THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Methodist Church

John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School

"***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart***", Colossians 3:23

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

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Our Vision

"***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart***", Colossians 3:23

It is within the vision and the ethos that this policy is written and will be implemented.

Our Vision	In our school our Christian vision, and the values that underpin it, shape all we do. They are not only for our children but the school community as a whole. It is our belief that each child is a unique individual – a creation of God, and every child, without exception, is precious. Our aim is to nurture and encourage them to recognise this in themselves and others, and so be the best that they can be: to know that if they put their heart into what they do, they can realise their dreams. In this way, we develop happy, successful and flourishing life-long learners.

Our Values	**Hope and Aspiration** ***"We believe we can"*** We want to inspire our learners and the community to see learning as a joy: a gateway to a successful future. This can be demonstrated in the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13: 31-32): *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches.'*
	Resilience and Perseverance ***"We know we can"*** Our School was named after John William Fletcher, the Vicar of Madeley, who was one of the founders of the Methodist Societies which later became known as the Methodist Church. John Fletcher was a humble man of great faith. He chose to fulfil his mission within Madeley, knowing he would have a difficult challenge. Everything he did, he worked with his whole heart. And so, we want all our learners and school community to have a positive mindset: to be able to have the self-belief to work through something when it is difficult. We remember the words of St. Paul: *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*". (Philippians 4:13)
	Compassion and Forgiveness ***"Together we can"*** Recognising that everyone is different and everyone is precious, we want to foster a safe learning environment by supporting our school community to love each other unconditionally, taking care of each other and our environment. This means to treat each other and our environment with love, kindness, respect and to show forgiveness for one another. This can be demonstrated in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and the words of Jesus (Matthew 18:21-22) – *Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?"* *"No, not seven times", answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven".*

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A Statement of Entitlement and Expectation

Inclusive Invitational Inspiring

Introduction

As a Christian school our vision is to serve our families by transforming children's opportunities through the immersion in high quality education. John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School promotes a nurturing environment where every child is enabled to thrive and grow educationally, socially and spiritually. It is with the firm foundations of knowledge, pride and self-belief that our children will develop their group consciousness for the community and the wider world.

At John Fletcher of Madeley Primary school, we recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. In practice this means that structure, planning, evaluation, participation, collaboration, and inspection of worship are all taken seriously and ensure that collective worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish and to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10.

Collective Worship and the Church of England

Collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together.

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.

This form of encounter through worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

Collective Worship and the Law

John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled Maintained Methodist/Church of England Primary School. In addition to the national legal requirement that there should be daily worship, as a church school, we have a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England' and in accordance with the School Ethos Statement in the statutory Instrument of Government. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. As this is a voluntary controlled school, members of staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship.

Collective worship is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'1. The requirement to reflect the Methodist/Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Methodist/Anglican tradition and identity.

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. At John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School, pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Many pupils and staff will come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There is space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Collective worship will not be 'done to' but will involve meaningful contributions from the whole school community, including pupils. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. Although part of a national legislative framework, collective worship grows out of our local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds. It reflects the faith, belief, and ethnic communities the school serves. Collective worship validates, embraces and celebrates all protected characteristics.

Invitational: Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. The metaphor of 'warm fires and open doors' captures this idea. The warmth of the fire derives from the clarity and authenticity of the Christian message at its heart. There is no value to an encounter with a watered down, lowest common denominator version of faith. Importantly the door is open, all are welcome to come in and sit as near or as far away from the fire as they feel comfortable. Pupils and adults will always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

To withdraw

There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship in our school and so we recognise the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option. To do this contact the head teacher who will guide you through the process.

Aims and objectives

The aspiration to provide collective worship that is Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring is underpinned by the following aims and objectives and will be monitored and quality assured through the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS).

Collective worship at John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School will do the following:
• Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on our 6 Christian values which are: Hope and Aspriation; Resilience and Perseverance; Compassion and Forgiveness.

• Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God (Father; Son; Holy Spirit).
• Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
• Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
• Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Collective Worship and Methodism:

As both a Church of England and Methodist school, it is important that our approach embodies aspects and guidance from both, throughout our collective worship. At John Fletcher of Madeley, we consider and include different elements of key Methodist Principles within the development, planning and delivery of collective worships at our school. Pupils are taught aspects of the Methodist story, its history, the life of John Wesley, traditions and identity, while worship leaders guide them to acknowledge what it means to belong to a wider community of the Methodist Church family. Children and adults are encouraged to consider the wider world, paying close attention to injustices, as 'the world is my parish'.

As we understand that all pupils and adults are on a different spiritual and religious journey and are invited to participate and engage with our worship in the manner which suits them best. Alongside the school's ethos, vision and values, our curriculum's purpose is to develop the children's understanding, personality and gifts bestowed upon them by God in order for them to 'work at everything with their whole heart'. We aim for the education that we provide to empower the children to aspire, flourish and achieve within the wider community

Provision

The rhythm of daily worship allows pupils and adults to step away from the target-driven culture of much of education, creating a space for an encounter with faith in God. It also provides the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. Pupils and adults can expect that the school's collective worship practices will provide a shared set of symbols, signs, words and actions which give the community a language upon which it can draw, in times of joy and grief. Such an experience is key to fostering a sense of fellowship and cohesion within the school community. Whether in times of crisis or celebration, this time set aside in the school day provides staff and pupils with the opportunity to gather and support one another as a community.

Throughout the year, the school community may meet to celebrate and mark certain seasons in the Church calendar, such as Lent and Advent. Other important events in the school year, such as the start and end of the academic year, may be marked by formal acts of collective worship. Pupils and adults will encounter the practice of regular prayer and worship as a normal part of the life of the school. These activities will help provide a rhythm and stillness as a pattern of community life.

Parents, pupils and adults can expect that worship at John Fletcher of Madeley Primary School will follow a recognisable structure that will help focus worship on one idea. This helps to give organisation and clarity to the unfolding of that idea, as well as helping the leader to ensure that worship is age-appropriate and moves away from making it a performance art. This could take the form of a welcome or prayer followed by a consideration of a Bible passage or story that the group can then reflect on through discussion, prayer, silent reflection or music.

Developing staff expertise and knowledge: Confidence through professionalism

Within the context of our resources, we work to build up the expertise of staff, pupils, clergy and other adults in facilitating collective worship in our school. We strive to ensure that:
• Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to regular training, primarily through the local diocesan education team.
• Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged, and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
• Worship leaders, including clergy, have access to high quality and current resources.
• Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate are properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and the school's vision.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Teacher	Exploring the Life of Jesus through the Values	Hall
Class Teacher	British Values/Relevant Events	Class
Music Leader	Singing the Faith: Worship through music and song	Hall
Class Teacher in class / children	Child led worship	Class
Senior Leader	Purple Book Celebration of Achievements Reflection focused on our theme	Hall

Every three weeks, our local minister delivers Collective Worship.

Our Methodist Lay Worker provides spiritual reflection time for groups of Key Stage 1 and 2 children who wish to join in with prayer.

The Content of Collective Worship

As a Methodist/Anglican school we reflect aspects of worship in the following ways:

- Using the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, giving it a prominent place in our worship.
- We draw upon the teaching of Jesus and explore the relevance of his teaching in today's world. As well as learning about Jesus through our values, we follow the cycle of the Anglican year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.
- We use liturgical colours for our worship focus.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians.
- Prayers and hymns

Monitoring and evaluation:

The governing body ensures robust monitoring of the impact of worship; this monitoring includes and meaningfully involves pupil voice. - There is a named member of staff responsible for collective worship who ensures that appropriate policy and practice are in place and publicly available. This is Mrs Stacey Cross.

There is a rota for evaluation by one class per week.

The link governor for church school effectives provides formal feedback to the governing body in the summer term on the effectiveness of worship. Our Denominational Committee meets termly.

Senior leaders conduct regular learning walks.