



Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Hebrews 10:24

The Minster Junior School Policy

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

POLICY APPROVAL DATE:	1 ST SEPTEMBER 22
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POLICY APPROVAL BODY:	SDBEMAT
VERSION:	2022/23



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Minster Junior School preserves and develops its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Minster (Croydon) and the Southwark Dioceses. The School serves its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its children.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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OUR AIMS

At The Minster Junior School it is understood that the aims of Collective Worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to learn from the teachings of the Christian faith;
- to promote Christian values, including the school's 12 Christian Values, which permeate the ethos of the school;
- to make space for spiritual development through times of quiet, stillness, peacefulness, celebration, music, drama, stories, poems, singing and prayers;
- to allow all children, whatever their faith background, the opportunity for personal reflection on spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- to provide children with the opportunity to become aware of the importance of the human search for meaning in the face of life's mysteries;
- to reflect together as a school to support a sense of community.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion with the purpose of showing reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and actively participating.

Features of Collective Worship in The Minster Junior School

- There is a daily act of collective worship in line with the Education Reform Act of 1988.
- Collective Worship at The Minster Junior is distinctly Christian reflecting the Christian ethos of the school.
- The worship reflects the traditions of the Anglican Church.
- Learning about other religions and religious traditions will not form part of the collective worship but is valued and will be carefully taught through the RE curriculum.
- Worship will be led sensitively so that children are not required to compromise their integrity. Freedom of pupil response is essential and no presumptions will be made on behalf of pupils.
- Pupil participation is valued and promoted where possible.
- A distinction is drawn between assembly as a gathering together for information giving and worship as an act of religious worship. Collective Worship leaders should display good practice in teaching terms using a range of auditory, visual and kinaesthetic approaches to engage all pupils and staff.
- Teaching staff are expected to join in collective worship unless they have a duty to cover.



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Organisation of Collective Worship

We hold a daily act of worship in our school. This forms a part of our whole school collective worship. The Head, Deputy Head, Assistant Head teachers and visitors such as local clergy lead assemblies on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays worship takes place in class and is led by the class teacher which is a reflection on the Bible story shared in Mondays Collective Worship.

The themes for collective worship are based on the traditions of the Church of England's religious days and festivals, with a link to our school vision and values. Collective worship begins and ends with liturgy based on the Church worship seasons. Once each month there is a celebration of those children who have deemed to live out the Value for that month. Parents are usually invited to special collective worships.

Wherever possible, child involvement in worship is promoted. Children remember acts of worship in which they or their peers have been involved. Children are welcome to contribute ideas for worship and such ideas are valued and where appropriate incorporated into future worship.

Children enter for worship quietly and calmly whilst appropriate music is played. At the end, children are encouraged to reflect on the content of the worship, whilst listening to quiet music and leave quietly and calmly. The Lord's Prayer or the school prayer is used in most assemblies.

Songs for use in collective worship are selected carefully from a range of contemporary Christian music, which are taught to children during singing lessons and at Hymn practice on Wednesdays.

Parents are invited to class collective worship and we encourage them to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and school work together to support the achievements of children. These worships are linked to a Bible story or scripture and reflect the achievements and learning of the children. They allow the opportunity for reflection on the learning in addition to other elements of worship.

Notices and any other business are dealt after the worship closes. This is to help promote the distinction between information giving and the act of worship.

Services are held in church marking significant festivals and occasions.

Monitoring

Whole school worship will be attended by at least one member of the Senior Management Team who will monitor the collective worship. Monitoring of class collective worship will usually be informal through conversations with children; with a biblical message for children to apply to their school life. Occasionally a member of the Senior Management Team may join a class for their worship for the purposes of monitoring.

Equal Opportunities

Collective Worship will be planned with the whole school community in mind, therefore efforts will be made to differentiate accordingly. The principles of diversity and inclusion will apply, all children will have access to collective worship and allowances are made for differences (eg beliefs, physical disability etc).

We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. The Education Act 1988 states that all registered pupils should take part in a daily act of collective worship unless wholly or partly withdrawn by parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Parents considering this are encouraged to discuss this with the Head Teacher. Those then wishing to exercise this right must inform the Head Teacher in writing. The school will



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arrange a place of safety for such children while collective worship takes place, and parents should provide activities for their children during this time.

Visitors

Visitors to the school are carefully selected. They are in the main drawn from the clergy within The Minster. Visitors are briefed on the expectations of the school concerning collective worship.

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Chair of Governor

Review DateMay 2025.....

This policy links with:

- Teaching and Learning policy
- RE policy
- PSHE policy
- SMSC policy