

The Mortimer Federation of St. John's and St. Mary's

Collective Worship and Space Makers Policy			
Committee	Curriculum and Standards	Date of Issue	June 2025
Status		Review Date	June 2028
		Issue Number	2

THE MORTIMER FEDERATION OF ST. JOHN'S AND ST. MARY'S

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY AND SPACE MAKERS

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of The Mortimer Federation, worship offers the children, staff and others in our schools an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our distinctive Christian vision and ethos. It is an expression of our vision and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in our family of schools. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship.

Vision

Our vision is built on developing the values of aspiration, resilience and respect.

'Share Your Light'

John 10:10 "Life in all its fullness"

Collective Worship

Our collective worship provides children, staff and visitors the opportunity to:

- Celebrate -
 - Christian seasons and festivals;
 - school values associated with our vision;
 - children's and adults' achievements;
- experience prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- create a reflective approach to life including the exploration of deep questions;
- develop as a community centred on our clear and distinctive Christian vision;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading and evaluation of worship;
- develop a sense of belonging;
- learn to value and respect everyone's beliefs and views;
- worship God on their own terms.

Worship will reflect aspects of the curriculum and in particular will:

- nurture spiritual growth;
- enable participants to consider moral questions in a Christian context;
- enhance social understanding and encourage responses to issues through courageous advocacy;
- give participants a chance to reflect on the place and importance of faith in the lives of people today;
- encourage participants to explore beliefs drawn from their own cultural heritage;
- reflect the teachings of Jesus and a trinitarian theology.

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The Pattern of Collective Worship

Daily collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings including whole school, key stage and class/year and in a variety of settings - the school hall, in classrooms and on occasions outside. Seasonal worship takes place in St Mary's and St John's. We follow the pattern of the liturgical year and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed. These include Harvest, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost; other days such as Ascension, Lent/Holy Week, St Francis are celebrated occasionally. Other important days in the calendar such as Remembrance, Passover, Eid and the Leavers' Services also feature in collective worship. Children have the opportunity to explore the Eucharist at an age appropriate level that is invitational, creative and meaningful.

Worship at the parish churches of St Mary's and St John's invites parents and members of the parish congregation to participate in the services. On occasion representatives from the school attend the civic services, e.g. Maying, Remembrance.

Whenever worship takes place it is planned to promote participants' thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local Church Community. Children are given opportunities to lead worship throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to contribute to collective worship from time to time and are given guidance from our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the children's awareness, promote respect and understanding of these faiths. Leaders from other Christian denominations and traditions help us to experience a wider range of worship styles.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme and the needs/gifts of the children. The themes of worship are chosen to both express and explore our vision and the way in which this vision is experienced in school through the associated values.

Throughout their time at our school children will encounter a wide variety of activities alongside more traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song. We will also introduce children to a range of approaches to worship that utilise artefacts, dance, reflection, mediation, responses, bible reading, drama, stories, media videos, a variety of literature, ICT and prayer weeks.

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to God reflecting the traditions and practices of the Church of England. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our worship and the impact of worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants, observation and reflection. and our evaluations are fed into the planning for future worship.

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A legal note

By law, Collective Worship must:

- be provided for every child every day;
- reflect the schools' Trust Deed.

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Executive Headteacher or Head of School.

Chair of Curriculum and Standards Committee

Date

Share Your Light

John 10:10 "Life in all its fullness"