



Collective Worship Policy

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.

William Temple (1881-1894)

Christian values:

Love
Friendship
Faith
Respect

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognizes and follows the Church's liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aims

Collective worship at St Peter's Church of England Primary School is in line with the school's Trust Deed, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace

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- Using simple Anglican (or Methodist) liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers attend all acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

Timetable for Worship at St Peter's Church of England Primary School :

- Monday: Class worship – led by class teacher – see individual timetables
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: Whole school worship in the hall. These acts of worship are led by Mrs Craig, Mr Eastwood, Mrs Stone or occasionally by a class
- Thursday: Whole school worship in the church led by Nicola Craig and Rev Chris Van Straaten

The school follows the plans provided by the Rochester Diocese. Mrs Craig shares the plans with Rev Van Straaten and the teachers and these are adapted by the person responsible for leading worship on that day.

Every month the Family Trust will come to the school and lead worship on a theme set by them and communicated to the school in advance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place as follows:

- Monitoring of worship by members of the Governing Body
- Parents are invited to worship on Thursdays and are invited to comment
- Views of parents and children are collected by questionnaire on a yearly basis and shared with the staff

Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship. However, as collective worship is central to our ethos so our headteacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Currently no children are withdrawn from Collective worship

Appendix

Inviting Visitors to lead collective worship

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the speaker is expected to talk for (10 – 12 minutes)
- the current assembly theme and context for the speaker - what has already been done and what will be done later in the term
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- what resources or hardware are available to them, should they so wish
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers

Also remember to:

- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe...") is

To be avoided

- Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school assembly programme.

And finally:

- NEVER leave a visiting speaker to take an act of collective worship alone, it is bad manners, bad educational practice, and bad churchmanship!