



St John of Jerusalem  
Church of England Primary School

# Collective Worship Policy

September 2018 – July 2019

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

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## **The aims of Collective Worship**

This policy aims to ensure that everyone who is associated with our school's community recognises the place of worship within our school 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 Core Learning Skills 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 school's, 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 these themes. 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 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 to have the 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 foundation of our school.

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

## **Prayer**

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,
- Giving 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 not talking.
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 pray 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 Headteacher.
- 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 from Collective Worship.

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 The Headteacher will keep a record of pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship.

The school has 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 a cross are available in the school. In addition, the school has close links with St John of Jerusalem Church which provides a great resource base for the school.



**Appendix 1**  
**Our Values**

<p><b>Generosity</b></p> 	<p>We show others that they are valued by acting in generous and unselfish ways towards them.</p>
<p><b>Friendship</b></p> 	<p>We know that to be a good friend we must be someone who can be trusted and who is loyal.</p>
<p><b>Forgiveness</b></p> 	<p>We forgive people when they have hurt us and do not hold grudges.</p>
<p><b>Peace</b></p> 	<p>We are peacemakers. We get over arguments quickly and fairly.</p>
<p><b>Trust</b></p> 	<p>We are trustworthy people who can be relied on and who tell the truth.</p>
<p><b>Hope</b></p> 	<p>We always think positively and are hopeful for tomorrow.</p>