



St. Mary's C. E. Primary School, Rawtenstall

Collective Worship Policy

(Updated September 2026)

Neil Gurman

Our Christian Vision is - 'I came to give life. Life in all it's fullness' John 10:10

School Mission Statement

Based upon our belief of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the World, we will give all children a positive experience of Christianity and learning, whilst retaining a respect for other faiths.

We will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils, within a caring, loving, stimulating and nurturing environment, which is firmly based upon Christian values.

All children will receive a wealth of high quality educational experiences through the positive involvement of school, home and St. Mary's Church.

Our Aims

- To stimulate the spiritual development of pupils
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- To deepen their understanding about our school values: **Love, Peace, Friendship. Forgiveness, Service and Respect**
- To worship in an open, honest atmosphere that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative
- To develop knowledge and understanding of Christian faith by learning about the significance of Jesus and the Bible
- To explore ideas and questions about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- To challenge injustice through developing 'Courageous Advocacy'
- To enable worship to impact on all areas of the curriculum
- To experience a range of worship styles

- To observe the traditions of the Anglican Church including the major seasons, festivals and Saint's days
- To encounter worship and prayer as the natural rhythm of the day
- To introduce the children to multi-cultural Christianity
- To encourage sharing, achievement, joys and challenges within a Christian school community
- To provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and sharing emotions such as love, joy, friendship, forgiveness etc
- To provide everyone with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of reflection, prayer, quiet, stillness and contemplation which might include praise and forgiveness
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate our shared Christian vision, values and ethos
- To encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people, the environment and our local, national and global community

Legal Requirement

All school must provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils. The aim of collective worship is to develop pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally. The 1994 legal framework documentation regarding collective worship still stands. Added to this the requirement to promote British Values as part of SMSC. At St Mary's CE Primary School, Collective Worship is based on the belief that our school has a Church of England foundation and that we will promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

We use Collective Worship time to explore the values of the school aligned with our Christian vision 'Life in all it's fullness.' John 10:10. In addition to this we explore global and local issues and events, supporting children in forming and voicing their views and in becoming courageous advocates for change when they see injustice in the world.

Monday – Whole school worship led by the Headteacher. The value and them of the week is shared. The Window is used as the symbol for 'WOW' moment, and the children are invited to recall a time when they have experienced, seen the value/story being explored.



Tuesday – Key Stage worships led by the school key stage leaders. The Mirror is used as the symbol encouraging children to reflect upon learning about the value/story may have challenged or changed them.



Wednesday – St Marys Church clergy deliver whole school worship. The value and theme of the week is shared. The Window is used as the symbol for 'WOW' moment, and the children are invited to recall a time when they have experienced, seen the value/story being explored.



Singing worship also takes place on Wednesday afternoons – this is a fundamental part of our school. Singing brings our school together to celebrate and worship through song and praise.

Thursday – Class Worship delivered by the class teacher. This is a current affairs Collective Worship. Children and adults take part in an act of worship focussing on global and local issues, using the 'Picture News' resource as a stimulus for discussion. Children are encouraged to share their views with respect for others. Led by the class teachers and members of the GIFT team. Focus on Door – The Door symbol prompts children to consider what they might do as a practice response to the worships this week.



Friday – Whole school celebration worship. Parents are invited into school for worship every Friday as a way of bringing the whole school community together. A pupil from each class is selected as the 'ethos' award winner linked to value of the week shared in Monday's worship. Children's achievements both in and out of school are also celebrated and praised for 'living life in all its fullness' in line with our school Christian vision. Led by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, with contributions from all staff and children from across the school.

Typical structure of Worship

- Pupil enter to a suggested hymn
- Introductory welcome
- Our school value for the half term – Whoever is leading gives an example where they have seen this in action
- Children from the GIFT team light the 3 candles
- Introduction to value and the theme to be explored
- Activity to get the children thinking
- Read or act out this week's story
- Link to the Bible
- Link to protected characteristics

- Link to British Values
- Reflection time
- Hymn
- Prayer
- After the school prayer, a child from the GIFT team is invited back to the worship table to blow out the 3 candles to take the light of God away and to show that worship has ended.
- Children leave to a suggested hymn

Spirituality

Spirituality is the gateway into education, and RE provides an abundance of openings for spiritual development opportunities (WOW moments/awe and wonder/ considerations for something greater than ourselves) and spiritual development)having spiritual literacy/being guided by our beliefs and values of how we should live). At St Mary's CE Primary School, imagery is a central vehicle for pupils being able to access spiritual moments, which is why visual aids are used in lessons as well as worship. Opportunities for spirituality include, but are not limited to:

- Awe and wonder
- Connections with nature
- Emotion evoking
- Questioning
- Visualisation

All staff undertake training in spirituality so that they know what spiritual opportunities look like and which are better suited to specific areas of learning or situations.

Right of withdrawal

The Education Reform Act of 1988 outlines that all children should take part in daily collective worship. Although St Mary's is a Church of England School, the worship is appropriate for all Christians. We seek to be an inclusive school however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. It is hoped, however that all pupils will attend, and any issue related to this can be discussed further with the Headteacher. Any desire to remove a child from Collective Worship should be made to the Headteacher in writing.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.