

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years unless there are legislation or policy changes

Reviewed: January 2014

Welwyn St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Collective worship is a special time at Welwyn St Mary's and is rooted in the Christian and Anglican foundation of the school. Our acts of collective worship are opportunities for us to share and celebrate our beliefs and values, and occasions which reflect and nurture the ethos of our school.

They also provide an opportunity for personal reflection on spiritual issues and response to matters of significance, value and concern.

Acts of collective worship are held daily at Welwyn St Mary's and at least termly at St Mary's Church. We also recognise and accept other major world religious traditions and we wish to facilitate spiritual growth by enabling our children to learn about and respect other beliefs and practices. We wish to build links with the wider community by inviting visitors to our assemblies.

The importance we attach to worship as a church school is explained to parents at admission time and is recognised in Categories 5 and 6 of our admissions policy. We hope that parents and children will understand that our school worship is an occasion when each individual's integrity is respected. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship if they wish.

AIMS

At Welwyn St Mary's School, we aim to:

- experience times of prayer, silence and reflection
- foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared values of the school
- develop an awareness of the presence of God and an understanding of the Christian and other faiths
- encourage reflection on the fundamental questions of life and on the varied dimensions of human experience.
- foster a concern for the needs of other people
- provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and sharing
- foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world
- provide a time for sharing successes in personal, school and community life.

ORGANISATION

Acts of collective worship are planned according to a weekly theme and there are different groupings of pupils:

Monday	10.00 a.m.	Whole school Led by headteacher	Theme assembly	Hall
Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	Key Stage 2 clergy		Hall
	10.00 a.m.	Key Stage 1 clergy		Hall
Wednesday	9.00 a.m.	Key Stage 2 assembly Led by upper or lower KS2 leader		Hall
	10.00 a.m.	Key Stage 1 assembly Led by deputy Headteacher or KS1 teacher		Hall
Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Whole school singing Led by KS1 staff team rota		Hall
Friday	1.15 p.m.	Whole school Led by pupils from one class or Headteacher	Celebration assembly	Hall

Parents are invited to Friday class assemblies and badges and awards are presented each week. The rector also leads a school Eucharist during the summer term in which recently confirmed pupils, staff and governors are invited to take communion.

The weekly themes provide a focus for planning and a context for recognising and reflecting on important issues. The theme may be chosen to link with Christian values, school events, religious festivals or special days.

Music contributes positively and in various ways to our collective worship. It helps to create an appropriate atmosphere and, whether played or sung, enables participants to express feelings that are not easily put into words. A hymn or song is included in most assemblies. Pupils enter and leave quietly as a chosen piece of weekly listening music is played. This music is chosen if possible to reflect the theme and some aspect of that link is introduced to the children e.g. talking about the instruments playing or the composer.

Reflection and Prayer Opportunities are provided for individual reflection. These include closing the eyes to help concentration, lighting a candle to focus attention or using flowers or plants to think about the beauty of the world. This is often facilitated by a purposeful silence. These moments of quietness enable pupils to approach the threshold of worship through their own thoughts and meditation and the children may be invited to pray quietly to themselves. Often, a prayer may be said and pupils are invited to make the words of the prayer their own by saying Amen or other words of response such as in an intercession. It is recognised that there may be a variety of responses to prayer. Children often write their own prayers.

MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION

The task of organising and managing collective worship at St Mary's School is the responsibility of the subject leader for worship, currently the headteacher. The co-ordinator is responsible for:

- the school policy statement on collective worship
- the structure of worship in the school
- planning
- resources
- visitors to assembly
- recording
- evaluating and reviewing

Our Collective Worship file contains a record of worship themes of whole-school assemblies throughout the year. The subject leader liaises with visitors to assembly to ensure they link to the weekly theme. Visitors might include Act 4 or representatives of other faiths.

The subject leader meets regularly with the Rector and Deputy and Assistant Headteachers to plan and evaluate assemblies. The PSHCE co-ordinator also joins planning meetings to incorporate the SEAL themes.

RESOURCES

An annual budget is allocated to building up resources for collective worship and the school has a good range of books, poetry collections, posters and pictures, charity publications etc. Websites used include www.natsoc.org.uk and www.assemblies.co.uk .

Resources for listening to music in assembly have also been increased. CD's are kept for easy access by the children responsible for organising the listening music. Pupils also have responsibility for displaying the words of the hymns using Powerpoint.