



**St Matthias Church of England Primary School**

**Headteacher Mrs Claire Davies**

Cromwell Road, Malvern Link, Worcestershire, WR14 1NA.

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# Collective Worship Policy

## St. Matthias CE Primary School

**Adopted by Governors: Summer 2017**

**Review date: Summer 2020**

**Person Responsible: Mrs Claire Davies**

### 1. Overview

Collective Worship is an integral and important part of our day, when we meet together as a whole school to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The Worship of the school is based on promoting and reflecting on the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. It is a time when we come together to '*nourish those of faith, encourage those of other faiths and challenge those who have no faith.*' (ref: Lord Runcie) As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.


Our Collective Worship allows us to focus on matters of worth 'beyond the everyday' and includes a short time for quiet thought, reflection and a prayer.

Through our Collective Worship and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement and School Aims.

### 2. School Aims

In the spirit of its Christian foundation, St. Matthias Church of England Primary School aims to provide the optimum environment for the intellectual, emotional, physical, social and spiritual growth of every pupil in its care.

Our school aims are driven by a powerful ethos which aspires to be fully inclusive, treat everyone equally and strive for excellence. As well as delivering a first-class education, it is also our desire to build an interconnected community, recognising that educational needs do not exist in isolation from the needs of the whole person.

Aspire		To awaken and nurture a love of learning that will last a lifetime and provide all with skills to pursue learning - independently and collaboratively
		To support our pupils in developing a growth mindset and to recognise the value of hard work and persistent effort when reaching for our goals
		To help learners appreciate human achievements and aspirations and to believe in their own potential to achieve likewise
		To create a rich, happy, stimulating, caring learning environment where risk taking and challenge is encouraged
		To promote a feeling of pride and confidence in learners' identities; as individuals, as members of our academy, as part of the local community and as citizens of the world

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Company No. 07704001





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Believe	<p>To provide opportunities for all our learners to grow together intellectually, emotionally, in understanding, faith, cultural awareness and spiritual understanding</p> <p>To encourage all learners to develop their own interests, passions, enthusiasms, creativity and individuality</p> <p>To help learners to understand and care about the world in which they live, and to believe in their ability and responsibility to change that world to make it better</p> <p>To empower learners to develop a strong sense of right and wrong, good and bad, equality and justice - and the inner strength to act according to these values</p> <p>To equip our pupils with a clear understanding of and respect for their rights and the rights of others</p> <p>To foster respect, tolerance and love for others, regardless of race, gender, religion or difference, within a framework of equality of opportunity and fairness</p>	
Achieve	<p>To enable everyone to reach their personal best, academically and in other fields such as sport, arts and culture</p> <p>To encourage all learners to achieve through fully nurturing their own interests, passions, enthusiasms, creativity and individuality</p> <p>To provide all learners with the skills and understanding to live a healthy, successful life, physically, emotionally and spiritually</p>	
	<p> To empower our children to love learning, seek challenges, value effort and persist in the face of obstacles</p> <p>To ensure learners are effective communicators, able to negotiate and resolve problems fairly</p> <p>To ensure all our students are fully equipped for their next steps in education and their personal / professional futures</p>	

### 3. Aims and Purpose of our Collective Worship

We understand Collective Worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective Worship will involve all members of the school coming together and participating in a whole school worship or class groups may gather individually. We expect everyone to take an active part in our acts of Worship.

The main aims of our Collective Worship are as follows;

- To provide an opportunity for children and staff to worship God
- To enable the children and staff to consider spiritual and moral issues
- To enable children and staff to explore their own beliefs
- To encourage participation and response
- To develop in pupils and staff a community spirit
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes
- To teach the children how to worship
- To promote racial harmony and respect for all, combating prejudice and discrimination
- To share, explore and reflect upon the deeper questions about the meaning of life
- To affirm the values, foundations and ideals of the school
- To provide some experience of, and understanding of what worship, and in particular, Christian Worship, is
- to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection

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### 4. Christian Values

Although difficult to define, we identify as key values those of forgiveness, fairness, friendship, respect, kindness and tolerance of others, integrity, compassion, courage, honesty and self worth. These values are embodied in the New Commandment that Jesus gave us:

John 13:34-35 *"...love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples"*.

### 5. Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

### 6. Organisation

We conduct a daily act of Worship in our school. These are usually whole school events but may on occasion be Key Stage or Class assemblies.

We conduct Worship in a dignified and respectful way. We encourage the children to consider Worship as a time of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect everyone to behave in an appropriate way, as best they can. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in the prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday	Whole School Worship <b>Open the Book</b> led by a team of parishioners from local churches
Tuesday	Whole School – <b>Musical Praise</b>
Wednesday	Whole School Assembly – led alternatively by the Heateacher and a member of the local clergy.
Thursday	Values Worship – Each half term a class will lead the Worship based on the current Value. Alternatively, staff will lead the assemblies covering the topics on our assembly plan.
Friday	Celebration Worship – parents are invited to attend this Worship.

Once a year each class prepares a special Class Assembly to which their parents and carers are invited.

We look to encourage our children to be active participants in our Worship rather than passive listeners, and endeavour to create a Worship that provides a meaningful, thought-provoking experience for all pupils.

### 7. Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer and prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet reflection and children are invited to make the prayer theirs by saying 'Amen' at the end. At the beginning of the whole school worship a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of the candle. A cross is also displayed above or on the altar table.

At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said by either an adult or child in each class.

Teachers make an individual decision about whether to say a prayer with their class at the end of the school day.

### 8. Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. The class-led acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs as they reflect the RE studied as part of the curriculum requirements.

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### 9. Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Records are kept of the Open the Book assembly themes and of the Values covered throughout the year.

Children are encouraged to make regular evaluations of our Worship and their thoughts and ideas play an important part in improving our Worship.

Training is encouraged and available for those who wish to lead acts of worship.

### 10. Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St. Matthias CE Primary ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise.

St Matthias Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending the Church for our annual Harvest, Christmas, Christingle, Easter and Leavers' Services. This helps to re-affirm our place as a Church School and demonstrates the importance we attach to a love of God and our key values.

### 11. Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

We recognise that parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher.

Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

### 12. Equal Opportunities and Special Educational Needs

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of the children within the class.