



The Mease
Federation

Mary Howard St. Andrew's

**Collective
Worship Policy
2023-2024**

Grow and Flourish

Our Vision:

The parable of the mustard seed (Matthew 13: 31-32) inspires us that even from very small beginnings, something amazing can grow. At The Mease Federation, we are aspirational for the future of all our pupils and adults, in that they will learn how to *grow and flourish* as healthy and fulfilled individuals who are passionate about life and learning.

Our Core Christian Values:

Worship at The Mease Federation is intrinsically linked to our core, Christian, school values. Our core values work together in harmony to achieve our overarching value, koinonia. They are fundamental to the Mease Way and support our vision.



We promote and live out these values in our everyday lives and they are at the heart of our school community.

Koinonia

Romans 12:6-8 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully".

Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (NIV)

Love

Philippians 2:4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others.

Perseverance

Galatians 6:9 We will reap the harvest if we do not give up.

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Legal requirements:

Trust Deed

Our daily act of collective worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school/academy. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES Guidance

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states, '.....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship', And, that this should be, '.....mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

Worship at The Mease Federation:

Some schools have a celebration assembly in order to celebrate pupil's achievements. Care should be taken that this is still regarded as an act of worship through saying prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupil's achievements and successes.

Mary Howard celebrates children's successes during our half-termly 'Let your Light Shine' assemblies. This achievement worship is grounded in our Christian vision and children share how they have shown growth and flourished within an aspect of learning or their personal and spiritual development. Families are invited to attend these worships, along with our services in church. During our worships, opportunities are provided for children to reflect on the school's Christian values and children are invited to share prayers.

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS):

All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is, the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision. Here at The Mease Federation, this inspection will evaluate the school's/academies collective worship on the following:

- that it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection

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- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The Right of Withdrawal (see appendix 1):

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals

Worship at The Mease Federation:

Collective worship at The Mease Federation is inclusive, inspirational and invitational and happens daily. Our meaningful and varied worship timetable supports children in developing their spirituality and religious understanding. Within our communities, both schools have close links with the village churches and we are fortunate to have a weekly visit at each school from a member of the clergy who delivers collective worship. Every half term, Mary Howard CE Primary School visits Holy Trinity Church in Edingale and St. Andrew's CE Primary School visits St Andrews Church in Clifton Campville to celebrate important times in the church calendar. These visits include: Harvest, Christingle, Mothering Sunday and Easter. Our Year Six leaver's services are also held in church at the end of the school year.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Themed Worship	Bible Meditation	Church-led Collective Worship	Parable Worship	Global Worship

Worship should be invitational and provide opportunities to:

- enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- foster a reverential attitude to God
- foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)

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- affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition (this is explored within RE lessons)
- enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- foster and value a search for a faith to live by
- explore the schools/academies Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school/academy, local community and wider world
- learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- worship together rather than apart
- provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- develop a sense of community and shared values
- consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school/academy
- celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academies community
- reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines
- share local school/academies and community information

Management of worship

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Head teacher and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to our worship lead in partnership with the Headteacher. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness. Leaders ensure worship is relevant, creative, and cohesive and will enrich the spiritual journey of participants. The themes and values to be explored through worship times each term/year will be decided in advance and shared with members of the clergy.

In Practice:

- The Reverend, worship lead and the Head teacher meet to plan core worship events including: Harvest celebrations, Christmas and Easter, so they are prioritised in the school calendar.
- Our school worship lead, head and governors oversee the provision, monitoring and evaluation of worship.
- Our school worship lead provides planning for teacher led worship.

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Resourcing Worship

Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship, so that they have ownership of it. At The Mease Federation, this takes the form of:

- Worship leaders from each class in Key Stage 2 planning and leading a weekly act of worship for the whole school.
- Year 5 and 6 worship leaders recording and reflecting on worships.
- The whole school being actively involved in Church celebrations.

Spiritual Council

At The Mease Federation, our Spiritual Council comprises of one representative from each year group at *Mary Howard CE Primary School* and *St Andrew's CE Primary School*. This group of children work together to develop the spiritual life of our school through collective worship, prayer and charitable events. Children gather suggestions and meet to discuss and evaluate collective worship before feeding their ideas back to classes. Spiritual Council are responsible for giving out awards, at the end of each half term, to children who are living out our school vision and demonstrating our values.

RE and Collective Worship



We see collective worship as a great opportunity to bring in the children's learning from RE. Worships explore key theological concepts linked to their RE learning and children make their own links to Bible stories they have explored or the core Christian Values. Within worship, reference is made to the "Big Frieze".

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship

Worship is monitored and evaluated in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. Children take on a central role when evaluating worship, they complete worship evaluations at the end of each half term, which are recorded in our RE and Worship Big Books. Pupil voice is collected by the RE lead, with the help of Spiritual Council, in order to work collaboratively and act on evaluative comments. Monitoring and evaluating the impact of Collective Worship is an on-going process that involves input from staff, pupils and parents. Feedback provides insight into how worship influences the life of the community and is used to ensure on-going relevance and improvement. The RE and Worship Lead also has responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate.

Worship themes and Current Practice

To ensure that time can be spent exploring the Christian Distinctiveness of The Mease Federation's values, the themes of collective worship are changed each half term. Each of the values are connected to our core school, Christian values e.g. compassion through love, and link to our PSHE curriculum along with the liturgical year. This enables our values to always be at the centre of what we do and how we learn. We make explicit links to our values in every aspect of our curriculum through our rewards, marking and everyday language. Worship provision is planned from a number of resources including: Imaginor Roots and Fruits, Spiritual Encounters Bible Based Meditation for Schools, the school's Christian values and how they are linked to Biblical narrative and Picture News.

Worship themes Cycle B

Autumn 1 – love through compassion (Roots and Fruits Year A Term 2)

Autumn 2 – wisdom through justice (Roots and Fruits Year B Term 4)

Spring 1 – perseverance through courage (Roots and Fruits Year A Term 3)

Spring 2 – love through service (Roots and Fruits Year B Term 5)

Summer 1 – wisdom through truthfulness (Roots and Fruits Year B Term 6)

Summer 2 – perseverance (Roots and Fruits Year B Term 3)

Worship themes Cycle A

Autumn 1 – love through friendship (Roots and Fruits Year A Term 5)

Autumn 2 – wisdom through trust (Roots and Fruits Year B Term 2)

Spring 1 – perseverance through forgiveness (Roots and Fruits Year A Term 4)

Spring 2 – love through generosity (Roots and Fruits Year A Term 1)

Summer 1 – wisdom through respect (Roots and Fruits Year A Term 6)

Summer 2 – perseverance through thankfulness (Roots and Fruits Year B Term 1)

Valuing All God's Children

"In Collective Worship the importance of inclusivity and dignity and respect for all should be explored, as well as other themes and values that play a part in challenging all forms of prejudicial bullying." The use of Picture News linked to our values within collective worship is just one of the ways in which we ensure the content of our worships are relevant, we place high value on ensuring that current events are explored within a safe and secure environment and children can see that we are all God's children.

Wisdom-Love-Perseverance

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APPENDICES

1 – Right to Withdrawal

Appendix 1

Guidance for schools and academies on the right to withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship March 2017

Collective Worship The 1944 Education Act gave the right to withdraw from RE or collective worship to parents who wished their children to receive different form of RE or worship. This right is also confirmed in section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In the case of collective worship, the government guidance document is Circular 1/94: Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Collective worship in all Church of England schools and academies should honour the school's trust deed and Christian foundations. Worship is central to school life, offering an opportunity for the whole school community to explore the distinctive beliefs and narrative that underpins the school's Anglican foundations and distinctive Christian character. Worship is the responsibility of the governing body in conjunction with the head teacher, working in partnership with the staff and the local parish church.

Our Church of England schools should strive to ensure they are consistently excellent, distinctive, and inclusive, and that the whole curriculum is underpinned by Christian values. Religious Education is an important part of the curriculum in all Church of England schools and academies. Its nature, objectives, and content should be shared with parents each term to ensure that parents are able to recognise that RE is of educational value to all pupils, whatever their belief background. In the same way, collective worship should lie at the heart of school life, proclaiming its distinctive character and faith in a way that is relevant, inclusive and that leads each pupil a little further in their spiritual journey. In this way, the likelihood for parental requests for withdrawal should be reduced. However, when they are made they must be handled accordingly to the legal guidance, while there is scope for a little realism and adaptability in order to ensure the best for every pupil.

In many of our schools within the Diocese of Lichfield, there is a large percentage of children whose families are members of another faith. It is the purpose and duty of every church school to be distinctive as a Church of England school. In each school, it is part of the mission of the church to welcome those of other faiths and no faith. In most cases, parents will have chosen the school for their child, making a specific choice of the school because of the ethos and education it offers. In a small number of cases, parents of other faiths will have been offered a place at a church school because no other school has a place for their child within a reasonable catchment area.

The right to withdraw from collective worship should be at the instigation of the parents or pupils above the age of 16.

The right of withdrawal from collective worship

The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.

Experience suggests that, to avoid misunderstanding, a Head teacher / Principal will find it helpful to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right to withdrawal:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal; and
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to a particular faith or denomination, the governors and Head teacher / Principal will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school; and
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in Section 1 of the 1988 Education Act. (Circular 1/94)