



## St Peter's C of E Primary School

### *'Learning to Light the Way'*

#### Collective worship

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Built upon courage, compassion and respect, excellence in learning and ambition in teaching, our school lights the way to a world of possibilities.

With relationships at our core, we nurture every individual. Each unique contribution is valued. All flourish, making a difference as global citizens and as a beacon in our local community.

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 policies 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.

**Courage      Compassion      Respect**

## Matthew 5: 14-16

'A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

### **An Introduction to collective worship in St Peter's School.**

As a Church of England school collective worship is the beating heart of our school life. It brings and gives life to all we do. Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values of Courage, Compassion and Respect and celebrates the central role that each pupil and adult have to play in our community. Our acts of collective worship reflect the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and recognise and follow the Christian 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. Each adult and pupil will experience worship that is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship therefore will be:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship will 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. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray and sing if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions.

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:

- Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection whether they are engaged in learning in school or at home.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

### **The Anglican Christian Tradition**

The following are shared as Christian elements of collective worship through invitational and inclusive language:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days amongst ordinary days
- Saying prayers from a number of sources, in particular the Lord's Prayer and the blessings in common use
- Singing a wide variety of hymns and songs from traditional to modern
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence and reflection

### **Implementation**

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, pupils, the incumbent of our local church and external visitors including Cross Teach. 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:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Monday	Year 1 - 6	10:15 – 10:45	School Hall	Headteacher

Tuesday	Year 1 - 6	10:15 – 10:45	School Hall	Deputy Headteacher
Wednesday	Year 1 - 6	10:15 – 10:45	School Hall	Headteacher
Thursday	Year R - 6	10:15 – 10:45	School Hall	Cross Teach and Assistant Minister
Friday	Year R - 6	10:15 – 10:45	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 Thursday and a Friday.

On a Thursday Collective Worship in the church is planned by CrossTeach and led by CrossTeach staff and Phil Peddar, Assistant Minister.

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT.

**Our worship consists of 4 stages:**

- **Gather** – we welcome the community, for example, (with music, liturgy and the lighting of a candle)
- **Engage** – we share, for example, (a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message)
- **Respond** – pupils, for example, (discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing)
- **Send** – we share, for example, (the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour).

We close with liturgy, final prayer, music and the blowing out of our special candle)

## **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.

## **Expectations of pupils**

In St Peter's school, there is an expectation that all pupils will be involved within worship on a regular basis. This may be opportunities planned ahead of time or unplanned through questioning, asking for volunteers or simply responding to moments of spontaneity. Pupils are invited to evaluate and reflect on the impact of acts of worship they have joined with. Their voice is integral to improving the structure, content and in shaping future plans for worship.

Pupil worship leaders are supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship on a voluntary basis. They work with the collective worship leader during a school Leading Lights club to develop their own understanding of worship and to design an act of worship to support the spiritual development of their peers. The Leading Lights then form part of the school's worship committee which includes two children from each of the key stage 2 classes.

## **Developing worship**

Parents, pupils and adults in St Peter's school are entitled to be led in worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a Church School context. Therefore, all those leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular Diocesan led training.

The leader for collective worship will:

- Ensure that all pupils have access to a daily act of collective worship, therefore meeting statutory requirements.
- Ensure that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- Attend regular training and network meetings with Rochester Diocese
- Produce and regularly review the collective worship policy to ensure that it remains reflects current practice and thinking ( at least every 2 years)
- Liaise with the HT and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of collective worship across the school.
- Ensure all stakeholders know what the expectations of worship are when leading, planning and joining worship.

- Join those who are leading worship to provide supportive feedback on how worship could be developed.
- Evaluate the impact of collective worship on the whole school community by gathering pupil and adult voice.
- Signpost staff to a wide range of resources to ensure that worship is both inspiring and engaging.
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and resources, to help develop their confidence in leading acts of worship.
- Ensure there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited to lead collective worship.
- Meet with and encourage pupil leaders of worship to enable them to plan, lead and evaluate acts of worship.

### **Visitors leading worship**

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies. This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community.

Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff. It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its pupil context and our school's vision. They will be supported and monitored as part of the ongoing evaluation process of worship.

### **Self-assessment and Inspection**

Our school regularly evaluates all acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by school leaders, staff, pupils and governors in order to grow and develop. We also welcome the contributions of parents and pupils, which are reviewed and considered on a regular basis. These are shared with our worship committee and foundation governors and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of the school.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity. We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, so would welcome the opportunity to discuss this decision with them. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw children from worship must be done via a letter and a meeting with the Headteacher.

### **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.

**Review**

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

