



ST CUTHBERT WITH ST MATTHIAS CE SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

MAY 2023

We take inspiration from our vision,

'As a school community we are inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan from the Bible (Luke 10:25-37), where we are encouraged to love one another courageously and with compassion. Through friendship, kindness and thoughtfulness, we will nurture each other to learn and flourish as individuals.'

Loving one another. Learning for our future.

As a Church of England school we are deeply committed to developing and enhancing the talents and potential of each child by providing an ethos that reflects Christian values and which enables each child to develop spiritually.

AIMS

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to attend the worship sessions each day.

In line with the underpinning foundation of a Christian school, we base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Anglican Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

Our worship in our school is Christian, however we also make reference to other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community. We openly talk to children about them having choice in worship and that it is a time for reflection but they do not have to pray.

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. Children know that worship is a time of calm reflection and praise. We regard it as a special, spiritual time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We all uphold respectful quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate as fully as possible in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith and from events of the Christian calendar, based on the LDBS worship calendar for each year. A member of the Clergy leads one worship session each week, as directed by the Diocese Worship calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship assemblies reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. The Clergy collective worship assemblies are led by each class on a rota basis, with the children leading prayers, readings and the teachings. We often use drama and art as a way of engaging the pupils in the teachings.



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Our Celebration worship assemblies celebrate flourishing: the achievements and learning of the children. Each class leads a Celebration Worship assembly each half term on a rota basis and share their RE learning and other learning from the half term. We encourage the children to participate by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. These worship assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are enabled to flourish, are valued and all achievements are recognised.

We invite the parents of the leading class to join our worship each Friday as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

Prayer and reflection is central to school life and as a community we worship in a variety of ways.

Through a daily worship, where the children are made aware of the need for quiet contemplation, reflection and prayer time. Every Thursday we join together for a whole school worship including prayers led by Church Priest. Every Friday we come together to celebrate the successes of the week. Singing and music play an integral part of all these worship sessions.

Once a week classes have their own class worship in the classroom where a prayer area or altar is the focus for daily class worship. The focus is on our school vision and the related values as well as on prayer. The children are encouraged to pray and are taught the traditional prayers of the Church. Children are encouraged to offer up personal prayers.

We say our Grace before all meals. We say a morning and an End of Day prayer.

In addition to whole school worship, the main events of the Liturgical year are celebrated by the whole school through music, drama and prayerful reflection. Children throughout the whole school contribute to these celebrations.

We have three Eucharistic Worships a year (one per term) and these are held in our church. Parents and family members are encouraged to join in the celebration of these liturgies.

ORGANISATION

Monday	Whole School Worship led by Headteacher
Tuesday	Singing Worship led by Headteacher
Wednesday	Class Worship
Thursday	Clergy Worship led by Fr Paul, our Parish Priest, or Fr James, our curate, and children from each class on a rota basis
Friday	Celebration Worship led by SLt and /or different classes on a rota basis

RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can make written request for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Head Teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.



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BIG QUESTION TIMES

We value the importance of thoughtfully challenging our thoughts and preconceptions. Together each half term, our KS2 classes gather in our school hall within an environment of quiet music and calm to reflect on Big Questions which may arise in RE lessons or in the wider world. Questions such as ‘*What is truth? How many times should we forgive? Is it important to have a faith?*’ are discussed and reflected upon. Children share and explain their thoughts and others reflect on a new way of thinking about a challenging question. Photographs and evidence of thoughts are collected in our Big Question book.

HOME, SCHOOL, PARISH, RELIGIOUS SERVICES and SPECIAL CELEBRATION WORSHIP ASSEMBLIES

We are committed to linking with our church, our parish and deanery community. We encourage and value attendance at worship and celebration assemblies in Church or in school by our parent community. We link with our church with fundraising events and with our partnership Deanery schools on projects involving the elders in our community. We hold special services in our St Cuthbert church through the year:

- Autumn Term: Harvest Festival, Christingle
- Spring Term: Epiphany; Ash Wednesday / Lent; Holy Week and Easter; St Cuthbert’s Day
- Summer Term: Ascension; Pentecost; St Matthias Day

Monitoring and Review

It is the role of a named school governor and committee with responsibility for religious education and collective worship (Fr Paul and the FGB) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the Headteacher and RE Coordinator before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.



Signed:

May 2021

Name of School: St Cuthbert with St Matthias CE Primary School

Policy Adopted Date: April 2021

Date of next Review: May 2025

Who reviewed this policy? Ratified by the FGB committee