

St Mary's Church of England Primary School



Learn. Grow. Achieve. Flourish.

Collective Worship Information and Curriculum Policy September 2026



As a Church of England primary school, we value and are ambitious for all children and are committed to providing a positive, happy, safe, and stimulating environment for them to enjoy and excel in their learning; grow in confidence, resilience, and independence; achieve their full potential and flourish as individuals.

'I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.'
(Proverbs 4:11)

Collective Worship at St Mary's

'Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a Church school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.'
Church of England 2021

Our Christian Distinctiveness

- We seek to embrace a Christian like way of living, learning, and teaching.
- We seek to bring our diverse community together through conversation about God.
- We will show that at St Mary's our mantra will be a framework to:
 - **Learn** about God.
 - **Grow** in confidence in our faith, in spirit and in wisdom.
 - **Achieve** the skills for respectful dialogue through listening, learning, and sharing.
 - **Flourish** in good character which overflows to serve, and to stand up for what is right.
 - We have a daily act of collective worship from Reception to Y6.

Our aims

To achieve our Christian distinctiveness, we:

- Learn about God through parables and stories rooted in the bible.
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ.
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Be still and reflect.
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events.
- Compare and contrast other religions with Christianity.
- Foster a shared understanding of spirituality.
- Engage in a spiritual act within a diverse and multi-faith community.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Understand and celebrate special Christian calendar events and others.
- Know what it means to belong to a Church of England primary school.

Our worship has 3 underlying principles:

- 1. It is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils and adults*
- 2. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants*
- 3. It is inspiring and combines a range of experiences*

Spirituality Statement

At St Mary's CofE Primary School we use the concept of **Windows, Mirrors and Doors** to help children and adults understand and grow spiritually. Our values of Learn, Grow, Achieve and Flourish underpin our curriculum in all subjects. Across our school Windows, Mirrors and Doors are used to support teaching and learning and offer countless opportunities for spiritual flourishing.

Windows are opportunities from the safe space we create in school for children to explore spirituality. At St Mary's we encourage children to look out onto the world and learn about its wonders. Through learning, dialogue and exploration, children are encouraged to discover the wonder of the world, learn about different religions, beliefs and worldviews, develop and grow their curiosity, awe and respect for diversity.

Mirrors provide opportunities for reflection, enabling children and adults to look inward and consider their own thoughts, feelings, beliefs and values. At St Mary's, we intentionally create time for individual and shared reflection, valuing children's voices and recognising the importance of listening to and learning from one another's perspectives and lived experiences. This encourages our children to achieve a sense of calm.

Doors represent the actions we take in response to our learning and reflection. Through our curriculum, themed weeks and experiences within the school, local community and wider world, children are encouraged to develop independence, compassion and responsibility, enabling them to flourish as confident, thoughtful and active global citizens.

Our shared understanding and language of spirituality, through Windows, Mirrors and Doors, grows from our inclusive Christian vision and associated values, while respecting and celebrating the diverse faiths, cultures and backgrounds represented within our local community.

Collective Worship: Our Values

To aid achievement, maintain and further develop our Christian distinctiveness, we have incorporated the

Term	Value	Meaning	Bible Verse
Autumn	LOVE	We share our love for God, our love for others, love for our families and friends, love for our school and for our learning.	<u>Autumn 1</u> Love is patient and kind (Corinthians 1 13:4)
	RESPECT	We give respect through the opportunity to embrace, celebrate and act with integrity to learn from our similarities and differences.	<u>Autumn 2</u> We show love and compassion for others by truly helping them, and not merely talking about it. (1 John 3:18)
	PEACE	We nurture, support, and feel safe to learn in a peaceful, purposeful, harmonious hardworking environment.	
Spring	WISDOM	We share and apply our knowledge, skills, and experiences to make wise choices for the greater good.	<u>Spring 1 (school main bible verse)</u> I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. (Proverbs 4:11)
	HONESTY	We speak openly and act boldly to challenge assumptions, better understand and to help shape our future.	
	RESPONSIBILITY	We all take responsibility for the wellbeing, safety, and excellent education of all children in our school.	
Summer	FORGIVENESS	We apply tolerance and understanding to overcome negative emotions and actions to feel calm, focus on positivity and good outcomes.	<u>Summer 1</u> 'Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others.' The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:12)
	RESILIENCE	We work together to grow in confidence and strengthen our resilience towards change, new opportunities, challenges, and ambition.	<u>Summer 2</u> Be Kind and compassionate to one another, forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)
	PERSEVERANCE	We make a continued effort to persist through the pursuit of patience, determination, and endurance to achieve our challenges and ambitions.	

following values in our collective worship programme.

Our core Prayers

We all learn the traditional Lord's Prayer and our school prayer

At St Mary's, prayer is invitational. If you wish to make this prayer your prayer, we invite you to say Amen at the end.

Our School Prayer

(Generated by the children in 2022).

O' Lord,

Help us learn at school, practice every day, and grow in confidence and wisdom.

Help us to work hard and persevere to achieve our best.

Let us flourish as does God, in kindness and forgiveness.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

(Traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven;

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on Earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Setting the Format: Sequence of Collective Worship

<u>Entering:</u>	Silence into assembly: music playing (child led) Whole class stands, legs shoulder width apart and hands behind their back. Once whole class ready, signal to be seated.
<u>Seated:</u>	Light the candles (child led)
<u>Greeting:</u>	Greeting and response (child led) <u>Greeting:</u> <i>This is the day that the LORD has made.</i> <u>Response:</u> Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalms 118:24)
<u>Engage:</u>	Bible story or verse. Liturgy. IT visuals etc. (adult/child)
<u>Response:</u>	Discuss and/or question followed by a song or hymn. (all)
<u>Reflect:</u>	Quiet time to think of message/moral in oneself and own life. (all)
<u>Pray:</u>	Child prayer, school Prayer or the Lord's Prayer to recite. (child led)
<u>Sending:</u>	Sending and response (child) <u>Sending:</u> <i>As you go, peace be with you.</i> <u>Response:</u> We leave in peace ready to Learn, Grow, Achieve and Flourish.
<u>Exit:</u>	Silence leading out: Music playing (person at the front stays there to model silence and use hand gestures).

Setting the Tone: Behaviour expectations in Collective Worship

Preparation

- Lead person to be in the hall before classes arrive.
- Lead person to prepare resources e.g., IT, song words, bible verse/story.
- Lead person to have candle and table prepared.
- Lead person to play entry music.

Children to help and eventually lead this process (see below).

Class preparation/behaviour considerations

- Teacher to be considerate of where children are in the line. E.g., line up boy/girl, disruptive child near teacher/adult.
- Teacher to monitor transition behaviours to and from the hall (stop points along the way).

In the hall

- The first child holds the door for the class to enter. All children walk in silence and in single file into assembly.
- Stand in line, teacher hand gestures class to sit in silence once in position.
- Adult(s) model and monitor class behaviour in silence.
- Use school hand gestures for talk, stop etc.
- Listen to music while others enter.

Leaving the hall

- Whole class gestured to stand.
- Back row of class leaves at nearest door.

- First child holds the door.
- Second line joins.
- Keep single file with silence back to class.

Children's engagement in Collective Worship

It is expected that children should engage in collective worship. There are many ways this can be done.

Children in EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and KS1 (Key Stage 1) are expected to:

- Light the candle and present the calling.
- Read or recite the Prayer.
- Engage in discussion and answer questions.
- Be selected to assist in actions and short role play.
- Distinguish the candle and present the sending off message.
- Join in and learn hymns and songs linked to values, stories, and festivities.

Children in Lower KS2 (Key Stage 2) are expected to:

- Engage in all the above
- Prepare parts of the assembly (e.g., select own bible piece and prayer)
- Read an extract from the bible and quote where in the bible it is from
- Role play bible stories under adult direction
- Make guests feel welcome and escort to seating.

By the end of KS2 children are expected to:

- Engage in all the above with high expectations.
- Plan a collective worship from start to finish.
- Prepare IT equipment and software set up for the session.
- Use home language to enhance collective worship.
- Lead collective worship as a group.
- Scribe for an adult when needed.
- Call out names to receive rewards and certificates.
- Lead sending out classes.

Children will be excellent role models and hold collective worship time in high regard. They will greet guests and handout any resources identified.

Entering Collective Worship

Walk to position and form a straight line	Feet shoulder width apart hand behind back	Teacher signals to sit down once class is ready
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Each class will sit in two rows as follows:

Year 1 & 2 Assembly
FRONT OF HALL
Y1 Damson
Y1 Cherry
Y1 Apple
Y2 Peach
Y2 Pear
Y2 Plum

Each class will sit in two rows as follows:

Year 3 & 4 Assembly
FRONT OF HALL
Y3 Ash
Y3 Juniper
Y3 Sycamore
Y4 Larch
Y4 Beech
Y4 Hazel

Each class will sit in a row as follows:

Year 5 & 6 Assembly	
Year 5 enter via door 1	Year 6 enter via door 3
FRONT OF HALL	
Y5 Alder	
Y5 Elm	
Y5 Oak	
Y6 Rowan	
Y6 Maple	
Y6 Willow	

Collective Worship Timetable 2026-2027

Reception year will join in CW with year 1 & 2 for the summer term as part of transition.

Worship Gathering	Year Group	Day	Location	Time	Lead Person
Key Stage Headteacher Led	1 & 2	Monday	Holly Hall	3.00-3.25	SK
	3, 4, 5 & 6		Yew Hall	8.40-9.00	
Phase Group Phase lead Led	1 & 2	Tuesday	Holly Hall	3.00-3.25	GF/GR/GW
Key Stage 2 Singing Teacher Led	3, 4, 5 & 6		Yew Hall	8.40-9.00	Class teacher 1 each half term (Dates TBC by Year Lead)
Celebration Assembly for KS1 -AHT Led	1 & 2	Wednesday	Holly Hall	3.00-3.25	Class teacher 1 each half term (Dates TBC by Year Lead)
Class Teacher Led	3, 4, 5 & 6		Yew Hall	8.40-9.00	Class teacher 1 each half term (Dates TBC by Year Lead)
Class Teacher Led	1 & 2	Thursday	Holly Hall	3.00-3.25	Class teacher 1 each half term (Dates TBC by Year Lead)
Celebration Assembly for KS2 -AHT Led	3, 4, 5 & 6		Yew Hall	8.40-9.00	GF/GR/GW
Class Collective Worship Class Teacher Led	1 & 2	Friday		3.00-3.25	Class Teacher
	3, 4, 5 & 6			8.40-9.00	

Term	Value	Value Meaning	Linked Bible Story & Short Animation	Song values	Linked Books	Bible Verse
Autumn	Our School Name: Who is St Mary and why is she important? How does St Mary show love, respect, and peace?					
	LOVE	We share our love for God, our love for others, love for our families and friends, and love for our school and for our learning.	- The Lost Sheep (Luke 15) The Parable of the Lost Sheep - YouTube - The Lost Coin (Luke 15) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kh789S-BDKs - The Good Samaritan (Children's picture bible p228) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLzdQtetedc - Remembrance Day	YouTube Jesus loves me	- Guess how much I love you - One love - I love you just the way you are	<u>Autumn 1</u> Love is patient and kind (Corinthians 1 13:4) <u>Autumn 2</u> We show love and compassion for others by truly helping them, and not merely talking about it. (1 John 3:18)
	RESPECT	We give respect through the opportunity to embrace, celebrate and act with integrity to learn from our similarities and differences.	- Creation spoiled (Genesis 3) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs - Cain and Abel (Genesis 4) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rliFORixXFI - Noah's Ark (Genesis 6) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuO1DLKnGC4	YouTube The animals went into the ark 2 by 2	- What if Everybody did that - Penguin Says Please	
	PEACE	We nurture, support, and feel safe to learn in a peaceful, purposeful, harmonious hardworking environment.	- A new beginning (Genesis 8) - The end of the great Flood – Dove - The calming of the storm https://youtu.be/uYLHqdSO9OY - Linked to Christmas story birth of Jesus and the role of Mary (Peace on Earth)	https://youtu.be/d6085sLXCms	- Can you say Peace - Peace at last	
Term	Value	Value Meaning	Linked Bible Story & Short Animation	Song values	Linked Books	Bible Verse

Spring	The Holy Trinity: How do worshippers know about God? How does God show Himself to us? There is only one God but in Christianity; what images is he known which creates the Holy Trinity (The Father, The Son & The Holy Spirit)? How does this compare to Islam belief of God?					
	WISDOM	We share and apply our knowledge, skills, and experiences to make wise choices for the greater good.	- The Wise man who built his house upon the rocks (Matthew 7:24). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6S3cRVLMFQ - Joseph and Pharaoh's Dream (Genesis 41) https://youtu.be/j-xP0NeGf3I - Solomon the Wise King	https://youtu.be/zAjEjxX-DhA	- A Squash and a Squeeze - Little Miss Wise - Sebastian and the wise old man	Spring 1 I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. (Proverbs 4:11)
	HONESTY	We speak openly and act boldly to challenge assumptions, better understand and to help shape our future.	The Easter Story https://youtu.be/bkNTU_Vv5Ew	https://youtu.be/BGXs_palBRI	- Honesty is my Superpower - It wasn't me	
	RESPONSIBILITY	We all take responsibility for the wellbeing, safety, and excellent education of all children in our school.	- Jesus has Risen - The story of Creation (Genesis 1) Our world https://youtu.be/yZ1Fd_SPC18 - God makes people (Genesis 1-2)	https://youtu.be/oizCSPgk2gw	- Do I have to - I'll do it - What if everybody did that?	
Term	Value	Value Meaning	Linked Bible Story & Short Animation	Song values	Linked Books	Bible Verse
	What does it mean to be part of a Church of England School? How does this help us? What does learn, grow, achieve and flourish mean in relation to Collective Worship?					
Summer	FORGIVENESS	We apply tolerance and understanding to overcome negative	- Jesus teaches people how to live (P216 children's picture bible) - The Ascension (Children's picture bible p280)	https://youtu.be/aNalgzcltPA	- I forgive you - Forgive and let go	Summer 1 'Forgive us for doing wrong, as we

		emotions and actions to feel calm, focus on positivity and good outcomes.	- Jesus teaches Peter about forgiveness (Matthew 18) https://youtu.be/Ppb9bKX1r7k - Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) https://youtu.be/QIQeriw-USs		Forgive Me Please	forgive others.' The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:12)
	RESILIENCE	We work together to grow in confidence and strengthen our resilience towards change, new opportunities, challenges, and ambition.	Moses leading his people to safety	https://youtu.be/5NpFgYfvAl8	- Sully the Seahorse - The Resilient Sloth - Owl Babies	Summer 2 Be Kind and compassionate to one another, forgive each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)
	PERSEVERANCE	We make a continued effort to persist through the pursuit of patience, determination, and endurance to achieve our challenges and ambitions. Feeling awe, wonder and spirituality through learning about God	- The journey to Bethlehem (Mary and Joseph) - The Creation - Carrying the cross Don't give up https://youtu.be/PG1LjFO99dA Finding Nemo for perseverance https://youtu.be/iRQytOBTIN8	YouTube Don't give up	- How to Catch a Star - The Carrot Seed	

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Core songs for Collective Worship

Term	EYFS	Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4	Year 5 & 6
Autumn 1	Wake up! Songs for every assembly Track 1 Conkers! Songs for every season Track 2 The Body song Songs for every occasion Track 3	Together Songs for every assembly Track 2 Conkers! Songs for every season Track 2 The Body song Songs for every occasion Track 3 Put on a smile Songs for every happy healthy school Track 13	Together Songs for every assembly Track 2 Conkers! Songs for every season Track 2 Harvest Samba Songs for every occasion Track 5 Put on a smile Songs for every happy healthy school Track 13	Back in school again Songs for every occasion Track 1 It's good to be me! Songs for every happy, healthy school Track 2 Harvest Samba Songs for every occasion Track 5 Turn back the clocks Songs for every season Track 4
Autumn 2	Songs related to Christmas Carol Concert, Performance or Play			
Spring 1	Wake up! Songs for every assembly Track 1 Good Morning Songs for every singing School Track 3	Wake up! Songs for every assembly Track 1 The Body song Songs for every occasion Track 3 Everywhere around me Songs for every assembly Track 5	Everywhere around me Songs for every assembly Track 5 Together Songs for every assembly Track 2 It's good to be me! Songs for every happy, healthy school Track 2	Put on a smile Songs for every happy healthy school Track 13 Together Songs for every assembly Track 2 It's good to be me! Songs for every happy, healthy school Track 2 We're in it together Songs for every happy, healthy school Track 1
Spring 2	Songs relating to class assembly themes, Easter, and Spring			
EASTER	Spring Chicken Songs for every Easter Track 3 Celebrate Songs for every Easter Track 11	Life is a wonderful thing Songs for every Easter Track 1 Celebrate Songs for every Easter Track 11 Easter Jubilation Songs for every Easter Track 5	Life is a wonderful thing Songs for every Easter Track 1 Celebrate Songs for every Easter Track 11 Hosanna Songs for every Easter Track 4	Hosanna Songs for every Easter Track 4 Have you heard (He has risen) Song for every occasion Track 13 Celebrate Songs for Every Easter Track 11 Easter Jubilation Songs for every Easter

				Track 5
Summer 1	Clap Hands! Stamp Feet! Songs for Every Body Track 10	Clap Hands! Stamp Feet! Songs for Every Body Track 10 Love in my Heart Songs for Every Body Track 9	Love in my Heart Songs for Every Body Track 9 Wouldn't it be Funny? Songs for Every Assembly Track 12	Living and Learning Songs for Every Assembly Track 4 Wouldn't it be Funny? Songs for Every Assembly Track 12 Love in my Heart Songs for Every Body Track 9
Songs from a range of cultures, of bible stories and Summer				
Summer 2	Wake up! Songs for Every Assembly Track 1 The Body song Songs for Every Occasion Track 3	Everywhere around me Songs for Every Assembly Track 5 Living and Learning Songs for Every Assembly Track 4	Everywhere around me Songs for Every Assembly Track 5 Living and Learning Songs for Every Assembly Track 4	Everywhere around me Songs for Every Assembly Track 5 The school Rule Song Songs for Every Assembly Track 9 Leaver's song Songs for Every Occasion Track 14

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WITHDRAWAL

- At St Mary's it is our practice to talk to parents to ensure that they understand the aims and value of Collective Worship before honouring the right of withdrawal from Collective Worship. Parents of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship.
- If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any Collective Worship the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn.
- Any parent who wishes to withdraw their child is expected to consult the headteacher.

By law, in a Church school, Collective Worship must:

- *be provided daily for all registered pupils;*
- *reflect the school's Trust Deed.*

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that Collective Worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Candle Risk Assessment**The school always uses battery operated candles.**

Potential Hazard	Effects	Control Measures	Risk Level
Inadequate quality candle	Could flicker, spit sparks, or burn wax spills leading to burns or fire	- Select candle of excellent quality and slow burning - Replace candles regularly. - Ensure candle is in a holder - Ensure wick is long enough	Low
Surface catches fire	Fire outbreak	- Place candle on a flat non-flammable surface - Reduce resources around the candle (give space)	Low
Burns and catching fire	Hair catches fire Hands burn Drop candle	- Demonstrate how to light candle - Support those who are nervous - Use long armed fire lighter - Select pupils with short or tied back hair - Warn children not to lean over candle	Low
Fire outbreak	School fire	- Use fire blanket, water, sand, or fire extinguisher - Ensure the room is not windy to spread flames - If spread evacuate room	Low
Blowing the flame out	Could light objects close by	- Use a candle extinguisher rather than blow - If blowing place hand behind direction of flame - Softly blow out candle	Medium

If there are any concerns, they should be reported to the office immediately.

The long-armed fire lighter should be collected and returned to the office if required.