



Collective Worship Policy

**Date: September
2018**

Review Date: April 2020

**'The child grew and became strong in body, mind and spirit.'
(Luke 2. v40)**

St Peter's Church of England School
Collective Worship Policy

Mission Statement

'GROWTH...the journey is never ending...'

At St. Peter's our vision starts with growth.

'The child grew and became strong in body, mind and spirit.'

(Luke 2. v40)

Growth of body; we aim to develop healthy, active, unique children who are confident in the body God has given them. Our uniqueness and individuality bring us together as one community with a common understanding.

Growth of mind; we aim to foster, nurture and develop the knowledge, curiosity and understanding of all.

Growth of spirit; we aim to nurture all members of our school spiritually by developing a core Christian, moral purpose rooted in scripture.

Collective Worship and assemblies are not the same. The school community meets together for Collective Worship and there are other times when they assemble together for other purposes e.g. sports notices, distribution of certificates. Sometimes assembly will follow immediately after collective worship.

Aims of Collective Worship: Explore, Encounter, Experience...

- To stimulate the spiritual development of pupils
- To foster a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty, mystery and power of God
- To explore a sense of the sacred and allow reflection and response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that is of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- To enable pupils to encounter the vocabulary of worship
- To offer pupils a chance for reflection and quiet approach to the school values of Hope, Love, Faith and Trust.
- To worship in an open, honest atmosphere that is enjoyable, creative and imaginative
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian Faith by learning about the significance of Jesus and the Bible
- To explore ideas about God and a personal relationship with God
- To enable worship to impact all areas of the curriculum
- To experience a range of worship styles
- To introduce the children to the traditions of the Anglican Church including the major seasons, festivals and saints days.
- To encounter worship and prayer as part of the natural rhythm of the day

- providing opportunities to experience quiet and stillness
- To introduce the children to multi-cultural Christianity
- To encourage sharing, achievement, joys and challenges within a contemporary school Christian community
- To provide an opportunity for celebration and thanksgiving and a sharing of emotions such as love, joy, friendship, hope, forgiveness etc.
- To provide everyone with the opportunity to experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation which might include praise, forgiveness and intercession.
- To foster a sense of fellowship by bringing pupils together to celebrate shared Christian values and ethos
- To encourage a sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment and our local, national and international community.
- To ensure the physical and mental health of pupils and staff is part of the whole worship and religious ethos within school.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act:

- There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils.
- The character of the worship must be in accordance with the original foundation and trust deed.
- Collective Worship makes a significant contribution to the ethos of the school and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the school.
- Responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the Head Teacher after consultation with the Governing Body and the Canon.
- Acts of worship are Christian in character reflecting the traditions of Christian belief, and have regard for the age, aptitude and family background of pupils recognising the vulnerability of children.
- Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. (This should be in writing).
- Schools must make adequate provision for pupils who are withdrawn.
- Collective worship is not 'curriculum time', and does not constitute religious education, but it ought to enhance it.

At St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is based on the belief that our school has a Church of England foundation and that we will promote Christian values within the school as exemplified by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

It also makes a unique contribution to the aims and ethos of the school, and therefore to the Christian education we provide. Our Mission Statement is

'The child grew and became strong in body, mind and spirit.' (Luke 2. v40)

The whole school community is fully aware of this statement and aim to build their lives upon it. Worship permeates everything we do as Jesus Christ is central to our faith.

Parents are made aware that the school is a Church of England school and as such Collective Worship is based upon the foundations and principles of the Anglican tradition. The Christian

ethos and foundation of the school are made aware to staff through adverts for jobs and on their appointment. We endeavour to send staff on specific training provided by the Diocese for all new to teaching in a Church of England School. We promote the development of our school leaders through Diocesan leadership training which we believe is good succession planning.

Ingredients for Effective Worship

- The Bible as a source for inspiration & learning
- The Trinity
- Reading passages from the Bible
- Re-telling Bible stories
- Christian symbols, including candles
- Visual focus for prayer & reflection
- Observation of the religious cycle of the Christian Year e.g. Advent, Christmas, Easter
- Observe Saints Days & Holy Days
- Recognition of other key Christian festivals e.g. Pentecost
- Participation in Eucharist
- Opportunity for prayer & reflection
- Lord's Prayer & Grace
- Meditation & Silence
- Christian responses & greetings
- Stories
- Music for worship, from a variety of traditions
- Singing Hymns (traditional) & Songs
- Poetry, art, dvds, slide presentations
- Drama & role play
- Topical issues
- Dance & Flag Flying
- Outside visitors
- Remembrance Day

PLANNING

Consideration is given to:

- Names of those responsible
- Breakdown of weekly themes
- List of readings, books, stories,
- Hymns, songs, music
- Visitors or other participants

Evaluation

Evaluation is an integral part of the process to improve the quality of worship. Worship can be evaluated by those leading worship, other staff, pupils for whom the worship is intended and the governing body.

Monitoring

The governors distinctiveness committee will have a key role in this. The following areas should be monitored regularly:

- The centrality of worship in the life of the school
- Clear Policy agreed by Governors
- Agreed Policy is implemented
- All staff are aware of the legal requirements for church schools
- Worship takes place daily
- Appointed staff are prepared to support the Christian ethos of the school
- Themes are well balanced throughout the year
- Links with the local parish & community
- Finances are available to develop worship
- Resources are available to support worship

Reporting back to Governors should be done regularly.

ORGANISATION

We have an agreed programme for the format of the Collective Worship for each day of the week.

Monday:9.05 to 9.25am

Whole school Collective Worship led by the Canon and Head Teacher

Tuesday: 9.00 to 9.30am

Praise time led through song led by Mr Badley

Wednesday: 9.05 a.m. – 9.25 a.m.

KS2 school worship led by a teacher on rota

Thursday: 9.05 a.m. – 9.25 a.m.

Key stage 1 worship led by class teachers on a rota basis.

Friday: 2.15pm.

Whole school worship / celebration

The service starts with a prayer, lighting the candles and trinity

We then follow with an assembly celebrating 'good work and achievements' of the children. This may include the Head Teachers Award, Star of the Week & Values Award

Worship is continued during the day when all children say 'grace' at the beginning of lunch in their classrooms, and all classes join in a prayer at the end of the school day before going home.

Music

Music is used at the beginning and end of each Act of Worship in order to help create the appropriate atmosphere for the Service. Singing is an important part of worship and a variety of songs are used to enhance the children's' worship

Hymns/songs are sung at some point during every Act of Worship, and when we have a whole school assembly, we sometimes say/sing the Lord's Prayer, as very often the children reflect more about the words during this quiet singing of the prayer than they do when just reciting the words.

Sept 2018

Main Teaching/Worship Theme

The person leading the worship will usually tell a story, or illustrate the main idea of the theme for the day. Children often take part in the worship answering questions, performing parts assigned to them or leading prayers. Visual aids are often used to enhance the meaning of the story or idea, or as a focus for the children's attention. Effective use is made of the school's Multi Media Centre in the Hall enabling film clips and Power Point to be used. We aim to make the worship relevant and child centered.

Reflection and Prayer

There will be some time given in each type of Service for the children to reflect quietly on what has been presented, and to pray and to make a personal response.

Family Eucharist (Planned for 2018 / 2019)

The Canon leads these Services.

The children will be involved. They may lead/participate in the following:-

Two Bible readings.

Presenting information/sketch/performance/dance/
musical item to illustrate the main idea of the Service.

Leading the prayers.

Taking the Bread, Wine and Collection to the Canon during the
Service.

The service is on Power Point.

HARVEST SERVICE

We hold a special Harvest Thanksgiving Service in church each October, which is led by the infants, and to which parents are invited. After the Service, some of the produce donated is taken by the children to a local food bank.

NATIVITY PLAY

This is an important act of worship which is organised by the Infant children and their teachers in December each year. Parents are invited to attend.

EASTER SERVICE

This is organised by the staff and children and accompanied by whole school singing. Parents are invited to attend.

END of YEAR SERVICE

Each year, the children from Year 6 attend the 'Leavers' Service' at Liverpool Cathedral for all those children who are leaving Church of England Primary Schools in the Liverpool Diocese.

We also hold our own special leavers service in St Peter's Church each year in July also led by Y6.

WELCOME BACK SERVICE

A welcome back service to school is planned for September each year.

Review and Development

This policy will be reviewed/revised annually by the Head teacher in order to ensure that:-

- It complies with statutory requirements and any new legislation.

