

'Shine like stars in the world.'
Philippians 2:15



St Paul's CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Vision

Our school is one family, united in love and deeply rooted in our Christian values, where together on life's journey we flourish, striving for excellence in all that we do. Inspired by the transformation of St Paul, and enlightened by the glory of God, we will shine like stars to make the world a better place.

Values

Love, Forgiveness, Faith, Friendship, Hope and Peace.

Collective Worship Policy

This is a policy document template that we advise all Church schools to adopt. Before adopting it, you will need to add information, where indicated, to ensure that it reflects your school's theologically rooted Christian vision and the collective worship practice that happens within your school.

1. How is the policy a reflection of our theologically rooted Christian vision?

At the heart of collective worship at St Paul's is our school vision:

Our school is one family, united in love and deeply rooted in our Christian values, where together on life's journey we flourish, striving for excellence in all that we do. Inspired by the transformation of St Paul, and enlightened by the glory of God, we will shine like stars to make the world a better place.

Drawing parallels from the transformation experienced by St Paul, our acts of Collective Worship are carefully planned to open the eyes of our community to the wonder of God's glory and the opportunities for us to experience life in all its fullness. We are guided by the belief that we are all part of one family, bound together by love and grounded in our Christian values. This shared sense of unity propels us on a collective journey encouraging each individual to reach their full potential and promoting the flourishing of both adults and children within our school community. At the heart of our approach is a commitment to embracing diversity and inclusivity, drawing inspiration from the example set by Saint Paul. As a community, we aspire to radiate like stars, illuminating the world with positivity and purpose, with the ultimate aim of making a meaningful contribution towards making the world a better place for all who live in it.

2. Introduction

In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and will be 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.

We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.¹

¹ The Church of England Education Office, *Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good*. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) page 10

Collective worship is a sacred and significant time of each school day, where we gather together as a whole school family. Collective worship strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school and reaffirms our Christian vision and associated values of Love, Forgiveness, Faith, Friendship, Hope and Peace.

3. Aims of Collective Worship

- Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.

- To reflect the parish tradition of worship, while giving experience over time for pupils to experience the breadth of Anglicanism.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals including Eucharist services for Years 5 and 6.
- Explore the school's Christian vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues.
- Enable pupils the opportunity to make a positive contribution to worship through involvement with aspects of the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship.

4. Legal requirements

Collective worship:

- Should be conducted in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school and Instrument of Government and be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- Unless the right of withdrawal has been exercised all pupils must take part each day in an act of collective worship (DfE circular 1/94 para. 51) and the Governing Body should ensure that all pupils **each day** engage in a distinctively Christian act of worship.
- Arrangements for collective worship in foundation schools of a religious character (i.e. church schools) are the responsibility of the Governing Body, after consultation with the headteacher (DfE Circular 1/94 para 52&53).

5. Planning of worship

Collective worship is planned by a variety of stakeholders including staff, the incumbent of our linked church/es and external visitors in consultation with the collective worship leader and governors.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our Christian ethos. It makes an important contribution to the spiritual flourishing of the whole school community. We are committed to providing a daily act of Christian worship which is truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifies the principles of Christian hospitality.

Collective worship can take place at any time of the school day and in any regular school grouping e.g. whole school or key stage. Our school plans systematically, using both long term and short term plans which enables continuity and cohesion. We use the following resources to support our worship:

- *The LDBS cycle of collective worship and collective worship calendar*
- www.assemblies.org.uk
- *Our clergy*
- *The school's collective worship committee made up of pupils from Year 5 and 6*
- *Works of art*
- *Visitors*
- *Calendars of national and international celebrations and events*
- *A variety of texts e.g., Collective Worship Unwrapped, Roots and Shoots etc.*

We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and our planning incorporates a range of creative opportunities to enable all to engage in the acts of worship. These include:

- *using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning*
- *using current issues/Picture News/dates/school initiatives*
- *observing the cycle of the Anglican year*
- *secular stories and readings*
- *pupils' contributions*
- *music, dance and drama*
- *natural materials and artefacts*
- *visual aids and works of art*
- *visitors*

When planning acts of worship, we follow the Church of England guidance to ensure that worship is:

- **Inclusive** – Our acts of worship recognise that pupils and staff come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as no faith backgrounds, so it will be inclusive of, and fully accessible to all. Care will be taken to ensure that language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith of those participating, listening or watching.
- **Invitational** – In our acts of worship, there is no compulsion to ‘do anything’. Rather, worship will 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. Pupils and adults will only be invited to pray if they wish to do so.
- **Inspiring** – By asking and discussing big questions about who we are and what we do in worship we hope to motivate pupils and adults into action. There will be opportunities to think, reflect and ponder on their and the wider community’s behaviour and actions.

6. Pattern of Worship

School worship includes whole-school services at St Paul's Church, usually twice each term. Parents, neighbours, family and friends are always invited to join the children in their worship on these occasions and the church is usually full.

Children in Years 5 and 6 attend a Eucharist service, either at one of the school’s four associated churches (St Paul’s, Holy Trinity, St Peter’s and St John’s) or in the school hall with their teachers, usually twice each term. At different points during the school year, a key stage/year group may also attend a service at one of the local churches.

Special services held in school during the year include those for harvest festivals, Christmas lessons and carols (Christingles), Easter and other festivals and occasions that arise from the Christian calendar or from special school events.

In addition, the two Christingle services (infant and junior), the two annual end-of-year services (infant and junior), the leavers (Year 6) and the new entrants (Reception) services held each year at St Paul's Church add further dimensions to the school's pattern of worship. Again, parents, neighbours, relations and friends are invited to all of these services.

Worship in school is scheduled in such a way that in any normal week a child in any class in the school might experience

- whole school assembly
- key stage assembly led by a KS1 or KS2 teacher as appropriate
- class assembly led by a class of either KS1 or KS2 children
- classroom assembly
- period of classroom prayer and reflection
- praise worship based around music/hymns

Our pattern of worship is as follows:

Monday	Full school collective worship (led by a member of the clergy group).
Tuesday	Class led collective worship, led by either an infant or a junior class. (Can alternate with Weds.) If no class collective worship is scheduled, there will be separate KS1 and KS2 collective worship led by a KS1 and KS2 class teacher.
Wednesday	Classroom collective worship (to be led by the class teacher)
Thursday	Praise worship - singing
Friday	Full school collective worship (led by a member of SLT).

The collective worship committee, made up of children from Years 5 and 6, will also be responsible for leading one whole school collective worship each term and help and support the delivery of the other collective worships on a Rota basis each week.

Our worship consists of 4 parts:

- **Gather** – we welcome the community, for example, with music, and the lighting of a candle.
- **Engage** – we share, for example, a Bible reading, followed by an activity to engage pupils with the Christian message.
- **Respond** – pupils, may be invited to discuss, share, reflect, pray and/or sing.
- **Send** – we share, for example, the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how it will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. We close with a final prayer, music, liturgy and/or the blowing out of our special candle.

7. Collective worship leader

The leader for collective worship is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship and supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading aspects of worship. The leader also monitors the quality of worship and evaluates its impact across the school community.

8. Visitors leading worship

Visitors to our school are asked to read and comply with our school visitor and safeguarding policies (<https://www.st-pauls.enfield.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=28>). This should include discussing the content of any worship with a member of the senior leadership in order to ascertain its suitability for the school community. Visitors are never left alone with children as the supervision of pupils remains the responsibility of school staff.

It is the responsibility of the collective worship leader and senior leaders to ensure that all visitors, who are leading worship in school, will be trained and properly briefed about the school, its context and our school's vision. Please refer to LDBS guidance for visitors leading worship.

9. CPD and training

Parents, pupils and adults in school are entitled to be led in Christian worship by those who have a secure understanding of the nature of collective worship in a church school context. Therefore, all those leading worship, including clergy, should have access to regular diocesan led training.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

Our school regularly evaluates our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on pupils and adults within the school community.

This involves monitoring by school leaders, the collective worship leader and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, including pupils, parents, and visitors which are gathered via regular clergy meetings, discussions with parents, pupil surveys, the collective worship

committee and pupil voice activities. This feedback plays an essential part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

Foundation governors and the worship leader regularly observe and evaluate worship and report back to the whole governing body.

The impact of collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (SIAMS).

11. Parents and Carers

As a school we recognise that a partnership with parents/carers is essential to help pupils flourish. Worship is regarded as special time in our school day where we gather as a school family. Reflecting our ethos as a Church of England school, collective worship is an inclusive opportunity for those of all faiths and none to be present with integrity.

We respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child/children from acts of collective worship, However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all pupils will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision. Following these discussions, any desire to formally withdraw pupils from worship must be done via a letter to the Headteacher.

12. Evaluation / Review

This policy is reviewed regularly by the collective worship leader in consultation with the Headteacher and ratified every **three years** by the Governing Body.

Date of validation..... Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Date of review..... Signed.....
Chair of Governors