ST. JOHN'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
WATERLOO

Respect, Courage, Compassion, Friendship, Trust, Perseverance

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

POLICY

Written: February 2016
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Next review date: May 2027

LOVE
Seeking life in all its fullness

Collective Worship Policy

Our School Vision Statement

St. John's Church of England Primary School has a Christian vision for education rooted in wisdom, hope, community and dignity. It is a community where all are welcome and nurtured in a spirit of Christian love, compassion and encouragement.

It is a place which enables everyone in the school community to develop and experience life in all its fullness and realise true potential through an excellent, broad and creative education. Christian hope, aspiration and resilience for the future are central to the learning experience.

The school's vision is rooted in Christian love which is the foundation of our Christian values:

- Friendship
- Courage
- Trust
- Respect
- Compassion
- Perseverance

School aims:

- To provide a caring, safe and happy environment where the whole school community can flourish knowing that they are unique and special in the eyes of God
- To build confidence and self-esteem to enable children to develop resilience and become successful, independent life-long learners
- To enable all children to achieve their full potential
- To develop the teamwork and leadership skills and qualities in all our children so that they can be responsible citizens of the future
- To be fully committed to equality of opportunity
- To create a stimulating environment in which Christian attitudes of positive relationships, mutual respect, responsibility, forgiveness and understanding are fostered at all times
- To foster strong links between communities: home, school, church, the local community, the diocese and, internationally as *Global Neighbours.*
- To enable staff to develop their own talents and expertise so that they too can thrive
- To promote high standards and expectations of behaviour towards one another, as Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' Luke10:27
- To be committed to providing opportunities for spiritual growth through RE and collective worship as well as a wealth of stimulating experiences and extra-curricular activities
- To promote children's cultural experiences and opportunities to help develop a positive understanding of their place in a diverse world.

OVERVIEW

Collective worship is the unique heartbeat of our school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. At St John's, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life; it gives us the opportunity to celebrate, as well as encouraging our pupils to think about their place in the world, through spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

It enables children to think deeply about themselves, the world in which they live and the place that faith has in our society. As a Church of England Primary School our collective worship will be in accordance with the principles and practices of the Anglican Church. The daily act of collective worship has a special status and is distinct from Religious Education (RE). The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Prayers are said throughout the day and opportunities for reflection are built into our daily routines.

STATEMENT OF BROAD AIMS

1. To contribute to the vision, mission statement and the Christian values of St. John's C.E. Primary School in order to nurture the personal, intellectual and spiritual development of each individual.
- To meet our statutory duty through a variety of different opportunities.
- To create an environment in which children and staff have the opportunity to worship God, through prayer, singing and reflection.
- To offer a time to be still and reflect
- To engage in an act of community
- To worship God through Jesus
- To celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Explore big questions in life and respond to national events
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith. To learn about the significance of Jesus and the Bible and to share in Church life.
- To learn about and understand the qualities of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- To maintain links with Liverpool Cathedral and St. John's Church and to present children with an experience of Christian worship in the Anglican traditions.
- To build strong links between SMSC education and religious education.
- To celebrate, take note of and build up the life of the school in the presence of God e.g. by sharing in the achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community.

ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

Collective Worship will:

- Provide children with the opportunity to participate through the example of singing, prayer, reading, drama, reflection etc.
- Have a clear message
- Include the worship elements of gathering, engaging, responding and sending
- Will reflect the Anglican tradition
- Will take into account the levels of development of the pupils
- Will conform to diocesan policy

STRATEGIES

1. On some occasions the school will meet corporately to worship and, on other occasions in different groupings.
2. Pupils will learn some well-known prayers and hymns and these will be used in worship.
3. Worship will be used for celebration and thanksgiving.
4. Pupils will be given opportunities both to participate in worship and to lead worship.
5. On some occasions parents will be invited to participate in collective worship with the school.
6. Occasionally, outside speakers will be brought in to address the children and, where appropriate, lead acts of worship.

7. On special occasions, worship will be linked to religious seasons and other festivals, e.g. Advent, Lent, Christmas, Easter, Harvest and St George's Day.
8. Eucharist is planned as part of our worship calendar and is linked to significant times of the Church year e.g. St. Nicholas' Eucharist, Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Ascension Eucharist.
9. Records of religious worship will be kept to show that the requirements of the law have been met.

INCLUSIVE, INVITATIONAL AND INSPIRING

Inclusive: Worship is collective in that it involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Children and staff may come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many children will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Children will be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There will be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, listening and watching.

Invitational: Parents, children and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently invitational. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity.

Children and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer will be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Inspiring: Children and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be inspirational. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate children and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

PROVISION

Worship is organised in the following manner:

Day	Worship
Monday	Values worship – led by the Headteacher/Assistant Headteachers. Each of St. John's six Christian values is allocated to a half term throughout the year. Biannually, In Another Place's assembly team delivers a worship programme based on a journey through the Bible in a year. Songs, drama, dressing up and puppets are used to bring stories to life.
Tuesday	Liturgical based worship, Saints and church festivals. This is led by a number of our foundation governors.
Wednesday	Led by teaching staff. The overview is planned by a member of the senior leadership team to ensure the range of topics are varied and relevant to the school and church year, national/ international events, historical events, significant people. The PHSE lead will also launch the whole school unit each half term. Every third week is whole school Prayer 'n' Praise.

Thursday	Class based worship, using the Picture News resource to enable children to learn from the world around us. Each week a current news story, image and thought provoking question is explored and related to both our Christian values and British values.
Friday	Celebration Worship

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Worship is monitored so that the impact of the experience(s) can be effectively ascertained.
a) Worship is discussed with the children of the Ethos Committee each term.
b) Worship is evaluated by governors, staff and pupils at least three times a year.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND THE LAW

Collective worship in community schools is grounded in the historical past and enshrined in educational law to be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' (Education Reform Act 1988 section 7(1) and the corresponding section of the Education Act 1993). In Church schools the requirement is to reflect the Anglican status of the school as expressed in its trust deed liberates those leading collective worship to build on the rich, lived diversity of Anglican tradition and identity.

PARENTS RIGHTS OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the collective worship and alternative arrangements will be made for them. The worship and RE provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole reflects the Church of England. Removal from worship cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school. If a pupil is withdrawn from worship they will be supervised in an allocated classroom.

OUTCOMES

Pupils will be offered excellent opportunities to experience enjoy and participate in a variety of different kinds of acts of worship. They will have the opportunity to experience an ethos conducive to spiritual development through prayer and reflection. They will learn to develop positive attitudes to worship and worshiping communities. Through collective worship learners will grow in spirituality and experience awe and wonder.

Worship Co-ordinator: Mrs C McManus (Headteacher)