

## Collective Worship Policy 2018/19

Our Church school reflects the nature of the Trinity, a life shared and defined by reference to others. Here we can discover who we are, why we are and what we might be.

Summarised from The Way Ahead Chapter 3 para 3.26

“For a human being, especially a child or young person, to have a full quality of life, spirituality in all its aspects must be nurtured and affirmed.”

John Bradford

The Collective Worship Policy reflects the school’s vision:

Faith: “So God created man in His own image” (Genesis 1:26-27)

At St James’s C.E. Primary School, we believe that every child is made in the image of God; inherently valuable and unique among God’s creations. We are an inclusive and welcoming family who celebrate each other’s achievements. Our Christian Values are at the heart of all that we do; nurturing a sense of belonging and shared identity.

Friendship: “Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” (Luke 5:10)

It is our vision that all of our pupils will have courage and belief in themselves, to follow their dreams. We will ensure that all children know, experience and understand the love of Jesus Christ; supporting children on their journey of learning, faith and spirituality. Through our established, local and global links, children learn to be responsible and respected citizens.

Fulfilment: “Take courage. It is I. Do not be afraid.” (Matthew 14:27)

In a safe and nurturing environment, we support each child to reach their full, God given potential. High aspirations are set so that every child has every opportunity to fulfil their dreams. We will endeavour to instil a love of learning in our pupils, preparing them for the next phase of their lives and enable them to prosper.

### Introduction

At St James’s CE Primary School we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their God given potential and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live.

Collective Worship in this school mainly follows the Christian tradition, but from time to time will include stories and festivals from other world faiths. Experiences which promote an appreciation of the rich diversity of our community and which encourage awe and wonder in God’s world, are included. It may include celebrating our achievements and the achievements of others or exploring current events nationally or worldwide.

As a Church of England Primary School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act).

### Aims

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

**Our policy for collective worship supports this by:**

Recognising that Collective Worship is an important time of the school day to provide opportunities for our pupils' and staff spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils and staff which enables them to:

- worship God
- reflect on Christian values for schools, personal development and multi-faith festivals
- develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- respond to the worship offered
- respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
- experience a variety of forms of prayer and reflection. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection
- begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Ensuring the daily act of collective worship be distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar

Ensuring Collective Worship will:

- be inspiring and transformational
- be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors.
- develop the Christian vision and ethos of the school and focus on our school Christian values
- include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, symbol, drama, creative prayer
- heavily involve pupils through members of the Worship Group and other pupil voice groups, opening and closing worship and through pupils writing or spontaneously saying their own prayers
- celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals of the Christian and other World faiths
- provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
- take place in the school hall, outdoors or the church
- respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship

**Content of Daily worship**

As a Church of England school the content of our worship is organised to:

- Reflect our school Christian values and other Christian values
- Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Be rooted in Bible teaching and linked to the eight core concepts in Understanding Christianity
- Use the Lord's Prayer and other prayers written by pupils
- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and stillness
- Music is played to create atmosphere and candles may be lit to mark the beginning and end of worship. A worship table with cloths of appropriate liturgical colours is used in hall
- Themes, hymns and prayers are chosen with the help of the school community through our Collective Worship post box which is in the hall. The Collective Worship Group are responsible for collecting and communicating ideas from the post box.

**Special Services and Visitors**

We value our links with the staff and congregation of St. James' Church. We plan and lead a termly family service at church which is well attended by school families and the church congregation. The vicar leads a team from the parish to deliver open the Book Collective Worship fortnightly. Throughout the school year we also welcome a range of other visitors to lead Collective Worship. The Vicar leads a Eucharist Service in school each term, including an outdoors Summer Service where our Y6 pupils who have been confirmed take bread and wine alongside staff and parents/visitors. Parents are invited frequently to join us in school and at church for Collective Worship.

We hold special services in church such as Christmas Service and Y6 Leavers' Service as well as other special occasions.

### **Inclusion and withdrawal**

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the head teacher.

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

Children, staff, parents, governors and the wider community are all asked to help us evaluate the impact of collective worship. These evaluations are analysed by the Collective Worship leaders and changes implemented when necessary.

Our Collective Worship group, made up of staff and pupils meet regularly to review and improve collective worship.

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

### **Linked Documents**

R.E Policy

Spirituality Policy

Statement of Entitlement

