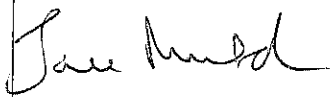
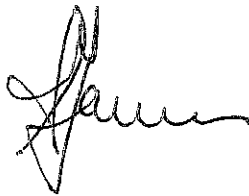




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Collective Worship Policy

DATE APPROVED BY SMNG	May 2016		
REVIEW DATE Every 2 years	Summer 2018		
SIGNED HEAD TEACHER		DATE	18/5/16
SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY		DATE	18/5/16

Introduction

Christian worship is understood to be a reverent, grateful and freely given response to God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. As a school with a Christian foundation we understand worship in this context.

Our daily Acts of Collective Worship at St Mary's School take place within the Christian context and framework. They are an important element of our foundation, at the heart of school life and contributing to a spiritually rich environment.

'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.' Revelation 3:20. God does not force his way into our lives. Therefore, no one is made to worship. The school community are invited to respond to God's invitation, Jesus Christ, to participate in life with him.

Collective Worship will be an expression of the school's close relationship with St. Mary's Church.

Right of withdrawal

There may be children attending St Mary's School with a Christian faith who will wish to worship as Christians but we recognise that there may also be children without such a commitment or understanding. We do not make assumptions about children's beliefs and our daily acts of Collective Worship are appropriate for every child. In particular, we do not require children to do or say things that they do not believe to be true.

Any parent who does not wish their child to join the rest of the school community for this daily time of Collective Worship is entitled under law to withdraw their child. However, Collective Worship is a reflection of the ethos of St Mary's School which is carefully explained to prospective parents. If parents are not happy with the practice of a daily act of Christian Collective Worship then there may well be other aspects of school life which they will also find difficult. We would advise any prospective parent who is unsure to discuss with the Head teacher.

Aims of Collective Worship

- Provide opportunities to share with pupils the central teachings of the Christian faith, centred around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, at an age appropriate level and thereby encourage them to explore and reflect on their own beliefs and understanding of God.
- Establish, explore and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, forgiveness, faith, hope and compassion.
- Allow us to find out together what God teaches in the Bible;
- Include relevant features from Anglican Christian Worship e.g. prayers, songs, Bible readings, use of religious symbols e.g. candle, cross;

- Provide opportunities for us to explore our discrete identity in relation to God as individuals, as members of the St Mary's School community, and as part of the wider Church community;
- Provide opportunities to bring before God in prayer, personal needs and the needs of others;
- Be evocative, participative, challenging and creative. Where appropriate it will involve music, art, drama, and dance. It will provide opportunities for personal reflection and response.
- Provide opportunities for children to develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- Teach and provide opportunities to be shaped by the liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent & Holy Week, Easter & Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity.
- Understand, celebrate and respond to other significant emphases in the Anglican tradition such as harvest, remembrance and Saints Days.
- St. Mary's school has an environmental emphasis. Therefore, collective worship will explore ideas of God as creator and sustainer. Pupils will be able to nurture and be encouraged to respect and care for God's created world by promoting a positive attitude to environmental issues locally, nationally and globally.
- Pupils will be able to explore and respond to emotions and experiences of loss and grief in the context of God's love.
- Regular services of Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church

Responsibilities

- All members of the school community, including staff, are encouraged to share in Acts of Collective Worship to develop a sense of community and belonging and in keeping with the close family ethos of the school.
- It is expected that all teaching staff should attend Collective Worship.
- Collective worship should be planned on a termly basis by the Head teacher, in consultation with the Rector.
- Leaders of worship are expected to record the focus of worship in the record of daily worship.
- The routines and practice of our daily act of Collective Worship will be reviewed regularly by the Governors and Head teacher.

