



Madresfield C.E. Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Headteacher approval: October 2025
Date of last review: October 2024
Date of next review: Autumn Term 2027
Policy Owner: Headteacher and RE lead

Our Vision

Ignite Illuminate Inspire

At Madresfield we are a caring inclusive school, where everyone is welcome as Jesus welcomed all. We work closely with all stakeholders to support our children in achieving their God given potential. Inspired by *Psalm 119:105 "God's word is a lamp to guide our feet and a light for our path"*.

As a school we aim to:

Ignite: to cultivate a love for learning and awe and respect for God's world.

Illuminate: to trust in God to guide us and develop our wisdom and compassion as we journey through school.

Inspire: to help our children to shine as we celebrate their successes and help them to develop into beacons of hope for others within our school and wider communities.

In order for children to achieve their potential we have in place and follow the following school rules:

Be kind- being kind to others.

Be ready- being ready to learn.

Be respectful- being respectful to all.

Be safe- being safe around school.

Equality and Diversity Statement

At Madresfield CE Primary School we promote equality of opportunity. We promote positive attitudes and encourage active participation of all stakeholders regardless of race, gender, disability, age, religion, belief and sexuality.

In so doing we strive to eliminate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of any group and where any such harassment is found appropriate action will be taken immediately.

This policy has been reviewed; to the best of our knowledge we do not feel it impacts negatively on any specific group or individual within our school community.

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Introduction

As a Christian school our vision is that all children will know that everyone is loved by God. Our aim at Madresfield C.E. Primary School is to offer high quality education in a friendly, creative and challenging environment underpinned by our Christian ethos. We will live our shared School Values so that every person knows that they are listened to and cared for.

Children will be encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs and to understand what other people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, embracing our diverse world. Our community will be enriched by the worship of God, study of the Bible and our prayerful interest in the life and words of His Son, Jesus.

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of Madresfield C.E. Primary School and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The whole staff led by the RE Lead will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body.

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational. Collective worship is a time for the school community to come together as a 'family' to develop, learn and share Christian values.

The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority.

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship has on the school community in consultation with the Headteacher.

Definition of Collective Worship

Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

Aims

- To be creative in providing an experience of worship that will engage children and offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians. Children explore the teachings of Jesus and their relevance in a modern society.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language, symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult bring to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that 'we can't understand and explain everything.'
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- Encourage respect and understanding of other people's religious beliefs and practices.
- Explore celebrations and rituals of other religions looking for similarities and showing respect and tolerance.
- Continue to develop a sense of British Values.

Organisation

- Collective worship will be led by a variety of people including but not exclusively: the Headteacher, members of staff, governors, visitors, whole classes or JLT, members of clergy and Open the Book.
- Collective worship is usually whole school but may be separated into Key Stages or class worships as appropriate.
- Collective worship is planned with the school's Christian values in mind. The Headteacher, RE Lead, staff, Foundation Governors, Local Vicar, Open the Book and pupils are involved in this process.

- The school will use the hall and classrooms for most acts of collective worship but will also regularly use St Mary The Virgin Church in Madresfield for family services and worships reflecting the cycle of the school and church year.
- The school values are used as a focus for collective worship. Our core Christian values were decided in consultation with all stakeholders.
- When possible the values will be linked to specific Bible stories or quotes.
- 'Special' services to celebrate occasions in the church year such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas will be followed and pupils will be involved in all of these services.
- Collective worship is usually held every morning and is scheduled to last approximately twenty minutes but may be held at different times of the day as required.
- All leaders will be encouraged and enabled to use a variety of stimuli to include, for example, song, music, film, stories, the Bible. They will also use other stimulus such as pictures or a lit candle to encourage reflection and spirituality.

Prayer

Children are taught the Lord's prayer and show an understanding of what it means to Christians. Children are invited to join in with prayer or use it as a time of personal reflection. Children are invited to pray at the end of a Collective Worship.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The monitoring of collective worship will be done on a regular basis. This will be done by the Collective Worship Lead, children or external visitors. A variety of proformas are kept in the worship folder in the hall. Children's views will also be sought during pupil voice sessions which are conducted regularly over the year.