

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Believe and Achieve



Collective Worship Policy

Frequency of review (unless there are changes to legislation)	Every 4 years
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Welwyn St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

At Welwyn St Mary's our school vision is 'Believe and Achieve' taken from St Matthew's gospel (chapter 19, verses 16-18). By this we believe in the teaching of Jesus so that all members of our community may flourish and be the best version of themselves. We also believe in others to enable their success and build up self-belief so that all can achieve.

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 worship.

The importance we attach to worship as a church school is explained to parents at admission time and is recognised in Categories 6 and 7 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.

We have a member of staff who has recently been ordained as Deacon, fully involved in embedding the Christian vision in our school they support Collective Worship by offering God's blessing and prayers at the end of our times of worship.

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 Christian 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

- provide opportunities to praise God through singing and listening to music
- 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:

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 Christian values each half term provide a focus for planning and a context for recognising and reflecting on important issues. This theme may link with school events, religious festivals or special days. Inspirational quotes, based on the Christian values, are displayed around school.

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 worship. Pupils enter and leave quietly as a chosen piece of weekly listening music is played. This music is chosen, if possible, to reflect the Christian value and the music is introduced by the specialist music teacher, and discussed with the pupils, to enhance the listening experience.

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 routinely.

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 Assistant 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 worship
- recording
- evaluating and reviewing to involve pupils, staff and governors
- Involving children actively in our worship. (For example: Worship Group, classes, Year 6 monitors, prayer writing and reading.)

Our Collective Worship file contains a record of worship themes of whole-school worship throughout the year. The subject leader liaises with visitors to a worship to ensure they link to the Christian values.

The Headteacher meets regularly with the rector and deputy and assistant Headteachers to plan and evaluate worships.

Worship Group

1. Children of all religions are welcome to participate
2. Helps the development of their spirituality
3. Supports worship across the school.