



Collective Worship Policy

'Rise above the ordinary'

2025 onwards



THE
DIOCESE OF
SHEFFIELD
ACADEMIES
TRUST

Collective Worship Policy

School Vision and Values

Our Vision

We will work as a whole school community to support and deliver a high quality, nurturing and respectful learning environment that inspires all of our children to rise above the ordinary. Our school is committed to being an environment that is open to the spirituality of children.

We will encourage all children to understand and adapt positively as active citizens and courageous advocates – to participate and make a difference in the diverse world in which we live.

Through our high standards of teaching and personalised learning, within a broad and balanced ambitious curriculum, we prepare our learners to make a positive contribution towards society and enjoy future success.

Our Mission “Rise above the Ordinary”

At St. Mary’s we provide a welcoming, safe and happy school where everyone is respected and listened to; a school where we take pride in ourselves and our achievements, enabling children to become confident and successful learners. We aim to rise above the ordinary and promote excellence by providing a positive, inclusive environment for learning and growth. Inspired by our faith in God, and together, we aim for each child to become the best version of themselves in mind, body and spirit. Our Theological Rationale further encapsulates what we believe in.



Collective Worship Vision

At St Mary's, collective worship is at the heart of our life together as a Church of England school. It brings our community together to live out our mission to "**Rise above the ordinary**", inspiring children and adults to grow as reflective, compassionate and courageous individuals, rooted in our faith in God.

Through collective worship, we create a welcoming, inclusive and respectful space where everyone is valued, listened to and encouraged to flourish in **mind, body and spirit**. Worship reflects our commitment to being a school that is open to the **spirituality of children**, offering time for stillness, reflection, prayer and celebration, while being inclusive and invitational for all.

Guided by our **RISE values – Respect, Inspire, Support and Exceed** – collective worship aims to:

- **Respect** the dignity and uniqueness of every person, nurturing a culture of kindness, empathy and understanding, and helping children appreciate and value different beliefs, faiths and perspectives.
- **Inspire** children to explore the Christian faith, engage with Bible stories and teachings, and develop a sense of joy, wonder and fascination with the world and their place within it.
- **Support** spiritual growth by providing opportunities for reflection, imagination and creativity, enabling children to consider their own beliefs, experiences and feelings in a safe and nurturing environment.
- **Encourage all to exceed expectations** by challenging children to live out Christian values in their daily lives, becoming active citizens and courageous advocates who seek to make a positive difference in the diverse world in which they live.

Collective worship at St Mary's nurtures the five branches of spirituality by helping children to:

- Reflect on their beliefs and purpose in life
- Develop understanding, respect and compassion for others
- Experience joy, awe and wonder
- Use imagination and creativity to explore meaning
- Reflect thoughtfully on their experiences and actions

Through meaningful, engaging and relevant collective worship, we aim to equip our children to rise above the ordinary, developing the confidence, moral courage and spiritual awareness needed to contribute positively to society and to live out our Christian vision each day.

Rationale

Collective worship at St Mary's is central to school life and is an expression of our identity as a **Church of England school**. It provides a daily opportunity for pupils and adults to come together as a community to reflect, pray, celebrate and worship God.

Collective worship supports the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils and enables them to explore the Christian faith while respecting the beliefs of others. It reflects our Christian vision and is underpinned by our **RISE values – Respect, Inspire, Support and Exceed**.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship at St Mary's aims to...

- **Be inclusive, invitational and inspirational**, allowing all pupils to engage at their own level
- Enable pupils to encounter the teachings of Jesus and explore the **Bible as a living and relevant text**
- Support pupils' **spiritual development**, encouraging reflection, awe, wonder and curiosity
- Reinforce our **Christian values and RISE values** and support positive behaviour and relationships
- Provide opportunities for **prayer, stillness and reflection**
- Help pupils make sense of the world, including current events, through a **Christian lens**
- Celebrate achievement, effort and personal growth within our school community

The Nature of Collective Worship

Collective worship at St Mary's...

- Is **distinct from assembly**, although it may take place within an assembly setting
- Is rooted in **Christian belief and practice**, drawing on Anglican tradition
- Uses a variety of styles, including storytelling, music, prayer, reflection and silence
- Encourages pupil participation and leadership where appropriate
- Reflects the diversity of the school community and respects individual beliefs

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship in line with statutory guidance.

Organisation of Collective Worship: Weekly Programme

Collective worship takes place daily and follows a **structured five-day programme**, ensuring balance, progression and variety.

Monday – Big Start Assembly (Bible Focus)

Monday worship begins the week with a **Big Start Assembly**, introducing a Bible story, Christian teaching or theme. These assemblies:

- Focus on the teachings of Jesus, stories from the Bible and key Christian concepts
- Encourage pupils to reflect on how biblical messages apply to their own lives
- Support understanding of God’s love, forgiveness, justice and compassion
- Include prayer and time for reflection

Tuesday – Values-Based Worship

Tuesday worship focuses on **key Christian values**, explicitly linking to the school’s **RISE values**.

These assemblies:

- Explore values such as respect, kindness, perseverance, forgiveness and hope
- Use stories, discussion and reflection to help pupils apply values in daily life
- Support pupils’ moral and social development
- Reinforce positive behaviour and relationships within the school community
-

Wednesday – Current Affairs Worship (Picture News)

Wednesday worship uses **Picture News** to explore local, national and global news in an age-appropriate way.

These assemblies...

- Help pupils understand current events and issues
- Encourage empathy, compassion and critical thinking
- Explore how Christian values and teachings can guide responses to the world
- Support pupils in becoming informed, reflective and responsible citizens

Thursday – Singing Worship

Thursday worship is dedicated to **singing and musical worship**.

These sessions...

- Include a range of hymns and Christian songs
- Help pupils express joy, praise and reflection through music
- Support spiritual development and community cohesion
- Encourage participation and a sense of shared worship

Friday – RISE Celebration Assembly

Friday worship focuses on **celebration and thanksgiving** through a **RISE Assembly**.

These assemblies...

- Celebrate pupils' achievements, effort and progress
- Recognise how pupils have lived out the **RISE values**
- Promote encouragement, affirmation and gratitude
- Reinforce a sense of belonging and community
- Include prayer and reflection that thank God for gifts, talents and successes

We welcome a wide range of visitors from the local community throughout the year into our worship, including representatives from local churches, MPs, safety and enforcement teams, parents, and organisations such as wildlife groups and other community partners.

We also go to our local church, St Mary's, throughout the year to celebrate, harvest, Christmas, Easter and to say goodbye to our Y6 leavers.

Leadership and Responsibility

- The **Headteacher** has overall responsibility for collective worship.
- The **Collective Worship Leader** plans, monitors and evaluates worship to ensure it reflects the school's Christian vision.
- Staff contribute to leading worship throughout the week.
- **CREW Council** and other pupils may be involved through readings, prayers, music or reflection.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Collective worship is monitored and evaluated through by the worship leader and **CREW Council** by...

- Observations and reflective feedback
- Pupil voice
- Staff discussion

Evaluation focuses on the impact of worship on pupils' spiritual development, understanding of Christian values and sense of belonging.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Collective worship is planned to be inclusive and accessible to all pupils. Language, content and activities are carefully chosen to ensure that all children feel welcomed, valued and respected, regardless of background or belief.