



St. John's C.E. Primary School

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Policy for: Collective Worship

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St John's CE Primary Collective Worship Policy



Collective Worship at St John's

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together for an opportunity to share in the worship of God within the Christian tradition. It is an appropriate occasion to consider and reflect on common concerns, issues and interests. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Aims of Collective Worship

For the School:

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of St John's and it is our belief that this is a time when the school community can:

- share common aims and values
- celebrate achievement and special times
- explore together the world in which we live
- develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

We also believe that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- worship that which is considered worthy
- consider spiritual and moral issues
- explore their own beliefs
- develop their own spirituality
- reinforce positive attitudes
- participate and respond
- reflect on what it means to be human

The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. Sometimes, however, Collective Worship will feature aspects of the curriculum, in order to enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in class. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it should address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

All staff participate in leading Collective Worship in some way. The headteacher, deputy head and class teachers lead Collective Worship in whole school, whole KS or class settings.

Collective Worship follows a key theme linked to the half term theme using a range of stories, images, artifacts and songs.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall, shared spaces or in the learning area.

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 20 minutes.

Leadership

Every member of the school staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

A plan of assemblies and Collective Worship themes is situated in the labelled file in the staff room.

The Act of Collective Worship

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship. Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made. (A change of personnel, music, a moment of silence etc.)

Class led Acts of Worship

Within an academic year each class will lead a whole class act of worship on a relevant theme or topic. Children are encouraged to take an active role in the planning and delivery of these acts of worship. Parents of the relevant year group are invited to attend.

Withdrawal

Any parent who objects to their child attending an act or acts of Collective Worship may request that their child is withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher. Any pupil who is withdrawn from an act or acts of Collective Worship will be supervised during that time by a member of the school staff.

Collective Worship and St John's Church

The school coordinates several sessions each year that are hosted by the Reverend at the church. Collective Worship follows similar themes and format as the school and parents and friends of the school are welcomed at these services. At times of the year the children perform readings and prayers at services held outside of the school day.

Liturgy

- Introduction and greeting

- Prayer of thanksgiving: Childrens' Prayer –

Dear God,
Thankyou for the flowers, the sunshine and our world.
Please be with us at home and at school,

Amen.

- Symbolic representation: lighting of candle etc.
- Community Affirmation (Friday only): celebration of birthdays and certificates
- Teaching: ie the focus of the Act of Worship
- Prayers: 1) read by the teacher
2) Lords' Prayer
3) a Prayer that requires a response line from the children
- Silent reflection
- Hymn (praise)
- Intercession: pray for others. This may be a prayer of thanks, praise or asking.
- Finish: shared blessing

Within each section the teacher can decide the order.