

# St. James' C of E Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

St James' C of E Primary School  
Collective Worship  
Written by: Mrs Caryn Smith  
February 2019  
Reviewed: February 2020



*Inspiring and Growing for Fullness of Life*

### Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of the Church school and is fundamental to the development of its Christian foundation, vision, values and ethos. The Senior Leadership Team will be responsible for establishing policy in consultation with the governing body. Policy and practice is informed by the Trust Deed and school Mission: *Inspiring and growing for fullness of life.*

**St James' C of E Primary School provides the highest quality education within the context of caring Christian beliefs and practices; in partnership with St Philip and St James Church. St James is a creative, nurturing and inclusive community, shaped by our vision for spiritual growth and our Christian values. Children of any faith or none are given the opportunity to develop their own spirituality; valuing wisdom, growing in hope, showing respect and exploring big questions.**

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational.

The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world.

### Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes account of their age and aptitude. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors in a Church school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and

Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

## **Aims**

*Collective worship in a Church of England school aims to:*

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe, wonder.
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that for Christians it is God's word.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything.
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

## **Management, Organisation and Delivery of Collective Worship**

Collective worship is led by all members of the school community:

- Head teacher/Deputy Headteacher
- Teaching staff
- A pupil or group of pupils – particularly through our Worship Teams
- Team Vicar
- 'Open the Book Team'
- Whole class (During the school year, each class will lead an act of collective worship to which parents will be invited).

The act of worship can be whole school, within key stages or class to engage the pupils in a variety of different learning styles, actively promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by exploration, discovery and reflection. Worship will focus on our 12 core Christian values Appendix 1, key festivals throughout the church calendar and significant events.

It is our aim that pupils through establishing worship teams are active in all aspects of worship through supporting them in planning and leading worship for their class, other year groups and school. They will use Imaginor resources to provide a framework for their worship and in time use the structures to plan and lead their own worship.

Liturgy is an important part of our worship where there is always a focal point which includes a cloth of the liturgical colour of the season of the church year, a cross and a candle. There may also be other focus items or pictures linked to our value. These items are brought out at the start of our worship as the pupils say the following words:

**Pupil:** *We open the Bible as we think about .....*

**Response:** *.... God the Father who teaches us through his words.*

**Pupil:** *We take out the cross as we think about.....*

**Response:** *..... Gods Son Jesus who loves us.*

**Pupil:** *We take out the candle and light it as we think about.....*

**Response:** *.... God the Holy Spirit who guides us.*

To end our worship we return the items into the worship basket whilst singing the following words:

*Father as we go,*

*Jesus as we go,*

*Spirit as we go,*

*Bless us all as we go.*

Below is an example of how worship might be organised throughout the week:

	<b>Led by</b>	<b>Pupil grouping</b>
<b>Monday</b> 9.50am	SLT	Whole school
<b>Tuesday</b> R/KS1: 9.50am KS2: 10.15am	Open the book Team	Key stages
<b>Wednesday</b> R/KS1: 9.50am	Hymn Practice	Key stages

KS2: 10.15am		
<b>Thursday</b> R/KS1: 9.50am KS2: 10.15am	Clergy/teachers/class worship	Key stages/class
<b>Friday</b> 9.50am	Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher  Awards assembly and celebration of pupils who demonstrate our whole school values	Whole School

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The contribution that Collective Worship is making to the whole curriculum and to the pupils' spiritual development will be monitored by the Deputy Headteacher and the Ethos Committee. This monitoring will take the form of observing collective worship and gathering pupil perceptions. The Ethos Committee will then report to the governing body.