



St Peter's Bratton Church of England Academy

Collective Worship Policy

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Collective Worship Policy

Aims and objectives

St. Peter's is a Church of England School and we are supported by the Lichfield Diocese. Collective worship plays a very important part in the life of our school and offers opportunities to reflect the traditions of the Church of England and develops learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice. Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of a church 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.

The aims of 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.
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes.
- Share each other's joys and challenges.
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar.

Collective Worship and the Law

We have a daily act of collective worship. Collective worship in community schools is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. In Church schools the requirement instead to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity. In the same way as worship in churches is aspirational, constantly evolving and being re-imagined there is an expectation of a continuous, dynamic reimagining of what collective worship means in the Church school.

Collective worship and inclusion

At our school, we provide collective worship for all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

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 St Peters, pupils, their families, and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Many pupils and staff at St Peter's 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 should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be 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 should 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 in the Church school grows out of the local context and out of pupils' experience, including their cultural backgrounds.

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 should 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. Music and liturgies used in worship should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, it should connect with the theme and explore the sacred to educate and engage. Music used should reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community. Care should be taken with the music and liturgy: the traditional and modern riches of Christian hymnody and music will be drawn upon.

Inspiring: Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school 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. There will always be those who are uncomfortable to enter through this open door of worship at St Peter's and so the Church of England recognises the right of withdrawal from collective worship for those parents or pupils who wish to exercise this option.

Right to Withdraw

At St. Peter's Primary School, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education or collective worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right or if they have any concerns about the policy, provision and practice of Religious Education, parents are asked to discuss this with the Principal first.

Delivery of collective worship

Worship at St Peters should be at the beating heart of our school so that everyone is part of an act of worship every day. We should ask ourselves; What sort of person do I hope and pray will emerge from St Peter's? It should also support and contribute to our **Vision Statement** of; "Enriching Lives Everyday" and our **Mission Statement**: To enable our school community to learn, achieve and flourish through living 'life in all its fullness'. It will also contribute towards our **Values**: (ENRICH). Autumn: Excellence, Nurture, Spring: Respect, Integrity, Summer: Compassion, Hope.

During the week, Worship will be delivered by SLT 3 times a week in the hall and collective worship in class delivered by teachers 2 times a week. Daily collective worship must be 5 minutes long so it's up to you if you want it to be 5-15mins. All sessions must be recorded on your weekly Worship Record Doc which is in the worship folder and all collective worship will be based on WWMD (Welcome, windows, mirrors, doors).

WWMD

Welcome

At the start of worship it is important to create a special 'space' where we can feel **welcome** and in which we can prepare to draw close to God and create an atmosphere using candles, a cross on display, lights off when entering the hall, inside the classroom, welcoming with music or images. Light 3 LED candles and display your cross. Welcome with **The Lord's Prayer** or **St Peter's Prayer**.

Windows

Learn about God and His world that will be inspiring and thought provoking. Which resources will you use? Picture News, Prayer Spaces, Bible Stories, Thought of the week.

Mirrors

Reflect on (think about) what God might be saying to us through our worship using questions, music (live worship sets), meditation, talk partners, discussion.

Doors

Respond (be challenged or inspired to take action) as a result of worshipping together. How might you draw close to God? How can you show courageous advocacy and make a difference in your school community, local community and further afield? Close with SLT led **The Grace Prayer**, **class teacher led prayer** or own **child led prayer**.

We follow themes each half term and these link with the Christian values themes outlined in the Roots and Fruits, Imaginor materials along with significant events in the church calendar. The school council has added choices for stories and activities linked to the themes. Where confident and appropriate, children will begin to plan or lead some acts of worship.

We hold our collective worship for festivals in the church and school and invite parents/carers and members of the community to join us. We also invite the vicar to be involved in our collective worship in church. Additionally, parents/carers are invited to join us to celebrate festivals in church and school. Our outside Sharing assembly provides the children with an opportunity to reflect and explore the world around them.

A prayer and reflection time with candles which represent our core Christian Values of Love, Forgiveness and Aspiration, concludes our worship each day.

We also welcome visiting speakers into our school. These include our local vicar and a local Open Book which the children enjoy very much.

Resources

There is a range of resources to support the delivery of collective worship across the school. LED 3 set candles, a wooden cross, appropriate bibles for each year group, ongoing collated live worship document, diversity books (All 40 kept in the library). Little People, BIG DREAMS by Maria Isabel Vegara. Biography series for children to show we are all different and God loves EVERYONE, Picture News: World outside spirituality, inspires awe and wonder, covers strand 2&3, quest into the natural world, inspires courageous advocacy, covers strand 5 Diversity awareness, inspires class assembly. How can Picture News impact on spirituality of children? Impacts the heart as well as the mind, develops the whole person. Equipping children to be Global citizens, Prayer Spaces document, Bible Stories timetable, Thought of the Week table covered over the whole year 2022-23 by Charlie Mackesy, The Grace powerpoint, The Lord's Prayer, Lunch Grace powerpoint.

SODA Guide Dog

SODA displays an element of courageous advocacy helping those in her midst and as a past Guide dog. Each half term a child is to visit SODA to be awarded a Courageous Advocacy badge of honour, e.g. A Reception child of age 4 was so inspired by Harvest week in school that he asked his parents to take him to the Shrewsbury food bank to donate more items. He appeared in the local Shropshire Star Newspaper for bringing in so many items for the poor in our special news report on our bumper harvest donations.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring of collective worship is the responsibility of the foundation governors, the Principal and the subject leader. Opinions of the children about their experiences of collective worship are sought regularly and given to the subject leader. The subject leader works with the Principal and staff to improve collective worship as a result of the views. The work of the subject leader involves supporting colleagues, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for collective worship in school.

The school also reviews its practise in collective worship with support from the Diocese of Lichfield. This information feeds into the SIAS toolkit which is completed by the subject leader after consultation with the Principal, staff and governors.

We will review this Religious Education Policy every two years or earlier if necessary.

January 2023