

St John of Jerusalem
Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

September 2014 – July 2015

Note: This policy will be reviewed annually

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Vision Statement

Within a friendly, caring Christian community - with children at the heart of our school - we will ensure:

- High academic standards
- Each child is motivated to reach their full potential through high quality, enjoyable teaching and learning
- Each child has access to a rich, broad and balanced curriculum
- High expectations of both staff and children
- “Staff and children have high expectations of one another”
- Christian faith and values inform the whole life of the school and that each child is provided with a wide range of opportunities to develop in body, mind and spirit
- Respect for all faiths is encouraged so that the school is inclusive of the community it serves and so that each child develops the confidence, sensitivity and skills to live in a diverse community
- Everyone in the school community is treated fairly and encouraged to develop their skills, self-confidence and self-esteem
- Everyone’s views are valued and children are encouraged to develop a sense of pride, ownership, responsibility and independence
- Mutually positive relationships between the school and the wider community
- A close partnership and involvement of parents and carers

Table of Contents

	page
The aims of Collective Worship	4
Legal Status of Collective Worship	4
The provision of Collective Worship	5
Guidelines for acts of Collective Worship	6
Rights of Withdrawal	7
Planning, Recording and Evaluation	7
Resources	7
Appendix 1	8
Appendix 1 continued	9

The aims of Collective Worship

This policy aims to ensure that everyone who is associated with our schools community recognise the place of worship within our schools and the ways in which we use and promote worship.

It is our aim that worship should:

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each child.
- Support the social and emotional development of our pupils through making use of the CLS programme.
- Give expression to, and reaffirm and practice the values of the school community (see appendix 1).
- Allow quiet reflection and thoughtful response to the fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings.
- Celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the schools, local, national and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others; a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Give pupils experience of broadly Christian worship within an Anglican framework, to help our pupils to begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship.
- Give pupils the opportunity to reflect upon, explore and be challenged by their own beliefs and those of others
- To foster a caring attitude towards others, the environment and the wider world.
- Enable pupils to develop feelings of awe, wonder, reverence and respect.

Legal Status of Collective Worship:

The 1988 Education Reform Act requires that 'all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall on each day take part in an act of Collective Worship.' We seek to do our best to keep the spirit of this legislation seeking to provide as many high quality acts of worship as is practically possible.

All acts of worship are in accordance with the guidance issued in the DfEE Circular 1/94 which states that 'Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.'

The Provision of Collective Worship:

In providing acts of Collective Worship, the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the children should be taken into account.

We recognise that there is a difference between acts of Collective Worship and the assembly of pupils. On some occasions, assembly may proceed or follow an act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from assembly to worship will be marked in a suitable way. In this policy we refer to assembly in the context that it always includes an act of collective worship.

There is a daily act of Collective Worship. We acknowledge that Christians worship in a variety of ways and we recognise this diversity of practice. We celebrate God as Creator, Jesus as the Son of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. The importance of the Bible and the Church as the foundations of Christianity are also celebrated and shared values enrich our daily act of worship.

A programme of collective worship is planned for the year. The programme will reflect the life and work of the school and local community, making appropriate links with the PSHCE scheme of work. The programme will contain themes which during the school year are likely to centre around:

- Shared values
- Religious festivals and special days
- Annual events and anniversaries
- Aspects from the school curriculum

Those who are leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week that the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, classroom teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week.

This format is flexible and on occasion it is recognised that members of staff may feel that they need to respond to local, national or global events.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on Collective Worship we have and opportunity to lead CW and to be part of the evaluation process.

Spiritual and Moral Development

Spiritual and moral development is a life-long process, and in the life of children it is shared between parents/carers, the school and the wider community. We acknowledge the wide variety of beliefs that make up our communities, however our policy reflects the Christian focus of our schools.

We aim to foster the values and morals based on Christian teaching, which are shared by the major world faiths.

Pupils are encouraged to reflect on the following in their own prayers:

- Praise,
- Saying sorry for the things done wrong by us and others,
- Asking for things for ourselves and others,
- To give thanks,
- Listening to God, and
- Meditating on the wonders of God and creation.

Guidelines for acts of Collective Worship

1. Assemblies are a special time of the day and should be distinguishable from other school activities.
2. Children should be given opportunities to understand the aims and purposes of assemblies laid out in this policy.
3. Assemblies should use a common form of words to help children understand the parts of the assembly and collective worship and the processes which take place.
4. Pupils should enter and leave assemblies in a quiet and orderly fashion, preferably in silence.
5. Music should be played as children enter and leave the assembly.
6. Assemblies will normally include a song
7. No child or adult is made to pray or say or sing words that they do not believe.
8. During prayer children have the opportunity to play with us or be still/quiet and reflect.
9. There should also be an opportunity during the assembly for the children to be still and reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.
10. The setting for the assembly should be made as attractive as possible. It is often helpful if something is set up to act as a visual focus for those present.
11. Children will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of ways, including:
 - a. Celebrating a range of educational achievements
 - b. Performing drama, role-plays, singing, reading, listening and performing
 - c. Playing Music
 - d. Quietly contemplating and praying.
12. All teachers and support staff will be encouraged to participate
13. The leader of the assembly should be present at the front of the assembly when children start to arrive. Visiting speakers should be introduced by a member of staff and thanked at the end of assembly.
14. A variety of approaches will be used in assemblies:

- Whole school assemblies lead by a member of staff or clergy attended by all children and teaching staff, except those who have exercised their right to withdraw or who have made prior arrangements with the Head of School.
- Class assemblies led by classes on rotation, led by the class teacher
- Key Stage or class based assemblies
- Pupils in the Nursery and Reception classes conduct an act of collective worship in their classes each day. Reception pupils join whole school and phase assemblies when appropriate.
- Some assemblies will contain a higher proportion of collective worship than others.

Rights of Withdrawal:

We respect the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children for Collective Worship.

Withdrawal will only be made following a discussion with the Headteacher and that this is then followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The Headteacher will keep a record of pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

The schools have a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from acts of Collective Worship; however no additional work is set or followed during this time.

All members of staff, including the Headteacher, have the right of withdrawal from the act of Collective Worship. However the Headteacher, should they wish to exercise this right, will maintain the statutory accountability for acts of Collective Worship.

This right of withdrawal does not extend to school assemblies.










Planning, Recording and Evaluation:






Collective worship is treated like any other part of the school curriculum in terms of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content and methodology of Collective Worship will be varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

The provision of collective worship will be monitored by a link Governor.

Resources:

Appropriate resources such as books, artefacts, posters, candles, Bibles and Crucifixes are available in the school. In addition, the school has close links with St John of Jerusalem Church of England Primary School which provides a greater resource base to the school.

Our Values	
Creativity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We teach the children to take care of our precious world • We encourage the children to think and act creatively • We use creative approaches to how we teach • We value opportunities in the curriculum to teach the creative arts
Awe and Wonder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the children to appreciate how awesome and wonderful the world that we have been given is • We teach the children to wonder about things and to be open to being amazed • Our daily assemblies give space for children to reflect on the awesome and wonderfulness of love.
Thankfulness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We teach the children to say thank you • We encourage the children to appreciate the good things they have in their lives with gratitude • We are thankful in our worship for the good things we are given
Friendship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage children to make deep and satisfying friendships • We help children who are having problems with their friendships
Generosity and Unselfishness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage children to value the specialness not only of themselves, but of other people too • We encourage them to honour other people and respect their worth • We encourage children to show others how valuable they are by acting in generous and unselfish ways towards them
Endurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the children to keep going even when things are tough • We ensure that the work we give children is challenging enough that all children have opportunities to develop persistence –we want all children to experience success.....but also to appreciate that sometimes success involves struggle • We encourage children to take risks and help them to cope with success and disappointment. • We tell the children that God's love for them endures for ever...whatever they do.
Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage children to serve one another through acts of kindness • We also provide structured opportunities for children to serve their school through helping younger children, or through working in the library or school garden, for example • We also encourage children to serve our local community
Compassion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the children to show concern towards people who suffer – whether that means comforting someone who is upset in the playground or giving money to charity to help people in need in other parts of the world
Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage children to be trustworthy people who can be relied on and who tell the truth • We make sure that all of the adults in school behave in ways that enable children to trust them • We make sure that parents can trust that their children are safe, happy, and enjoying and successful in their learning • We encourage children to trust in God and his goodness
Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage children to be peacemakers • We help children learn how to get over arguments quickly and fairly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We make sure we give our children times when they can be peaceful and calm as well as times that are more noisy and busy • We encourage children to share peaceful times with God through prayer
<p>Togetherness</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We stress our common humanity; that every one of us is created, loved and valued. • We teach children to value and respect differences • We encourage cooperation and teamwork through getting children to work on tasks in groups for some of their work
<p>Forgiveness</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage children to be quick to apologise if they have done something wrong • We encourage children to forgive people when they have been hurt and not to hold grudges • We teach children that God always forgives us and that nothing that we do is so bad that God won't love us anymore • In assembly, we give children time to say sorry to God in their prayers if they are feeling guilty about something
<p>Hope</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage children to be hopeful, to think positively • We work hard to bring hope to children whose lives are difficult at the moment. Our learning mentor and social worker are available to children and their families when things are tough • We are hopeful about the possibility of all children achieving and developing. We never write anyone off. • We tell children about the hope we have in Jesus
<p>Justice</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children and staff in school have the same opportunities to do well • We teach children the importance of fairness • We expect children to be fair to one another • We teach them about the evils of injustice; about racism and discrimination and how they have been overcome • We inspire children with the stories of people like Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King who worked for justice • We encourage the children to try and make the world a fairer place for everybody through supporting things like fair trade and charities.