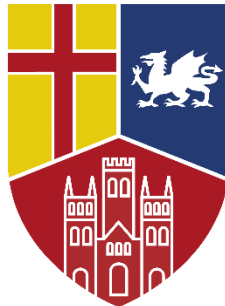


# St Margaret's C of E Primary School



## Collective Worship Policy

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'*

*Matthew ch. 5, v. 16*

Date policy last reviewed: June 2025

Next review: June 2028

# **ST MARGARET'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

### **School's theologically-rooted Christian vision**

At St Margaret's, we believe that every child and member of staff has a unique light within them—a light that reflects their talents, kindness, and potential. Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," we strive to create a school community where all can flourish and shine brightly.

Our staff also shine by leading with dedication, inspiring a love of learning, and modelling Christ-like values of care, celebration, courage and community. Through their commitment, they create a supportive and nurturing environment, rooted in love, where every child feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential. We nurture their confidence, character, and creativity so that they can make a positive impact in the world.

At St Margaret's, shining bright is not just about achievement—it is about the way we live, learn and grow together as a community, love and excellence. Together, we let our light shine, ensuring that all at St Margaret's are able to flourish, inspire, and make a difference.

### **Introduction**

St Margaret's is a '**Caring, Celebratory, Courageous, Christ-like, Community, rooted in Love.**'



<b>CARING</b>	Caring for everyone and everything in the world.
<b>CELEBRATORY</b>	Praise and thankfulness to God.
<b>COURAGEOUS</b>	Standing up for what is right in the world, facing up to difficulty, being the best you can be and not giving up.
<b>CHRISTLIKE</b>	Living our lives to reflect the qualities and spirit of Jesus Christ.
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Fellowship and support of each other within our community.



At St Margaret's Church of England Primary School, we aim to live out the Christian values that form the foundation of our school community and are reflected in our ethos and core values. Worship is

central to the life of our school and provides a shared space where all can reflect, celebrate, and grow together in faith and understanding.

This Worship Policy outlines our vision and approach to collective worship at St Margaret's. It is designed to support the spiritual development of all children and staff, regardless of their background or faith. Our approach seeks to be inclusive, invitational, and inspirational, enabling everyone to explore the teachings of Christianity while valuing the diversity within our community.

## **Rationale and Purpose of Collective Worship**

At St Margaret's CE Primary School, collective worship is a vital and valued part of daily life, rooted in our Christian vision to **"Let your light shine..."** (Matthew 5:16). It provides a daily opportunity for the whole school community to pause, reflect, and connect—spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually—with what it means to live a life shaped by Christian values.

Our worship is underpinned by our unique language of spirituality:

<b>Looking in</b>	invites children to reflect on their inner thoughts, feelings, and personal values.
<b>Looking out</b>	encourages awareness and empathy for others in our school, community, and the wider world.
<b>Stepping out</b>	inspires action—how we live out our values in everyday life.
<b>Looking beyond</b>	opens up space for awe, wonder, and big questions about God, faith, and the mystery of life.

Whether held in the school hall or within classrooms, collective worship at St Margaret's is a time set apart—quiet, thoughtful, joyful and inclusive. It is both a shared and personal experience, carefully designed to nurture the spiritual development of all members of our community regardless of their background, faith or if they have no faith.

Through this purposeful and reflective approach, collective worship at St Margaret's enables every child and adult to grow spiritually, morally and socially—and to truly let their light shine.

## **Inclusion in Collective Worship**

At St Margaret's CE Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of their needs or abilities, has the opportunity to fully engage with collective worship. We recognise that some children may experience challenges in regulating their social, emotional, or sensory needs, or may have significant SEND that affects their ability to participate alongside their peers in worship.

These adjustments ensure that all children, regardless of their challenges, are included in worship and given the space to reflect, grow, and connect with the Christian values that are central to our school community. Our goal is for every child to feel supported, valued, and able to *'let their light shine'*, in a way that is respectful of their unique needs and abilities.

## **Aims and objectives**

- To ensure our vision and ethos are central to the life of the school and have a real and meaningful impact on all our lives.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- To create in all a sense of belonging.
- To be inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To develop spiritually as a whole school community and as individuals.
- To provide opportunities to experience, reflect on and respond to our world and our place in it by looking in, looking out, stepping out and looking beyond.
- To provide our pupils with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To explore big questions about spirituality and faith.
- To explore the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and think about how they are relevant in our life as a school.
- To provide children with opportunities to put faith into action.
- To celebrate the worth of every member of this school community including sharing our gifts and talents with others.

- To be consistent with the faith and practice of the Anglican Church by following the liturgical year and being distinctly Christian.
- To help children develop respect and understanding of the nature and language of Anglican Christian worship.

## **Organisation**

At St Margaret's CE Primary School, collective worship is a central part of each school day and is carefully planned to provide a rich and varied experience for all children and staff. Worship takes place daily from Monday to Friday and follows a three-year rolling programme that reflects the Liturgical Year, our school values, and our commitment to deep spiritual reflection through our unique language of spirituality: *looking in, looking out, stepping out, and looking beyond*.

Worship is structured as follows:

- **Monday** – Led by the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher and introduces the weekly theme.
- **Tuesday** – Led by teachers, developing the weekly focus further.
- **Wednesday** – A class-based reflection session, where children are encouraged to think more deeply about the *Big Question* linked to the theme for that week. This quieter, more personal time provides space for children to ask questions, share thoughts, and explore their own ideas and beliefs. It supports spiritual development by inviting children to reflect on how the theme connects to their own experiences, their relationships with others, and their understanding of God or something greater.
- **Thursday** – Led by Father Barnaby from St Margaret's Church, connecting children with the wider Christian community and traditions.
- **Friday** – A Celebration Worship, recognising the achievements and contributions of individuals and classes throughout the week, linked explicitly to our school vision.

In addition, collective worship currently takes place at the local churches to mark key Christian festivals such as, Harvest, Easter and Christmas. Members of the local church also come into school to deliver worship sessions to the children and staff.

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the yearly overview and themes, creating the rota and sharing it with staff and the day to day organisation of collective worship, resource provision, and meeting any identified training needs.

Our weekly themes reflect the Anglican nature of our school and introduce the children to aspects of Anglican practice and faith. We ensure festivals from all faiths are referenced at appropriate times and national/international issues to be used as a basis for consideration in order to develop our understanding of cultural diversity.

We recognise the difference between collective worship and 'assembly' in that collective worship is always distinctly Christian in its context and offers opportunities for children to worship God, pray and reflect and to consider ways to live out our school values in their daily lives. It also contributes significantly to the life and wellbeing of the school. Teachers are encouraged to link their collective worship sessions to themes or current topical issues (i.e. praying for other countries, world leaders, their area or their town)

## **Structure of Collective Worship**

At St Margaret's CE Primary School, we aim to create sacred, thoughtful spaces for collective worship—both in the hall and in the classroom. These moments are designed to be calm, reflective, and spiritually enriching, while being inclusive and accessible to all pupils.

## Whole school and Key Stage Collective Worship: in the hall

This worship time brings the whole school together and is often led by the Headteacher, teaching staff, or visiting clergy. It provides a structured and engaging opportunity to reflect on Bible stories, Christian values, and the weekly theme, offering a shared moment of spiritual reflection.

A typical format includes:

- **Calm music** played as children enter, helping to create a peaceful and respectful atmosphere.
- **Lighting the candle** to signify the start of a sacred time and to focus attention.
- **Singing a hymn or worship song**, uniting the school community in shared praise and reflection.
- **Introducing the focus of the session**, often through a *question, quote, image*, or personal reflection to encourage *looking in*, for example:

*“I wonder what you did to celebrate Easter over the holidays.”*

*“Was it a joyful time?”*

*“What are you thankful for today?”*

*(An image or symbolic object may also be used here for deeper reflection.)*

- **Introducing a Bible story, Christian teaching, or visual prompt** to explore the theme more deeply, encouraging children to think about the *feelings and experiences of others* (looking out).
- A time of **prayer**, which could be:
  - The Lord’s Prayer
  - The school prayer
  - A bespoke prayer linked to the week’s theme or Christian value
- An opportunity might influence thoughts, behaviours, or actions\*\* (looking out/stepping out), e.g.:

*“I wonder how hope might flow through you today?”*

*(This could also be supported by a relevant image or symbol.)*
- **Blowing out the candle** to mark the end of worship.
- **Calm music** played as children leave the hall, helping them transition calmly back to class.

## Classroom Worship:

Class-based worship provides a quieter, more intimate space for pupils to engage with the weekly theme and Big Question. It encourages deeper reflection through our spiritual lens of *looking in, looking out, stepping out*, and *looking beyond*.

A typical structure may include:

- Playing **calm, reflective music** to help children settle and reframe their mindset.
- **Lighting a candle** to mark the start of worship time.
- Singing a **hymn or worship song** to create a shared sense of purpose.
- **Recapping the weekly theme** and inviting children to reflect personally (*looking in*).
- Introducing a **stimulus** for reflection—this might be a question, image, story, object, or scripture verse that encourages discussion and thoughtful engagement.
- Giving children time to share ideas, either in discussion or through quiet reflection.
- **Recording some of their thoughts** in the class **Reflection Book**, which should be displayed in the class reflection or be a simple table or quiet corner).

This structure nurtures children’s ability to reflect meaningfully on their beliefs, values, and responses to the world around them.

## Celebration Worship:

Celebration Worship brings the school together in a joyful and reflective end-of-week gathering, celebrating individual and collective achievements while reinforcing the spiritual theme.

A typical structure may include:

- **Lighting the candle** to begin worship.
- Singing a **hymn or worship song** to join voices in celebration and praise.
- A short time of **personal reflection** on the weekly theme. This will usually be guided by prompt questions that encourage *looking in*, such as:  
*“Signs of hope: As we experience Spring and new life all around us, what are we thankful for today?”*
- A **time of prayer**, either shared or silent, offering thanks or asking for guidance.
- **Blowing out the candle** to mark the close of worship.
- **Award presentations**, recognising pupils for their achievements, character, and contributions to school life. Where possible, links will be made to our school values and spiritual themes.

Our collective worship aims to affirm each child’s value, foster community, and encourage spiritual growth through stillness, song, storytelling, and celebration.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the quality of collective worship in school. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the planning and delivery of collective worship, and for providing a strategic lead and direction.

The school has a named Governor responsible for monitoring our foundation as a Church of England school. Members from SLT will meet with the Foundation Governors as part of the self-review cycle in our school. This will then be fed back into our full governing body meetings.

The SLT conduct pupil and staff voice regularly to assess the impact and effectiveness of collective worship and so their views can be incorporated into future planning.

### **Equal Opportunities**

We endeavour to ensure that collective worship offers equal opportunities to all as set out in the school’s Equalities Policy. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship within the school and are able to do so in writing to the Headteacher.

### **Legal Framework and the Right of withdrawal**

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, which takes account of their age and aptitude. (Education Reform Act 1988). We expect all children to attend collective worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the collective worship. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. The Headteacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.