

St Peter's C of E Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

‘Unlocking the gates to a lifelong love of learning and faithfulness’

“Start children off in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” Proverbs 22:6

Adopted: Spring 2020

To be reviewed: Spring 2023

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At St Peter's C of E Primary School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our Vision statement:

At St Peter's C of E Primary School, the growth and development of children and adults is central to everything we do. As a church school, we aim to serve and take care of our community by providing an education which inspires every child to be the best they can be. This is within a framework which is rooted in distinctive Christian beliefs and values whilst embracing diversity, respecting other faiths and worshipping together. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experiences we offer to all our school community.

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements together.

1. Aims and purpose.

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

2. Collective worship.

2.1. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly.

2.2. In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that 'collective worship should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. In our collective worship we explore the following Christian values as our 'B.E attitudes': forgiving, kind, positive, courageous, honest, trustworthy and yourself.

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

3. Organisation of collective worship.

3.1. We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. We hold a daily act of collective worship in school which includes the whole school.

3.2. End of term assemblies and celebrations of special days in the church calendar are held in Church and a Nativity play is performed by EYFS and KS1 each Christmas. KS2 deliver short

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performances inline with the Christian festival at each Church celebration event including Harvest, Easter and a Christingle service.

3.3. Collective worship is delivered by the whole teaching staff on a rota basis which is outlined each half term. In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. We have built up great relationships with members of the local community who regularly come to deliver collective worships in the school (Jaqui Jones, Anne Hickman and Mattersey Bible College). HeartSmart collective worships are delivered by the R.E co-ordinator which link our PSHE theme for the term to Christian teaching and values. Candle group plan and deliver collective worships where possible on a half termly basis. Staff are encouraged to use a variety of methods and materials to deliver collective worships including The Bible, local and world events (Newsround etc), and pupil participation. The R.E co-ordinator will often update the children on our Zambia link school linking it with the theme in hand.

3.4. We conduct our worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and be respectful during prayer and songs.

3.5. We take the themes of our worship from our B.E attitudes which are taken from the values and teaching of the Christian faith. We use each theme for three weeks. Week 1: Bible stories and teaching from the Bible, Week 2: how we can apply the Christian teaching of the theme to our school community, Week 3: how we can apply the Christian teaching of the theme to the wider world and community. We believe that this enables the children to form a deep understanding of the B.E attitudes, how they are linked to Christian belief and values as well as exploring practical ways in which they can be put into action in everyday life. We also reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar throughout the year. The cloth on the altar and Church stool are changed by the candle group in order to reflect the liturgical calendar. This is done followed by a time of quiet and reflection to enable the children to process the meaning of the new time in the liturgical calendar.

3.6. The worship begins with the children entering the hall accompanied by a piece of music. One child from each class brings the class cross to the front of the hall ready for the starting prayer.

3.7. The candle on the altar table is lit and the worship begins. A year six pupil will start the collective worship with a prayer that had been written by the UKS2 children. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a prayer. One which relates to the Christian theme of the collective worship, our community Ripple of Prayer or the Lord's Prayer which is recited by the whole school. The candle is then blown out at the end of the Collective Worship. The children then lead out as the music is played.

3.8. Our Friday' Celebration Assembly reflects the achievements and learning of the children in and outside of school. The normal Collective Worship protocol is followed i.e candle lit and children delivering prayer. However, on a Friday we also have someone from the local

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community join us to play the piano for a hymn where both the children and parents join in singing. Teachers choose members of their class each week to receive a special mention and certificate in the following areas: Beyond Expectation Award, Take Care Work Award, Midday Award and Wow Word Award. The Class winner of the integrity Award is announced where the class will receive the Beyond Expectation Bee to display in their class for the week. Attendance Awards are also given.

3.9. Parents are invited into Celebration Assembly, the end of term service in Church and Christian festival services, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children and Christian worship.

3.10. We welcome governors' attendance at our worship and assemblies at any time.

4. Prayer and Reflection

4.1. Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and prayers delivered by the collective worship lead. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. The school has actively developed the children's confidence in reciting simple liturgy. A cross is also displayed on the altar table. At the beginning of the lunch hour, grace is said in EYFS and KS1 in the classroom by the adults and children. Prayers are also said at the beginning of each day by a pupil in each class using either prayers written by the children or the termly Ripple of Prayer which is also distributed to the local community through the village news letter. Every class room has a Reflective Area which is changed half termly, where values are explicitly shared and where a prayer book, bible and class reflection book can be found. Children can use these spaces if they need a moment to reflect during the school day.

5. Other Faiths

5.1. At St Peter's our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values and we are also committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Other faith celebrations may be referred to in Collective Worship.

6. Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

6.1. The RE coordinator and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of RE and this ensures an effective line of communication between the coordinator and the governing body. The RE co-ordinator and link governor observe Collective Worship as part of their monitoring role of the subject. Pupil questionnaires are completed to gain their opinions of what they enjoy and feel are the next steps in collective worship. Candle Group have regular meeting with the R.E lead where Collective Worship is discussed. Children also have opportunities to reflect on some collective worships in their class reflection book.

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7. Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

7.1. All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin can participate in our daily collective worships.

8. Right of withdrawal.

8.1. We expect all children to attend Collective Worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

8.2. The head teacher will keep a record of all children who withdraw from Collective Worship.

Reviewed:

January 2020

Agreed by Governing Body:

Next Review January 2023

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