



South Marston C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



“Encourage one another and build each other up.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Flourishing together with community, hope, perseverance and friendship.

Vision and Purpose

Collective Worship is central to the life of our school. It offers pupils and staff opportunities to reflect on values and issues within the context of our Christian vision and ethos. Worship expresses our vision and shapes our approach to relationships and learning. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join us in worship.

Intent

Our Collective Worship aims to:

- Celebrate Christian seasons, festivals, school values, and achievements.
- Provide space for prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection.
- Foster understanding and participation in prayer.
- Encourage a reflective approach to life and exploration of deep questions.
- Build a community rooted in our distinctive Christian vision.
- Offer a variety of worship styles.
- Promote active involvement in planning, leading, and evaluating worship.
- Ensure all feel safe, affirmed, and able to worship God in their own way.

Worship will also:

- Nurture spiritual growth.
- Encourage moral reflection within a Christian context.
- Enhance social understanding and courageous advocacy.
- Explore the role of faith in contemporary life.
- Respect diverse cultural heritages.
- Reflect the teachings of Jesus and Trinitarian theology.

Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring Worship

Inclusive

Worship is a shared experience that invites exploration, questioning, and response. It is inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of faith background. Pupils are encouraged to participate, reflect, and contribute meaningfully. Language used in worship avoids assumptions of faith and respects individual spiritual journeys.

Invitational

Worship is always invitational, never compulsory. It welcomes all to engage with integrity, offering space to observe, reflect, or participate as they feel comfortable. Prayer is offered as an invitation, allowing individuals to pray in their own way or simply reflect.

Inspiring

Worship should be transformational, prompting deep questions and motivating thoughtful action. It encourages pupils and staff to reflect on their beliefs and become courageous advocates for positive change.

Legal Requirements

In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act, Collective Worship is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' and reflects the traditions of the Anglican Church. The Headteacher and Governing Body are responsible for ensuring a daily act of worship takes place.

Parents may request that their child be excused from worship. No explanation is required, and alternative supervision will be provided. The Headteacher maintains a record of any such withdrawals.

Implementation

Worship occurs in various settings: the school hall, classrooms, outdoors, and occasionally at St Mary Magdalene Church. Key Christian festivals and significant school events are observed, including:

- Harvest
- Christmas
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter
- Pentecost
- Remembrance
- Leavers' Service

Worship is designed to inspire thought beyond the moment and encourage ongoing reflection.

Leadership of Worship

Worship is led by a range of individuals including school staff, pupils, and members of the local church community. Visitors are welcome and guided by this policy. Pupils are regularly involved in leading worship.

Structure of Worship

Each act of worship includes:

- Gather: Welcome, lighting of three candles (Holy Trinity), call and response.
- Engage: Exploration of the school vision and values.
- Respond: Reflection using 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors', a prayer, hymn.
- Send: Closing words (e.g., 'Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord').

Worship includes diverse activities such as drama, dance, prayer, and song. Prayer is invitational and reflects Church of England traditions. Pupils who choose not to pray are encouraged to reflect quietly.

Our school prayer:

Dear God the Father, thank you for our fun school,

Friends, teachers, learning, community is cool.

Building each other up every single day.

Singing, we thank you, we praise you, we love you, we need you.

We thank you, we praise you, we love you, we need you.

Help us to love more like Jesus taught us to.

Give us the strength to encourage everyone.

Help us to flourish with courage, hope and joy.

Singing, we thank you, we praise you, we love you, we need you.

We thank you, we praise you, we love you, we need you. Amen.

Organisation and Weekly Timetable

Daily worship takes place in whole school, key stage, or class groupings. A typical structure includes songs, questions, Bible passages, silence, and prayer.

Weekly Schedule:

- Monday: Whole School Worship (Headteacher/SLT)
- Tuesday: Singing Worship (SLT)
- Wednesday: Values Worship / Local Clergy (Teachers/Clergy)
- Thursday: Key Stage Worship (Teachers)
- Friday: Celebration Worship / Class Worship (SLT/Teachers; Parents invited)

Worship Themes (2 Year Cycle)

2025/26

Thankfulness
Trust
Perseverance
Justice
Service
Truthfulness

2026/27

Generosity
Compassion
Courage
Forgiveness
Friendship
Respect

Impact

Worship is regularly reviewed through observation, discussion, and reflection. Feedback informs future planning. Our aim is for worship to be a meaningful experience for all, regardless of background or belief—always invitational, inclusive, and reflective.

Date of approval by LGB: December 2025

Date for review: December 2027