



Sandford St. Martin's
P R I M A R Y S C H O O L

Collective Worship Policy 2023-25

Our mission statement: Learn Love Laugh

Safeguarding

If there are any Safeguarding issues that arise from the implementation of this policy, then they should be dealt with in accordance with the School's Safeguarding policy. Any safeguarding concerns should be referred directly to the School by telephone or in person for the attention of the Designated Safeguarding Lead along with any concerns relating to the Prevent Strategy.

Equality

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Equality Policy. The general equality duty requires that, in the exercise of their functions, schools must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010. This school endeavours to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations for all.

Vision Statement

Together we build a community in which EVERYONE is:

- safe, included and respected (We Love)
- inspired, equipped and achieving (We Learn)
- celebrated, confident and thriving (We Laugh)

Philosophy

Sandford St Martin's CE VA Primary School is a church aided school. Collective Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community. It is attended by all pupils, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in. It is a special opportunity to develop in worship, praise, prayer, Christian values, spiritual thinking, deep reflection to bring about transformation in each other's lives.

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

At Sandford St Martin's CE VA Primary School, we recognise that Collective Worship provides important opportunities for our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development as well as space to reflect on 'big questions'.

Note: All acts of Collective Worship will be consistent with Safeguarding policies and the Prevent Strategy.

Collective Worship is not an assembly – assemblies deal with messages, practicalities and curriculum delivery which are separate from gathering to learn about, hear from, talk to and respond to God.

Aims

It is our aim at Sandford St Martin's CE VA Primary School that Collective Worship should:

- explore and express our Root Christian Value of **Love**
- developing a deeper understanding of our theological underpinning (in Colossians): kindness → compassion, gentleness → humility and patience → forgiveness
- explore and express our Christian foundation, mission and vision
- contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- support the Social and Emotional development of our pupils
- allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others

- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to praise and reach out to God
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to reflect and experience stillness and quiet
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to respond to Christian language, liturgy and symbolism
- provide members of the school community with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of worship, prayer and meditation. These might include giving thanks, praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of self and others or quiet reflection
- help pupils to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- provide opportunities to learn about and from the Bible

Legal Status of Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that ‘all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship’. We seek to do go beyond this to ensure that Collective Worship is central in upholding and exploring our root Christian Value which underpins our entire ethos and vision.

To provide pupils with variety in their experience of worship, acts of worship may take the form of a whole school act of worship for all pupils or separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or school groups. Collective Worship may be held at any time during the school day. It may be held in person or via school agreed online platforms.

The responsibility for arranging school worship in our school rests with the Headteacher.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in circular 1/94 which states that worship should be of a ‘wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character’ and not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. By ‘broadly Christian’ in this school we mean that: -

- Worship contains some elements that accord special status to Jesus, his teachings and actions, e.g. The Sermon on the Mount, Parable, How to treat others
- Sharing with children the Christian belief that all Christians are called to continue Jesus’ work of love and compassion for their fellow human beings through the exploration of key Christian concepts such as love, trust, forgiveness, mercy, humility, courage and integrity, respect for life, value of an individual, justice, co-operation and service, honesty and truthfulness.
- Focus on core Christian beliefs in the Bible, the trinity, prayer and worship.
- Explore and consider how we might apply Bible stories and teachings to our lives

Acts of Collective Worship at Sandford St Martin’s Primary school take into account the children’s ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds.

The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of students. On some occasions assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens, the transition from Assembly to worship will

be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the screen, moment of silences and reflection etc.

Collective worship Leads must be sensitive to the needs of those present. We use the 3 I's as presented in the C of E guidance document "Collective Worship in Church of England Schools" (May 2021) – Church of England Education Office,

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive

Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff in our schools will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background.

Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship should not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship.

Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

Invitational

Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable.

Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Music and liturgies used in worship should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, it should connect with the theme and explore the sacred to educate and engage. Music used should reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community.

Care should be taken with the music and liturgy: the traditional and modern riches of Christian hymnody and music will be drawn upon, but schools should think about what is most appropriate, at a given time, for the spiritual life of their particular community.

Inspiring

Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Rights of Withdrawal

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our schools and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option.

At Sandford St Martin's Primary School, we seek to be an inclusive community; however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher/Collective Worship Leader followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the Headteacher, should he or she wish exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in Sandford St Martin's Primary school.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to assemblies.

Organisation (Collective Worship can take place anywhere on the school premises or online)

Day	Worship Leader	Year Groups
Monday	Head/Staff member	Whole school or alternate Key Stages
Tuesday	Wareham Churches Clergy team	Whole school
Wednesday	Class teachers - focus: worship and singing	Key Stages
Thursday	Class teachers/Hilary Bond (schools' worker)	Key Stages
Friday	Head/Deputy/SLT: focus – celebration of learning and Values	Whole school

Planning, Recording and Evaluation

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship should be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning. Worship 'leaders' should be mindful of the age of the children they are leading, as well as the fact that adults are present.

Each half term there is a main theme for Collective Worship linked to our Christian Value, virtues or key bible verses/story. These themes are shared with staff and visiting clergy at the beginning of each term and include ideas for stories/characters from the Bible and popular fiction that could support the delivery of the theme. A list of worship songs that support the theme is also compiled ready for 'worship through music' practices throughout the term, which are an act of Collective Worship in their own right.

This pattern is flexible and, on occasions, it is recognised that teachers/school leaders/clergy will feel that they need to respond to local or national events. It is paramount that Collective Worship themes and rotas are flexible to accommodate important events, even when they could not be planned in due to being an unforeseen event. We draw on stories from children's literature, films and events of interest as well stories from other religions and cultures where these enrich and deepen understanding (of God, Spirituality, Values and/or Awe and Wonder).

It is important to focus on aspects of:

Praise – traditional and modern hymns/songs to sing, perform actions or listen to. The place of singing is held in high importance. We use a range of songs including materials from Out of The Ark, well known hymns and modern worship leaders.

Psalms – the Psalms provide prayer and praise in accessible forms as a basis for reflection

Parables – Jesus is a great story teller, and children learn well from stories and narrative

People – inspirational people from the Bible, our modern world and from other cultures/religions can be used to explore and express themes and values

Prayer – learning familiar prayers, blessings and liturgy can support us all – these are explored in child friendly ways, including easy actions and recital

Familiar liturgy and prayers at Sandford St Martin's CE VA Primary School

(Leader) Peace be with you – (All) And also with you

(Leader) Jesus is here – (All) His Spirit is with us

(Leader) Lift up your hearts – (All) We lift them to the Lord

Celtic blessing (with actions)

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

School creed

This is Sandford St Martin's School

Let peace dwell here

Let the rooms be full of contentment

Let love live here

Love of one another

Love of mankind

Love of life itself

And love of God.

Let us remember

That, as many hands build a house,

So many hearts build a school.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory

Forever and ever

Amen

The Local Vicar, ex-officio Foundation Governor, leads the monitoring of Collective Worship through school within his role as Link Governor. S/he is supported by other foundation governors, the Ethos committee, staff and a 'collective worship forum' in this.

The school seeks to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. We aim for Collective Worship to impact on the lives of all in the school and monitoring, evaluate and feedback on this basis.

Resources

The school draws on resources such as ‘Values for Life’ and ‘Roots and Fruits’ and has also purchased additional resources recommended by Salisbury Diocese that are available to use when planning Collective Worship. Amongst others, we utilise materials from the Barnabas Trust, SPCK, Messy Church and other story/parable- based explorations as well as stories from other cultures and religions.



SANDFORD ST MARTIN'S CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY.	
Date adopted: July 23	Version: 6.0
Last Reviewed: June 2023	Review Cycle: Every 2 years
Revision Ref:	PB June 23
Author/Owner:	Ethos Group/Headteachers/Standards and Assessments Committee
Policy Type:	Curriculum