



# Collective Worship Policy **2025**

*Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.*

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## 1. Rationale

For the purpose of this document, the term collective worship will mean an activity which reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities and will be concerned with praising God.

Collective worship in English Martyrs aims to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.

To achieve this, we hope to encourage participation and active response through involvement in the presentation of worship, or through listening to, and joining in, the worship offered, and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes. Pupils are encouraged to plan, lead and evaluate sections or whole acts of collective worship from the earliest age as is developmentally appropriate.

## 2. Objectives

We will work towards developing a celebration which will include the following;

- An enriching, religious experience for pupils and staff
- It will include opportunities for individual reflection and silent prayer
- There will be occasions when it reflects on spiritual issues
- There will be occasions when it reflects on moral issues
- It will encourage reflection on personal beliefs
- It will contribute to the liturgical formation of the pupils and be presented in a *Gather, Listen, Respond, Go Forth* format.
- It will be appropriate in its content, form, organisation, presentation and leadership
- It will promote effective formal or informal links between Home, Parish and School
- It encourages a participation and response from those involved
- It develops the community spirit and will involve parents and members of the local community at end of topic celebrations, also during Advent and Lent.
- It promotes the ethos and values of the school
- It reinforces positive attitudes
- It is relevant in terms of content to the age, ability and background of the pupils involved
- The school will make every effort to provide the resources and accommodation that are appropriate.

## 3. Equal Opportunities

Inclusion is at the centre of everything we do at English Martyrs. We recognise the varying needs of all our learners, and so differentiate activities where necessary and as appropriate, and ensure an appropriate level of challenge is carefully planned for during each history lesson.

Equal opportunities will be given to all children in respect of:

- Race
- Gender
- Culture
- Special Educational Needs

## 4. Safeguarding Procedures

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues that may arise during times of collective worship or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school. The designated persons are L. Dinsdale (Headteacher), C. Jasper (Deputy Headteacher), M. Bowden (Lead Learning Mentor). All staff have a summarised version of Safeguarding Procedures on their staff identity badges.

## 5. Organisation

The act of collective worship is intended to be appropriate for all pupils attending English Martyrs.

The timing of this is specific to each class and age group. Generally it is recommended that children spend at least one minute for each year of their life engaging in a form of collective worship each day.

Normally the collective act of worship will take place on the school premises (indoors or outdoors), but there will be occasions when the school community will gather in church for special celebrations or on dedicated off-site retreat days. These specific occasions will be undertaken with the approval of the governing body.

There will be at least one phase group act of collective worship per week led by class teachers on a rota basis. Collective Worship on other days of the week are usually class based. Star of the Week Assembly takes place once per week for children in Reception, Key Stages One and Two and is the whole school collective worship for that day. The reward section of the assembly takes place separately from the collective worship and is at the end of the assembly gathering.

## 6. Resources for Worship

Each classroom has its own focus area with a small selection of resources and artefacts. Published resources for worship are kept in the Year Two girls' cloakroom alongside R.E. resources. There are a selection of books and resources for focus tables. These resources are regularly updated. Each class has a copy of God's Story and all KS2 classes have a Good News Bible. All staff have access to a range of appropriate hymns on the IT system and they are used under the school's CCLI licence. We subscribe to Ten:Ten online collective worship resources and staff are encouraged to use the resources to enhance their collective worship where appropriate but these are not relied on solely and staff ensure that the elements of gather, listen, respond, go forth are adhered to.

## 7. Monitoring of Collective WorshipEqual Opportunities

Collective worship will be monitored termly on a rota basis from Nursery to Year Six, by the RE Co-ordinator, according to the RE monitoring schedule. Feedback is shared with staff individually. Any trends, strengths and areas for development are shared with staff at RE staff meetings.

## 8. Links to Curriculum Areas

At English Martyrs, we use the Religious Education Directory (Nursery - Year 4.) *Come and See* Religious Education Programme (Year 5 and 6). For RSHE we use *Journey in Love* and the Ten:Ten resource for Relationships and Health Education Life to the Full. Embedded into these programmes there are opportunities for collective worship, prayer and reflection. Collective

worship may also be used to promote equality and diversity through promoting Jesus' teaching to *'Love one another, as I have loved you.'* Staff recognise the distinctive nature of collective worship, however, where appropriate links are made with other curriculum areas.

## **9. Monitoring of the Policy**

This policy will be monitored annually in line with the 'School Policy Review Chart' or as and when government legislation is updated. Changes will be reported to the Full Governing Body for approval.