



St Peter's C of E Primary School

Growing together in Knowledge, Wisdom and Faith

(Act of Collective Worship Policy)

Person Responsible for this Policy	Headteacher
Governor Responsible for this Policy	Full Governing Body
Team Responsible for this Policy	Equality, SEN and Pupil Welfare
Date Approved	Autumn 2021
Season to be Reviewed by	Summer 2024
Policy Reference	PW10

St Peter's Church of England Primary School aims to provide a happy, secure and Christian learning environment in which every child can achieve academic and personal success.

The Governors and Staff of St Peter's Church of England Primary School believe our school policies help us to continuously improve the school and ensure that each child is valued and encouraged. We recognise that all children have potential and through the school polices we aim to create a caring and well-ordered environment in which our school family can learn and develop.

Being a Church of England Primary school means we embrace the following Christian Values, which guide all aspects of school life and underpin our school policies.

Joy
Friendship and Respect
Determination and Courage
Trust and Honesty
Kindness and Forgiveness

Growing together in knowledge, wisdom and faith

St Peter's school is centred upon the love and teaching of Jesus. We inspire children to grow in the knowledge of God and his world, and to live in wisdom and faith. We nurture each pupil so that they can make the most of their God-given gifts and skills and be fruitful members of the community. Matthew 12 v 33 teaches us that "To have good fruit you must have a healthy tree; if you have a poor tree, you will have bad fruit. A tree is known by the kind of fruit it bears."

Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Joy; Friendship and Respect; Determination and Courage; Trust and Honesty; Kindness and Forgiveness and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in our community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, reflecting in particular the Anglican tradition of St Peter's Church as well as other Christian traditions, and recognizes and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

Collective Worship gives pupils and school staff the opportunity to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Be still and reflect
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Share each other's joys and challenges
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar

In line with the requirements of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) schedule, we aim to ensure that collective worship:

- a) Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- b) Enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- c) Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- d) Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.

- e) Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Implementation

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors (Cross Teach, High Hopes, Life and Soul, Cliff from the Church of Christ) in consultation with the collective worship leader. This act of worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school, key stage or class. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

These daily acts of collective worship are organised in the following ways:

Day	Group	Times	Place	Leader
Monday	Year 1 - 6	9.00 - 9.20	Classroom	Class Teacher
Tuesday	Year 1 - 6	9.00 - 9.20	Zoom	Headteacher
Wednesday	Year 1 - 6	9.00 - 9.20	Zoom	Cross Teach and Assistant Minister
Thursday	Year 1 - 6	9.00 - 9.20	Zoom	Deputy Headteacher
Friday	Year R - 6	9.00 - 9.25	School Hall	SLT

Children in the Foundation Stage have the opportunity to be involved in a daily act of collective worship within their own classroom led by their class teacher. Before the end of the year, the children in Reception start to come to the whole-school act of collective worship in the school hall on a Friday.

We currently plan our Collective Worship around our identified explicitly Christian values as shown below:

Term 1	Joy
Term 2	Friendship and Respect
Term 3	Determination and Courage
Term 4	Trust and Honesty
Term 5	Kindness and Forgiveness
Term 6	Review all Values

These are planned by the Headteacher.

On a Wednesday Collective Worship in the church is planned by CrossTeach and led by CrossTeach staff, Mike Warren, Vicar or Phil Peddar, Assistant Minister. Copies of these plans are in the Collective Worship folder.

Whole school acts of collective worship

- We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall. We have a 'composer or style' for the term drawn up by the Deputy Headteacher.
- The usual format consists of an input from the leader, an appropriate hymn or song, followed by a time of prayer and / or quiet reflection. Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils through for example questioning and drama.
- The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time. A candle may be lit and used as a focus during the act of collective worship and is extinguished before any notices are given.

Use of Visitors

The Headteacher is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. By drawing on people from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion.

At St Peter's Collective Worship is sometimes led by visitors from Life and Soul, High Hopes or CrossTeach, local Christian organisations.

Pupil Leadership in Collective Worship

Pupils regularly plan and lead worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader to develop their own understanding of worship and to design a worship to support the spiritual development of their peers.

Special Services/Church Links

The school values its special links with the vicar and the parish of St. Peter's Church.

The school organises and leads services in Church for the festivals: Harvest, Christmas and Easter and for the Leavers' Service, as well as attending the regular weekly services in church. The children prepare their own songs, drama, prayers and readings for these services and their parents are welcome to attend. The children also make visits to the church to learn about the family of St Peter's.

Health, Safety and Well-being

In collective worship we follow the school's Health and Safety policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

Resources

A range of resources are available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship and is situated in the staffroom. These are annually supplemented with additional resources where necessary.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact it has on the school and its wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop.

Monitoring occurs informally through staff discussion and with valued feedback from parents, governors and visitors.

We encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process. The school council regularly seeks the views of their classmates on a variety of themes and these are gathered by some of the older pupils more formally from pupils in the Summer term each year.

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Worship is regarded as a special time which wholly reflects our ethos as a church school. It is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none. We respect the right of parents to withdraw their child / children from acts of collective worship. However as collective worship is central to our ethos we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the decision with parents.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

Date of validation 29.11.21

Signed

Chair of Governors

Due Review Date:

Autumn 2023