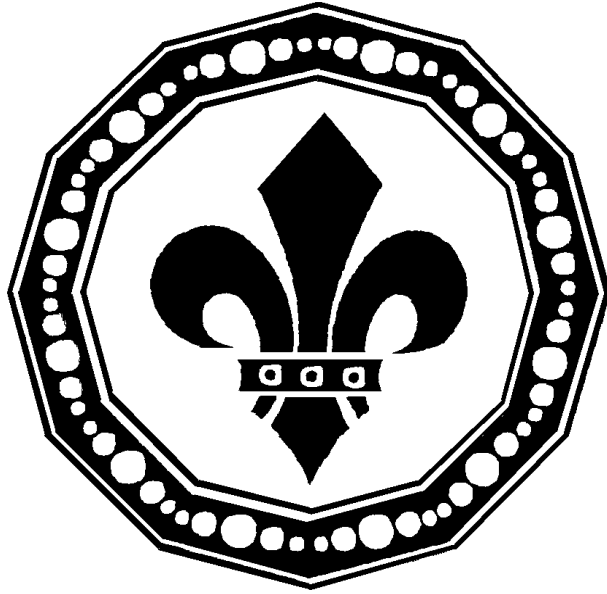


"Flourish for the future"



**ST. MARY'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL, WELHAM GREEN**

Collective Worship Policy

Date: **March 2025**

Review: **March 2027**

Headteacher – Mr. A. D. Petty

Chair of Governors – Mr. C. Diver

We are a welcoming Christian community where every child has the chance to flourish. We bring and share joy, inspire daily and creatively equip children for the future. We're thankful for all that God has provide; proud of where He has placed us; and excited about the potential to come.

All the policies of St Mary's C of E Primary School reflect the Christian vision, aims and values of the school.

We have considered the impact this policy may have on our children with SEND.

This policy has been equality impact assessed to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on race, gender, age or disability.

Our school aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) and the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018).

This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

From the Instrument of Government

St Mary's Church of England VA School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The Aim of Collective Worship

The aim of Collective Worship at St Mary's School is to introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background and drawing upon the riches of the Anglican and other Christian traditions.

It is not the purpose of Collective Worship in church schools actively to evangelise. There is, inevitably, an aspect of any act of worship that encourages those participating to feel part of the Christian faith community. This is done, however, by including those present - not by using Collective Worship to campaign for some kind of "commitment" which is inappropriate in a school setting. Collective Worship is collective not corporate. In other words it is something we do together but embracing a great variety of faith commitment.

Collective Worship Should:

- 1** be daily for all children
- 2** be truly worship and not only an assembly
- 3** involve the children regularly
- 4** be monitored by the staff
- 5** be enjoyable
- 6** be suitable for all pupils of all abilities
- 7** be age appropriate
- 8** be appropriate to the background of the children
- 9** involve the community but still be controlled by the school
- 10** allow time for reflection

The Content of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship will be Christian. Other religions will be treated with respect but will not provide the basis of worship.
- Collective Worship, will take place each day, although the actual time may vary as circumstances require.
- Collective Worship can involve the whole school together or individual classes can hold their own acts of worship. Children will not be passive but encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways.
- Themes for Collective Worship will be chosen reflecting a wide variety of approaches. They may be seasonal or follow themes related to a continuing story or the exploration of particular religious practices. When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of

which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response. There is room for spontaneity.

- Whilst most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building, at least once a term, an Act of Worship will be held at St. Mary's Church, North Mymms.
- The incumbent will be encouraged to lead Collective Worship on a regular basis, ideally once a week.
- Ministers from other Christian denominations will, on occasions be invited to take Collective Worship. From time to time it may be appropriate for visitors representing charities, organisations or projects to lead, or contribute to Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum but not be constrained by it.

The Style of Collective Worship

- Collective Worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.
- Collective Worship will include stillness as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. There will be room for questions and answers - and sometimes the admission that there are no answers.
- There will be expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy. Feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate.
- Collective Worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored but never be a time simply for corporate discipline.
- Collective Worship allows opportunities for corporate information sharing. Care will be taken to differentiate between worship and notices.
- Every act of Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A record of Collective Worship should be kept and staff should review this once a term. The Governing Body will receive a report once a year and the Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body.