject Leader for Music   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | - | Celebration Assembly led by Headteacher or Class assemblies   |