



ST MARGARET'S

CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANGMERING

Created to shine.

Love and Aspire

Collective Worship Policy

2025 - 2027

'You are the light of the world! A city on a hill cannot be hidden.'

Matthew 5.14

“We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives... Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.” The Church of England Education Office, Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

Introduction:

At St Margaret’s Church of England Primary School, collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian Ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our vision and Christian values.

Our school vision statement: ‘Created to Shine!’

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden"

Matthew 5.14

At the heart of our **Church of England school** is our vision to be a **shining light of love, aspiration and excellence** that nurtures and enables all children to **grow into the person God intended them to be**.

We aim to be deliberately distinctive — shining for Jesus in all we do, and making a purposeful impact in our school, village, and the wider world. We seek to be a beacon of light in our community, through both the excellent education we provide, and also in the ways we serve others — all rooted in love and aspiration.

We believe every individual is special in God’s eyes — created in His image and gifted with unique potential and talents that we strive to nurture and grow. With love, encouragement, and high aspiration, we inspire children to let their light shine and make a positive difference in our school, local community, and beyond.

Flowing from our Christian vision are the values Love and Aspire. More than just words, they are Christ-rooted principles that shape our relationships, teaching, and daily life. We instill these values to help children become compassionate, courageous, and responsible individuals.

Love is at the heart of all we do at St Margaret’s, theologically rooted in the truth that **“We love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19)**. Inspired by this, we strive to **“Do everything in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14)**, making it the foundation of our daily life together. This love reflects God’s unconditional and all-encompassing love for each of us, made visible through kindness, compassion, and respect for each other and the wider community. At St Margaret’s, love is lived as well as taught, shaping relationships, guiding choices, and ensuring every member feels valued, supported, and known.

Aspire reflects our calling to be distinctively different, grounded in the belief that each child is created by God with a unique purpose and potential. At St Margaret’s, we **“aspire to do all things through Christ who strengthens us” (Philippians 4:13)**, enabling and inspiring every child to grow in confidence, character, and ability. We believe in setting high

aspirations and striving for excellence, not just academically, but in who we are becoming. We celebrate each child's uniqueness, nurturing their gifts so they can flourish and shine into all that God created them to be.

Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and our parish and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play with our school community.

Aims

Our collective worship is planned:

- To be inspiring, inclusive, invitational and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- Around biblical texts and Christian teaching
- To deepen understanding of our Christian values
- With a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling each of us to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- To deepen our understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and Worldwide
- To challenge everyone, regardless of background, to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- To develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness
- To develop a sense of the spiritual - creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday.
- To praise, celebrate and give thanks
- To acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

Collective worship should be invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith. It should not presuppose shared beliefs.

Legal requirements

We meet legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship which is in line with our Trust Deed and Anglican Foundation. The governing body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils engage every day in a meaningful act of Christian worship. Our daily worship can be whole school worship, key stage, class, or group. At St Margaret's we meet as a whole school twice a week, a key stage twice a week, and as a class or year group once a week. Acts of worship also happen across the school day in class through times of prayer and reflection.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision, which should be confirmed in writing to the school.

Inclusion & Equal Opportunities

All staff and children are invited to Collective Worship. Adjustments are made to support the needs of pupils which would be outlined on individual support plans. This could be in the form of adult support, accessing times of reflection or worship at alternative times or in alternative places, the use of visual or auditory aids, the use of tools to help with concentration etc. Further information can be found in our Equality policy.

Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows:

Monday - 9am Whole School Collective Worship - a time to come together as a school, introduce a theme for the week, sing, and pray for the week ahead. (GL)

Tuesday - 1pm Praise & Worship - (GC/GL)

Wednesday 1pm- Key Stage Collective Worship - (led by St Margaret's Church)

Thursday - Class or Year Group Collective Worship - we will use this time to explore and reflect upon a current affairs issue using the resource Picture News for Church Schools.

Friday 2:30pm - Whole School Collective Worship - a celebration and time of thanksgiving. (GL)

Reflection and Prayer

Each class has a half termly 'Reflection Area' to support opportunities to pause, reflect and pray - we have a whole school theme for the half term which classes will use.

We have times of daily prayer in classes - we have started to create a school prayer book to guide us during these times with contributions from the Church, staff and children.

We hold an annual prayer week with support from volunteers from St Margaret's Church.

Planning Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for worship and we differentiate acts of collective worship from other assembly activities. We mark this time in a variety of ways - such as an opening prayer, a closing prayer, use of music, songs, or a focal point for reflection (this could be an image on the screen, the cross, the lighting of a candle etc.)

We base our acts of worship around the structure of gathering, engaging, responding &

sending.

Half termly planning meetings are held to plan Collective Worship - agreeing themes, songs, and prayers to use over the course of a half term. We look for ways to sequence and inter-weave key teaching to ensure times of Collective Worship are memorable and highly intentional.

Collective Worship Structure and Practice

Gathering

Children enter Collective Worship calmly as Christian music plays, creating a reflective atmosphere. An opening slide is displayed to signal that we are entering a special time together.

We begin with our opening prayer:

**Dear Father God,
Help us to worship you today with our heads, our hearts and our hands.
Amen**

The leader then introduces the theme of the worship and sets the tone for the time ahead. A song may be used to mark the beginning of Collective Worship and bring everyone together.

Engaging

Key themes and messages are shared through a variety of inclusive and accessible approaches.

- A wide range of teaching strategies are used to ensure all children can engage meaningfully.
- Stories, illustrations, drama, art, multimedia and other stimuli help bring Biblical teaching to life.
- A memorable image, prop, word or phrase is often chosen to anchor the key message. This is planned in advance and revisited to help children make links with previous worship and deepen understanding.

Responding

Children are offered time and space to reflect personally or collectively on what they have heard. This may include:

- Guided reflection
- Quiet music
- Prompts for personal thought
- An invitation to pray

On Mondays and Wednesdays, a set prayer linked to the current series is used to help children respond to the theme. A song may also be sung as part of the response, chosen from a half-termly plan that aligns with the series.

Sending

The key message is revisited to help children and adults consider how it connects to their daily lives.

A song may be used to send the school community out with a sense of encouragement and purpose, empowering everyone to live out the message they have reflected upon.

A closing prayer marks the end of Collective Worship. Children and adults leave the hall calmly as music plays in the background, maintaining the reflective atmosphere.

The Collective Worship leader (Headteacher) meets with the clergy team each term to plan the series for that term based on the liturgical calendar, scripture, or a thematic approach. We agree some shared songs to use for that term and also some set prayers that both the clergy team and the Head use that term.

To support class teachers with times of class Collective Worship, we subscribe to Picture News and use the Church of England weekly resource here. We also have a school prayer book to help guide staff in leading these times.

Staff & community involvement in worship

The Headteacher, Faith & Wonder team, the clergy team from St Margaret's Church are involved in leading our worship. We also welcome visiting speakers or organisations into school to enrich our worship further - examples from last year included a visiting Christian ballet and theatre group.

We liaise closely with anyone coming into school to lead a time of worship so they are clear about the aims of our collective worship.

Collective Worship is coordinated by a working party made up of staff volunteers, led by the Headteacher. We meet each half term to review and evaluate collective worship and plan for the next half term.

Foundation governors are invited to observe collective worship whenever possible - this should happen at least once a year.

Our Faith and Wonder pupil group contribute to the evaluation and planning of collective worship - this is new for 2025, and we aim to include pupils in the planning and delivery of collective worship more over the coming years.