



St Martin's CE
Primary School

Collective Worship

September 2023

Let your light shine



A Place to Thrive

St. Martin's Multi Academy Trust exists to advance a just cause, its vision: to create a place to thrive. A just cause is a future state that does not yet exist. It is vital that people that work in the schools in our Trust understand our vision and 'sign up' to achieving it. Our vision must encapsulate our 'why'. It has to inspire staff and our communities. It must persuade people to stay for and have a deep understanding of our cause. Our people need to be willing to be service orientated, resilient, and idealistic. Our cause has to form the foundation of everything we do.



Trust

Let your light shine



Respect



Compassion

St Martin's CE Primary School is a place to thrive. A warm, friendly, and ambitious school where we encourage children, staff, and our wider community to '**let their light shine**' and in doing so, shine the light of Jesus through our behaviour and actions. We believe that achievement is for all, both personal and academic, and our mission is to equip our children with the knowledge, skills, wisdom, confidence, and self-belief they need to accomplish both.

Our Christian Values

Respect, Resilience and Compassion



Respect



Resilience



Compassion

We aim to develop the whole child: spiritually, physically, socially, emotionally, morally and academically, to give them the best possible start in life and value themselves as unique and worthy individuals. We encourage children to have respect and compassion for themselves and others and support them to show resilience when times are difficult. Our approach is distinctly Christian, yet open and welcoming to all, with the promise by Jesus of '*life in all its fullness*' close to our hearts.

Rationale

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and core values of respect, resilience and compassion. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Our school worship is central to the life of the school and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as appropriate to their ages and aptitudes. It aims to:

- Explore a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- Reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Allow children to reflect on their own beliefs.
- Deepen and widen the experience of those of 'faith' and encourage those of 'little or no formal faith' so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- Develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly through reflection and wondering questions.
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.
- Develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs.
- Develop a sense of sharing and belonging.
- Provide opportunities for children to live out and explore Biblical teachings.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Head of School/Headteacher and Directors/Governors of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship on religious grounds. This does not guarantee an exemption from the Christian ethos of the school. Worship is an important part of the ethos of the school which teachers must be willing and able to uphold. It is expected that all teachers will attend daily Collective Worship with their pupils. This is one way for the school to show that worship is central to its life and is important for everyone, not just children. It also makes sense educationally for teachers to know what their pupils are experiencing in Collective Worship. Therefore, teachers should not have time out of worship on a regular basis but only in exceptional circumstances.

Right of Withdrawal

Although parents and carers have a legal right to withdraw their child from collective worship, by requesting and accepting a place at St Martin's Church of England Primary School, it is hoped that they demonstrate an understanding of the Christian Distinctiveness of the school and nature of the school as a place with religious education and collective worship in its daily life.

If parents/carers do wish for their child/ren to not be present in worship, then a formal request must be made in writing to the Head of School/Headteacher. The school will keep a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Organisation

School worship

- Takes place daily.
- It is all inclusive – it is for all pupils, staff, is open to the Directors/Governors and parents can be invited.
- Teaching staff are expected to attend and all other staff are welcome.
- Takes place either in the school halls or classrooms.
- Is planned, with specific themes, at a level in accordance with the differing age groups and understanding of the pupils attending the act of worship.
- Includes celebration in songs, hymns, readings, drama and other creative ways.
- Allows members of the school community to have opportunities to reflect, responding individually or collectively to a statement of belief, prayer, silence or reflection.
- Celebrates the achievements and learning of all pupils.

As a Church of England School, the content of our worship is organised to:

- Observe the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Saints' Days.
- Use the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- Allow opportunities to speak personal prayers aloud.
- Sing a wide variety of hymns and songs.

- Experience Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles.

The nature of Acts of Worship

Our daily act of worship should be an activity that:

- Is educational and spiritually enhancing.
- Fosters a sense of community by sharing in fellowship with each other.
- Creates an atmosphere where those who wish to worship can do so.
- Introduces children to aspects of Christian worship and faith in an open and honest atmosphere.
- Encourages children to be creative, questioning and imaginative, within a Christian framework; also recognising the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others.
- Facilitates spiritual growth, enabling children to become true to themselves and others.
- Explores a relationship with God in Jesus Christ.
- Allows children to reflect on values that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst embracing the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions and belief systems.
- Allows children to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life relating to matters of faith.
- Allows children to reflect on their own beliefs.
- Allows children to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly, with respect for the views of others.
- Allows children to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values.
- Allows children to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.
- Allows children to develop a respect for and an understanding of different beliefs.
- Allows children to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of the community coming together.

Inclusion

Acts of worship should include all children and the content should respect the individuality of each child. Acts of worship will be always Christian but they will respect the integrity and choices of every person. Prayers will be by invitation and there will be a time for free reflection.

When planning, thought should be given to SEND children, to ensure they can access and engage with the stories and sung worship.