

St. Mary's Church in Wales Aided School, Ruabon
Collective Worship Policy

This policy has been drawn up by the Headteacher in consultation with other members of staff, the incumbent of St. Mary's Church and the Foundation Governors of the School.

Aims of Collective Worship at St. Mary's School

This policy aims to ensure that all associated with our school collective worship recognise the place of worship in the life of the school and the ways in which we can use and promote worship.

Collective worship at St. Mary's aims to provide pupils with a daily opportunity to worship God and recognise the importance of God in our world and in our lives.

All acts of worship at St. Mary's will reflect the Anglican foundation on which the school is built whilst also satisfying the legal requirements as set out above.

- To develop in our children an understanding of Christianity and the place of God in our world and in our lives.
- To provide children with the ultimate learning experience to enable them to achieve the highest standards.
- To inspire a love of lifelong learning.
- To equip our children with the skills and tools to become global citizens.
- To equip our children to deal with change.
- To enable our children to recognise and respect individuality and celebrate diversity.
- To motivate and enable all to achieve their personal best.
- To create a sense of belonging and unity to the school, the Church and the wider community.
- To praise all types of achievement.
- To create a safe and trusting environment where children are encouraged to express opinion, be independent learners and take responsibility.

Objectives

- To develop in children a knowledge of the immeasurable enormity of God's love for them (Ephesians 3:18)
- To develop an understanding in every child that God sees their heart and loves them even in their failings (1 Samuel 16: 7)
- To develop an understanding in every child that God is always with them (Psalm 139, Matthew 28:20)

- To develop an understanding that, because of the sacrifice Jesus made for them on the cross, they can approach God without fear (Hebrews 4:16).
- To develop in children a sense of beauty, awe and wonder.
- To offer the opportunity for all to explore, extend, share and deepen their level of spiritual and cultural experience.
- To provide an opportunity for all to share emotions, both happy and sad, in relation to family, community, national and international events.
- To explore moral issues and underline the common values which hold the school together as a community.
- To teach and use a range of prayers, hymns and other spiritual songs, particularly including the Lords Prayer and the Grace.
- To introduce some liturgical forms which are used in the Church in Wales.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

The normal pattern of Collective Worship at the school is:-

Monday	Class Worship	Teacher/ Pupil led
Tuesday	Whole School Worship	Headteacher/ Vicar led
Wednesday	Class Service	Teacher/ Pupil led
Thursday	Singing Service	Teacher led
Friday	Whole School	Headteacher/ Class led

This pattern may be varied from time to time due to special events in the life of the school and or the inclusion of other visiting speakers who are able to contribute to and widen the experience of the children.

The school also visits St. Mary's Parish Church to celebrate Harvest, Christingle, Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and to mark Christmas and Easter. Parents and friends of the school are invited to join us in our worship on these special days. The end of the school year is also marked with a service held in school and to which parents and friends of the school are invited.

The contents of our acts of worship are planned to reflect a series of themes. Class led services are planned to reflect the work and classroom experiences of the children at the time and each class is encouraged to lead parts of the worship during the course of the school year. Parents, Governors and friends of the school are invited to attend these Class led Services.

Children are regularly and actively involved in all acts of collective worship, particularly whole school services, whereby different pupils are asked to contribute and present prayers and readings to the school as well as accompanying hymns and songs with instruments.

Class Collective Worship Services

During the Foundation Phase, Class Collective Worship Services are held in each class. During these short services, individual children will be asked to take turns to lead the act and offer their personal contributions and reflections based on different themes relating to class work and our school values. We also utilise 'Imaginer' interactive resources where puppets Jack and Oscar children become introduced to the different and special parts of worship.

This offers our very youngest children at St. Mary's, the opportunity to learn to thank God for our wonderful world, to pray in an appropriate manner and to express and communicate different feelings in a more intimate environment.

During Key Stage 2, pupils work in small groups to take an active role in planning and delivering Class Worship Services.

Recording and Evaluating Worship

Records of the content, leader and pupils who took part in Collective Worship are kept to prevent repetition of material and to aid future planning. A short evaluation noting key successes and points for development is also noted.

Resources

The school has a variety of resource materials for Collective Worship. This includes books, visual artefacts, music, DVD's and stories suitable for inclusion in acts of worship. All classes have a small worship area with a cross and candle. In our school hall, we have an Altar table with falls that are used in accordance with the Church calendar. A special cross and 3 candles are placed on the Altar to remember the Trinity.

The Right of Withdrawal

At St. Mary's we believe that the act of Collective Worship is a central part of the life of our school and would therefore hope that all parents would wish their children to attend. If parents, however, decide to exercise their legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship the school will seek to ensure that they are adequately supervised, have something purposeful to do and also that they are not made to feel unduly isolated and 'different'.

Future Development

The Headteacher, Staff and Foundation Governors will review the working of this policy annually. A list of themes for each school year will be drawn up by the Headteacher and Staff.