

St Paul's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy



Adopted by Governing Body – September 2023

Review schedule- Every 3 yrs (or as necessary)

Next review- Autumn 2026

School Vision

At St Paul's, we will nurture and inspire all children to enjoy a life-long journey of discovery and friendship. Through God's love and Jesus' teachings, our school community will support each child to flourish as curious, compassionate and resilient citizens with a love of learning.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

In order to fulfil this vision, the governing body have agreed the following policy.

Introduction

In recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character and distinctiveness, in the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level. Collective Worship is at the very centre of this distinctiveness, like a heart 'pumping out' into all aspects of school life.

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1 Rationale

The School aims to provide a daily act of inspirational collective worship of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian Values through the experience it offers to all members of the school community. Children are involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of Collective Worship through general surveys and through the involvement of the school's 'Worship Team'. Children from Y2-Y6 are able to apply for a place on this team.

2 Aims

- To teach and promote Christian values, making links with British values and local or national events, when appropriate
- To promote and foster firm links with the Parish Church and other Christian denominations within the village
- To offer pupils opportunities to explore the Christian Faith through stories, poems, drama, music, prayer and quiet reflection
- To allow pupils and staff to explore their own faith
- To contribute positively to the spiritual and moral development of pupils
- To promote an invitational, reflective and worshipful atmosphere in which pupils can experience some of the various ways people express awe, wonder, reverence, joy and sorrow
- To provide an opportunity for pupils to experience stillness, quietness, joyfulness and laughter

3 Planning

Collective worship is viewed as a time when the school community 'leaves the world behind'; meets with God and responds and then returns to the world to make a difference.

We follow an annual cycle of planning which is broken down into termly themes, following a key Christian value. The 'Roots and Fruits' Imaginor resource is used as a basis. These values are addressed on a weekly basis. The Leicester Diocese collective worship termly plans are used for one whole school worship. Once a week, the older and younger children are split for their worship sessions. Upper school focusses on current events that enable children to see a Christian or British value in action. The lower school themes are based around Bible stories using the Imaginor 'Jack in the Box Big Bible Story' resource. Both of these themes came about through pupil voice. There is a weekly 'worship through song' and every Friday, parents and carers are welcomed to our 'Golden Worship'. During this, the successes of the week are celebrated, including the awarding of 'Christian Value Awards' for children who have shown that they have been using the Christian value taught over the week.

Once every half-term, the Worship Team lead Golden Worship, addressing the visitors, giving out the awards and leading the prayers. Worship Team also plan and lead their own Worship, half termly.

Teachers plan using the format of: Gathering, Engaging, Responding and Sending out.

The Christian year gives the annual shape to worship and allows us to make use of rich Anglican traditions.

Our Rector, Rev'd Lisa Temperley Barnes, is a regular leader of Worship at school, as are delegates from our local Open the Book team.

4 Organisation

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that each pupil is invited to take part in an act of Collective Worship each day. This invitation is also to all staff. Worship is usually held at the end of the afternoon, Monday to Friday. All members of teaching staff take it in turns to lead daily worship. All the children's names are in a box and every day a child is chosen to light the candles. They are also invited to begin the service by choosing an opening greeting. Children are also encouraged to say a spontaneous prayer if they wish. Prayers from the prayer tree,

are read out every Friday.

The daily themes of weekly Worship currently are:

Monday - Christian Values

Tuesday - British Values or current events (KS2)/ Bible stories (KS1)

Wednesday – Church of England Lectionary/Open the Book

Thursday - Worship through song/Rector or other clergy/lay member

Friday - Golden Worship

The pattern each Collective Worship follows is as follows:

Gathering - with a call and response led by a child; candle lighting with responses

Engaging - questions, visual images, objects, stories or drama

Responding - reflection time, prayers (thanks/sorry/please) and singing

Sending out - ideas to use what we have thought about; blessing song, dismissal.

All those who have participated in collective worship are invited to reflect on how they will take what they have thought about and learnt, in collective worship, out into their lives. If they think they will, they are invited to take a colourful buttons. This evaluates the impact of worship and encourages all to use Christian values at school and at home: a 'values into virtues' approach.

5 Visitors

We welcome a variety of visitors to lead worship and enrich the children's experience. Our regular visitors include our Rector, the Methodist Minister, retired clergy and lay members of local churches. The local Open the Book team are also regular visitors to school.

Our school policy and practice regarding Safeguarding is followed when welcoming all visitors.

6 Entitlement and Equal Opportunities

The Anglican nature of the school's foundation is recognised in Collective worship in ways that are appropriate to the ages and background of the pupils. It is important that our worship is accessible and relevant to all and this is always a key consideration during the planning and delivery of each act of Worship. Prayer is invitational and those leading worship will often begin prayers with "If you want to make it your prayer too, then join in with Amen at the end." We also draw on key festivals and celebrations from other faiths in order to broaden pupils understanding of world faiths. We draw out their many similarities: especially in terms of codes for living well together.

The school's main Bible story: St Paul on the road to Damascus, is revisited regularly.

7 Parental Involvement

Parents and carers are invited and actively encouraged to attend Golden Worship every other Friday. The timing of Golden Worship was carefully considered to allow as many parents to take part as possible. The school office informs parents in advance, when children are due to receive an award. Parents are informed of their right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship through the information on the school's website.

8 Monitoring and Review

School worship is monitored and reviewed termly by the RE/Collective Worship coordinator and periodically, by the foundation governors. Creative approaches are actively encouraged and other teachers, LSAs and parents make regular suggestions which are considered and acted upon. The Worship Team reviews school worship regularly and puts forward suggestions.

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body on a 3-yearly basis.