



WORSHIP POLICY

Committee:	Governing Body
Staff members:	Kate Miller/Jack Noble
Last reviewed:	June 2020
Review cycle	Three years
Required to publish on website?	No
Statutory:	No

1. Statement of belief

- 1.1 We believe that the whole curriculum should promote the spiritual and moral development of all pupils, although it is in school worship that the opportunity will be given for the spiritual dimension of school life to find its major expression.
- 1.2 As a Church of England Free School with a multi-faith and ecumenical intake, we believe that our worship, whilst in the main reflecting our Anglican tradition, should also mark the major festivals of other traditions and celebrate the spiritual and cultural diversity of our staff and pupils.

2. Aims

- 2.1 In our worship we aim to:
- show reverence for God
 - express and give direction to our experiences of awe, thankfulness, humility, dedication, hope and responsibility
 - reflect the values of respect, admiration, devotion and gratitude
 - give expression to our common values and purposes
 - affirm the worth of every individual within the School community and in the wider community
 - provide experiences which strengthen attitudes and disposition so that those with a religious commitment may worship more adequately and those as yet uncommitted may develop a capacity to approach the threshold of worship
 - provide occasions when those who have a degree of commitment can express it, while those whose commitment is less can learn what an act of worship can mean to those who take an active part
 - provide an educational experience for all pupils
 - avoid exclusivity or proselytisation.

3. Implementation

- 3.1 The responsibility for school worship lies with the Governors and the Head of School. The day to day responsibility for worship arrangements lies with the Head of School and the School Chaplain.
- 3.2 Whole school assembly takes place every Monday.
- 3.3 During Tutor Time there are opportunities for afternoon reflection and collective worship.
- 3.4 Eucharists are celebrated to mark major events in the Church of England calendar. There will be at least one Eucharist per term and this will be attended by the Head of School and all staff. Invitations are extended to members of the Governing Body. A Eucharist planning meeting is held prior to each Eucharist with input from the School speech and language therapy team.

4. The role of the Head of School, Teachers of RS, Members of the Therapy Team and the School Chaplain

- 4.1 The Head of School, Members of the Therapy Team, the School Chaplain and Teachers of RS are responsible for the successful delivery of whole-school worship. As part of that responsibility s/he will:
 - set the themes for the week in conjunction with The St Marylebone CE School as set out in their school academia
 - offer support, advice and resources for teachers taking assemblies
 - plan for the Eucharists which will include selecting appropriate music
 - prepare the readers for Eucharists and major services
 - prepare any other pupils involved
 - co-ordinate the setting up the room for assemblies
 - make every effort through RS lessons to ensure that pupils are aware of the significance of the acts of whole school worship
 - keep the staff informed of any changes to the pattern of assemblies.

5. The role of the Chaplain/Incumbent/Link Clergy

- 5.1 The Chaplain will, by God's grace:
 - work to ensure that the Anglican character of the School is deepened and enhanced
 - ensure that, whilst being faithful to and confident in the School's Anglican foundation, the Chaplain's contribution is as broad and as generous as possible, ever sensitive to the School's global character and outlook
 - work to make school worship a powerful, engaging, involving, inspiring, joyful, challenging and mysterious part of the experience of each and every member of the school family
 - seek to connect the ethical concerns of the Christian faith wherever possible with the specific interests and projects of the School, and communicate a vision of the Christian faith that is deeply rooted in charity, compassion and service
 - prepare candidates for Baptism and Confirmation and provide follow up support for the recently Baptised/Confirmed

- be available to staff and pupils for pastoral support

6. The role of Assembly Leaders

- 6.1 Assemblies should primarily provide an occasion for worship, showing reverence for God and giving direction for our experiences of thankfulness, awe, hope, sorrow and responsibility. They should reflect the fact that we are a Church of England School, whilst acknowledging the presence of people from other faith communities. They should be educational and bring pupils to the threshold of worship.
- 6.2 The presentation should introduce the week's theme. Many are based around Church of England values (see www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk).
- 6.3 Pupils should be involved in the planning and presentation of the assembly.
- 6.4 At least one member of staff should be involved in the presentation of the assembly.
- 6.5 Pupils should be well rehearsed.
- 6.6 A range of methods of presentation should be used e.g. drama, poetry, music, PowerPoint etc.
- 6.7 There must be a contribution from the performing or visual arts.
- 6.8 The presentation should end with a prayer.
- 6.9 Two scripture readings / pieces of writing from a prominent religious figure are required (at least one from the Church of England and one from another faith).
- 6.10 If further support is required resources can be found in the Worship folder.

7. The role of Form Tutors

- 7.1 Form Tutors should reinforce the Church of England ethos of the School and should place high priority on acts of collective worship: this includes insisting on attendance at all Monday assemblies and Eucharists.
- 7.2 Tutor time is also an opportunity for Form Tutors to discuss the weekly themes and how they can be applied to pupils' lives.

8. The role of Pupils

- 8.1 Pupils attend all acts of collective worship for which they are in school.
- 8.2 All pupils should have an opportunity to contribute to and be involved in acts of collective worship.