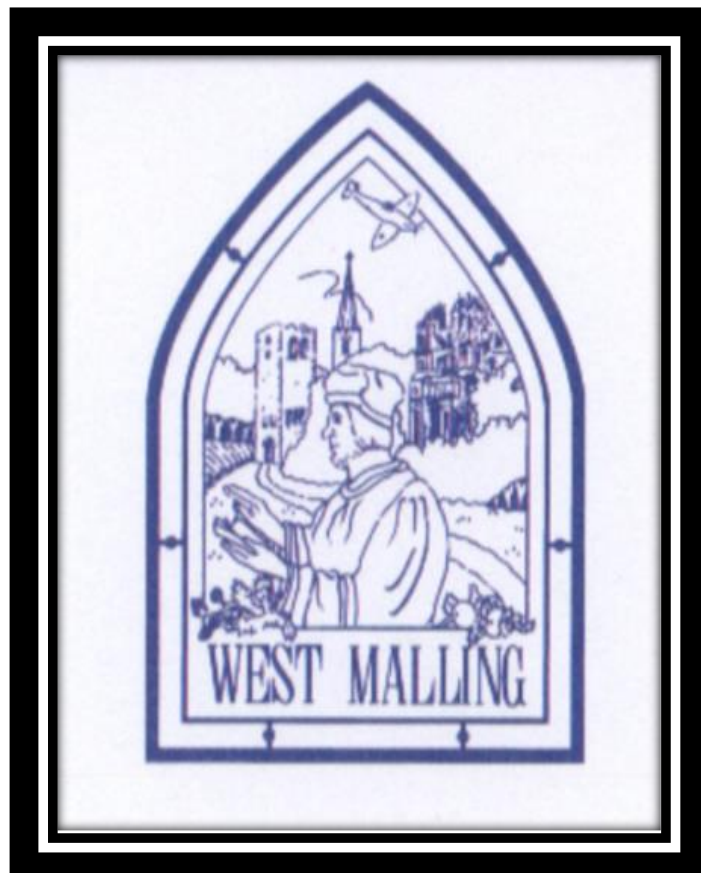


West Malling Church of England Primary School & The
McGinty Language Centre

Collective Worship Policy



Collective Worship Policy

West Malling Church of England Primary School and The McGinty Speech and Language Centre

Our Vision

As God's children we grow and learn together, encouraging everyone in our community to "let their light shine" (Matthew 5.16). We strive to be the best we can be, knowing that "what we will be has not yet been revealed" (1 John 3.2). Through love, trust, compassion, hope, forgiveness and perseverance, we flourish as one inclusive family.

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion, Perseverance, Trust and Hope. Worship also celebrates the central role that each child has to play in our school and wider community. 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. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.

- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors (*The Family Trust and The HiStory Troupe*) in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship typically takes place each morning at 10:25am and in either a whole school, key stage or class setting. Our school plans systematically and cohesively using The Rochester Diocesan Collective Worship Plans which are adapted and changed to meet the needs of our community. This ensures that there is a shared understanding of the long and short term planning of worship and this enables continuity.

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies: <https://www.west-malling.kent.sch.uk/school-policies/> This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

We meet in the School Hall at the following times for the following types of Worship.

Monday 10:25am	Tuesday 10:25am	Wednesday 10:25 am	Thursday 10:25am	Friday 9:05am
Whole School Led by the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher	Key Stage 2 9:05-9:25am Key Stage 1/EYFS 10:25am- 10:45am	Singing Worship	Whole School Led by the Incumbent	Whole School Celebration Worship Led by the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including for example, music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of video.

Our worship consists of 4 elements:

- *Gather* – we welcome the community, for example, *(with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)*
- *Engage* – we share, for example, *(a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)*
- *Respond* – pupils, for example, *(discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)*
- *Send* – we share, for example, *(the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)*

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader as Young Worship Ambassadors to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. The Young Worship Ambassadors apply for the role by writing about what they can bring to enhance the quality of our school worship opportunities.

In addition all pupils participate in special services for the school held at the church during the year. These services celebrate Christian Festivals such as Christmas and Easter and also significant events in the life of the school such as when our Year 6 pupils move on to their secondary schools.

Developing Worship

The school allocates part of its budget to support the daily act of collect worship. The collective worship leader attends regular professional development with Rochester Diocese and accesses a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.

Self-assessment and Inspection

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils through our suggestion boxes and questionnaires, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our SIAMS/Ethos Governor monitoring group and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school. Worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 in consultation with the Diocese of Rochester (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos, we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Date of validation January 2020

Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Date of review January 2022

Signed.....
Chair of Governors