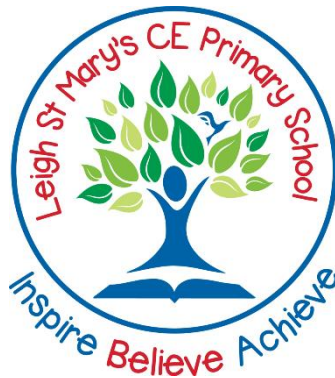


# Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy



# Inspire, Believe, Achieve

Updated: June 2020

Review: June 2021

This policy has been written in collaboration with Senior Leadership Team, governors and the clergy

## Collective Worship Policy

### Mission Statement

At Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School, we promote a life-long love of learning. Through enriching, exciting learning opportunities and a creative curriculum, children are given the foundations to flourish. Our Christian values are at the heart of our school and provide us with a culture of happiness, respect and trust.

We aim to promote a sense of belonging within a warm, nurturing environment where children feel safe and valued. We celebrate cultural diversity and believe that every child should have the opportunity to be the best that they can be.

Through our encouragement of good manners, kindness and friendship we aim to ensure our children display the values of good citizenship. We hope to instil in our children an 'I can' attitude and to provide our children with the tools to succeed in an ever-changing world.

### The Foundation of the School

Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Primary School, which was established in 1934 to provide education within the framework of the 'principles of the Established Church'.

It is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective worship is in conformity with the vision statement and the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England as laid down in the Trust Deed.

We recognise the Schools historic foundation, and will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at the parish of St Mary the Virgin.

### Our Inspiration Colossians 2 verse 6-7 International Children's Bible

<sup>6</sup>As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in him. <sup>7</sup>Keep your roots deep in him and have your lives built on him. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught. And always be thankful.

## Our Vision

Leigh St Mary's is an inclusive, welcoming, Christian school where children and adults are spiritually nurtured in a safe, caring environment. All are encouraged to explore faith and develop their understanding of God and of their place in God's world.

## Our School Mission Statement

**INSPIRE** To be the best that I can be

**BELIEVE** To believe I can make a difference for good in this world

**ACHIEVE** To know I have the roots to grow and the wings to fly

## The Place of Worship in the Life of the School

Collective Worship is the heart of our school life and the Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation exercises in the curriculum generally at the end of the morning and afternoon session. This is often for children to share their own prayers and private reflections. There are also areas in the classrooms and around the school for reflection and prayer. Pupils are given opportunities to talk about the value of prayer, have time to be still and reflect upon their own lives.

Worship also allows adults to reflect upon their own faith as part of the strong Christian family of the school.

Forms of worship within our denominations differ and those differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship whilst remaining true to our Trust Deeds. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and help to explore them. This would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and though sinful, destined for eternal life
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God
- The central values of friendship, respect, responsibility, forgiveness, kindness cooperation, honesty, trust and perseverance.
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance
- The importance of prayer
- The central symbols of Christianity
- The Cycle of the Church year

In worship the values that are central to the life of the school include, but are not limited to, the following chosen values; friendship, respect, responsibility, forgiveness, kindness cooperation, honesty, trust and perseverance.

The school enjoys close links with the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin. A number of Christian festivals and other celebrations are held in the church building each year and the staff of Leigh St Mary's lead weekly Classroom Worship and work to support the work in school.

### Aims and Objectives

1) To contribute to our pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development.

- Experience what worship is and what people do when they worship;
- Use silence creatively and reflect upon important issues;
- Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation and encourage pupils to celebrate all that is of value in life;
- Worship should give expression to their concerns, hopes and joys and build their relationship with God.

2) To introduce pupils to Christian Worship

- Provide a repertoire of prayers and Christian worship songs to take into adult life, including important and famous prayers of Christianity and the Anglican Church;
- Experience a variety of approaches to Christian worship.

3) To enable pupils to gain a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith

They:

- Explore Christian beliefs about God
- Learn about the place of the Bible
- Learn about the significance of Jesus
- Celebrate the festivals and Saints days of the Christian year

4) To contribute to pupils' moral development

- Develop ability to reflect on moral and social issues
- Appreciate the values and beliefs by which people live

5) To contribute to the general development of pupils

- Participate in group preparation and presentation
- Provide opportunities for them to prepare and lead their own acts of worship and to write their own prayers
- To take part in choral speaking and to develop their singing ability

6) To celebrate and to take note of the life of the school in the presence of God

- Celebrate the work and achievements of all in the school
- To share the joys and difficulties of all members of the school community
- To reflect upon the values of the school

7) To encourage pupils to look out into the wider world

- To take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate

### Expectation of Pupils

Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School serves a diverse community; whilst the content of our worship is Christian in character, the governors at the school work hard to ensure that:

- It will be a useful and significant experience open to all pupils
- The worship programme is appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of our pupils
- Worship is invitational, offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity

### Organisation and Delivery

The programme of worship is organised on a bi-annual basis. Worship is linked to the school values that have been adopted via a parent/pupil/staff forum. In addition to this themes are planned around significant religious festivals.

There are regular opportunities for parents and governors to attend Worship that is led by school staff, clergy and children. Worship also takes place in church each half term led by the clergy of Leigh St Mary the Virgin.

Due to the importance on the worshipping life of the school, children will not be withdrawn from worship regularly.

A variety of approaches will be used e.g. adult and pupil led, storytelling, music and movement, drama (rehearsed and improvised), visual aids, role play etc.

Delivery is as follows:

<i>Monday</i>	Whole school worship led by Mrs Sarah Watson Headteacher
<i>Tuesday</i>	Whole school worship led by the Senior Leadership Team (singing)
<i>Wednesday</i>	Whole school worship led by the clergy of St Mary the Virgin
<i>Thursday</i>	Class based worship led by the class teacher and pupils
<i>Friday</i>	Whole school worship which includes school awards led by the Headteacher, Deputy, or a member of the Leadership Team

### Monitoring & Evaluation

Collective worship is monitored and evaluated as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation Schedule and School Development Cycle. Dialogue with St Mary the Virgin's church and other stakeholders, is valued and, together with our evaluation, ensures collective worship is relevant and impacts positively on the aims and objectives outlined in the policy.

Team Worship, a group of pupils from Year 6, participate in Worship and also lead acts of worship both in the classroom for example the Agape Service and lead on some of the major festival services in church.

### Structure of Worship

A typical worship will include the following elements;

- Worship songs to come into Worship – encouraging the children to understand this is a joyful occasion and a special time during the day
- Greeting and lighting of the Candle
- "The Lord is here" with the response "His Spirit is with us"
- Hymn/ Song
- Bible reading
- Story
- Reflection- something to think about as we lead our lives/ how will we lead our lives differently

- Prayers- quiet private prayer/ Lord's Prayer/ children's own prayers

However teachers and members of the Clergy may alter or change the order so that worship meets the needs of the children.

### Collective Worship Tables

- Cross
- Prayer box/ collection of children's own prayers
- Bible- age appropriate
- Candle
- Display relating to the current Value
- Cloth to cover the table
- Bible quotes relating to the Value

### Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

The Headteacher is the Collective Worship co-ordinator and shows the significance and importance of Collective Worship in the school.

Collective Worship is planned by the Co-ordinator, the RE Coordinator with contributions made from Team Worship and the clergy. Teachers also adapt and alter worship in class for the needs of the pupils in their care.



## The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

### **Legal Basis**

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

### **Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stages, year groups, house groups but not faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

### **Worship in Church**

Worship may take place in Church in addition to the Daily act of Collective Worship in school.

### **Parental Rights of Withdrawal**

It is the intention of the Governing Body that worship at Leigh St Mary's Church of England Primary School is of a kind that includes everyone, however, the Education Reform Act allows parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to do so are requested to discuss this with the Headteacher.

"The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot isolate pupils from the religious life of the school."

### **Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come in to play.

**This policy was reviewed in September 2023**

**The policy is reviewed annually and will be reviewed in September 2024**

**This policy was agreed by the Chair of Governors and the Vice Chair of the Governing body.**

**Signed copies are on file**

**Chair of Governors** \_\_\_\_\_

**Headteacher** \_\_\_\_\_