

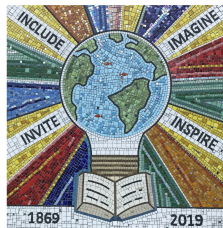


# Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed January 2023

## St Peter's CE School Vision

*'Living life in all its fullness'*. John 10:10



### Invite

We invite everyone on our journey towards a bright and fulfilling future.

### Include

We include everyone: differences are valued and individuals can flourish.

### Imagine

We imagine a world of hope and harmony in our inclusive Christian environment.

### Inspire

We inspire everyone to make a difference and be the best they can be.

## Collective Worship

At St Peter's the daily collective worship is an essential element of our life. We value and appreciate the opportunity to gather as a community, to learn from each other, pray and worship together, share sadness and celebrate good news.

We aim that Collective Worship promotes and supports achievement and growth in six aspects of pupils' religious learning. These are:

- A knowledge of Christianity; its stories, traditions, festivals, worship and teachings
- An understanding of Christian life and worship which may, if the pupil chooses, form the basis of an adult faith
- An awareness of life's spiritual dimension

- A sense of Christian morality
- A knowledge and respect for the major world faiths
- Experience of worship

Through the above, we aim to help children to:

- Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition
- Be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life
- Have respect for others' views and to celebrate diversity in society
- Grow in faith through worship

### **Collective Worship timetable**

<b>Monday</b>	Collective worship is celebrated through weekly themes which provide opportunities for prayer, song, religious teaching, celebration, spiritual reflection, social, moral, cultural development .
<b>Tuesday</b>	Whole school assembly exploring aspects of faith. This assembly is led by Father Henry and in his absence by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Picture News / Prayer Circles in class – Global and Local Context
<b>Thursday</b>	This Collective Worship is prepared and led by each class in turn. Parents are welcome and invited to celebrate the week or special event with us.
<b>Friday</b>	Singing / Hymns Collective Worship –led by the Music teacher

### **Themes of Worship**

Our acts of worship cover the following themes:

#### **Autumn term**

**Values:** Term 1: **Koinonia & Peace** Term 2: **Respect**

- New beginnings
- Harvest
- Advent

#### **Spring term**

**Values:** Term 3: **Thankfulness** Term 4: **Hope**

- Epiphany
- Candlemas
- Baptism of the Lord
- Lent - leading up to the passion and crucifixion of Jesus.

## **Summer term**

**Values:** Term 5: **Compassion** & Term 6: **Joy and Love**

- Easter celebration
- Resurrection appearances of Jesus
- Ascension
- Pentecost

### **The Key Elements of an Act of Worship**

Monitors help to lead worship on a daily basis by setting up the hall: moving the table, getting songs and music ready and helping children to light the candle at the start of our act of worship. Children are very keen to be chosen for this role each year and value the leadership opportunities that it brings.

**Gathering:** Music is played as the children enter the hall to set this aside as a sacred time. A table is placed prominently with an appropriate coloured cloths to reflect the season of the church's year. A cross and candles are used. Children are greeted liturgically and the candles are lit. A song is used from a wide repertoire to gather the community together.

#### **Engagement and encouragement:**

Children are engaged through a Christian story, a visitor, or use of high quality visual images. These reflect the current worship theme. Children are encouraged to offer their ideas and reflections.

**Response:** A range of responses are used including reflection and prayer. The children learn and sing the Lord's Prayer.

**Conclusion:** Worship ends with a liturgical ending with a response which the children know and respond to clearly. When the clergy lead the worship there is a Trinitarian blessing.

**Beginning for worship:** The Lord be with you. And also with you.

**Ending for worship:** Finish with prayer and May the Lord bless you and keep you

### **Church Worship**

The children are taken to St Peter's Church to celebrate Christian festivals and events each term including, lent, Christmas, Harvest, St Peter's Day, etc. Parents and members of the parish are invited to join us.

#### **Prayer**

At St Peter's we are a praying community, helping children to recognise and respect the importance of individual and community prayer. We believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. We hope to help each other listen to God speaking to us and to respond in our hearts and minds during moments of silence. We also encourage prayer writing by the children themselves. Every Wednesday afternoon is devoted to Picture News and or Prayer Circles in which the children will focus on a local or global event / stimulus and have a short discussion and then together as a class offer prayers together.

#### **Withdrawal from Collective Worship**

While St Peter's is a Church of England school, we are committed to respecting individual beliefs. Upon entrance to the school, parents/ carers are made aware of the Christian basis of our teaching and the invitational nature of our worship. It is therefore unlikely that parents/ carers would wish to exercise their

legal right of withdrawal. However, should such a case arise, the parents/ carers concerned should consult the Head teacher and withdraw their child in writing from collective worship.

### **Spiritual and Moral Development**

Spiritual and Moral Development is a life-long process and in the life of the children, is shared between parents/ carers, the school and the wider community. We acknowledge the wide variety of beliefs that make up our community; however our policy reflects the Christian focus of our school. Therefore we seek to foster values and morals based on Christian teaching, which are also shared by the major world faiths. Poems, stories, paintings, photographs, natural objects, and music are some of the ways that children can be encouraged to be thoughtful and reflective.

*Further information can be found in our St Peter's Spirituality Policy*

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Acts of worship are evaluated at different times both by staff and children. This policy is reviewed regularly by the Headteacher and ratified by the Governing Body every year.