



Collective Worship policy

Reviewed: March 2025

Next review: March 2027

Policy Statement on Collective Worship

This policy should be implemented within the context of the vision, aims and values of our Church School.

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for collective worship at St. Peter's School. It was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff. It was ratified by the full Governing Body.

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

Policy Statement

In St. Peter's Church of England Primary School worship is central to the life of school and is one of the main platforms for exploring the school's vision:

“Growing Together in Mind, Body and Spirit”

Growing respect for ourselves, each other and the environment.

At St. Peter's, our mission is to **achieve outstanding academic progress, especially in reading, and to nurture pupils who are happy, spiritual, respectful, hard working and actively engaging with our community**

Our mission is rooted in our Christian ethos: ***‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ (Luke 10:25-28)***

It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

At St. Peter's, we recognise that our school is made up of a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and Collective Worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At St. Peter's Church of England Primary School Collective Worship aims to be inspirational, invitational and inclusive and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish.

Church of England Guidance

The Collective Worship policy at St. Peter's Church of England Primary School draws on guidance from the Church of England¹. This guidance document has been produced to challenge, to guide and set expectations for Church school communities and diocesan authorities, encouraging them to reflect on their practice and to ensure that Collective Worship remains the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all pupils to flourish.

Legal Requirements

There must be a daily act of Collective Worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time in the school day and in any groupings. Collective Worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship in St. Peter's Church of England Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The governing body of the school has the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As Collective Worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within Collective Worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from Collective Worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part
- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from Collective Worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

¹[1] Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily Collective Worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective Worship in St. Peter's Church of England Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world through reflection on the fundamental questions of life and a deeper understanding of living life in all its fullness (John 10v10).
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey. For example, using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship and festivals.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship.
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

We ensure that the school's vision, as presented through Collective Worship, is reflected and applied in our policies and practice.

We also ensure that information about Collective Worship is included in the school prospectus and / or on the school website.

Collective Worship Spaces

We use the following worship spaces:

- **The Hall:**

Set up with a cross on display; a candle as a focal point of worship (see the prayer below); the correct coloured background for the liturgical season and a display illustrating our school vision.

Lighting the Worship Candle

As we come together, we light this candle.

You may think the light is like Jesus, shining out everywhere.

You may think the light symbolises the presence of God in the world.

The light may make you wonder about the existence of a God.

It may make you consider what meaning there is in the world.

Or the candle may have a particular meaning for you today.

- **Classrooms:**

Set up with a cross on display; a candle to focus prayer; a handheld cross, an age appropriate Bible and a display illustrating our school vision.

- **St. Peter's Parish Church**

How Collective worship is organised

Acts of Collective Worship are at the centre of children's lives and a distinctive time of day (at the end of the day) is set aside for these special occasions.

Day	Organisation	Leadership	Participants	Planning
Monday	Main worship - setting the theme for the week.	Senior Leaders, local clergy, the RE Lead & Collective Worship Lead	Reception (from January), KS1 and KS2 3.00pm - 3.25pm	Themes set at termly Church School Meetings with Senior Leaders, local clergy, the RE Lead & Collective Worship Lead
Tuesday	Alternate weeks - Singing Worship Class Worship - spirituality focus	Music Lead lead by teachers & pupils	Whole school 3.05pm - 3.25pm End of the day in classes	Music lead Teachers under guidance of CW Lead
Wednesday	Class Worship	lead by teachers & pupils	End of the day in classes	Teachers under guidance of CW Lead
Thursday	Alternate weeks - 'Open the Book' Anglican church Class Worship - spirituality focus	lead by members of the local Anglican church lead by teachers & pupils	KS1 and KS2 3.00pm - 3.25pm End of the day in classes	Planned by providers Teachers under guidance of CW Lead

Friday	Celebration Worship	Senior Leaders	Reception (from January), KS1 and KS2 3.00pm - 3.25pm	Senior Leaders & pupils
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Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

o Monitoring

Monitoring takes place as part of the school's monitoring cycle. The Collective Worship leader and RE and Worship governor regularly monitor worship. Governor visits take place half termly and regular church and school community meetings take place to review and reflect on the development of worship in the school.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.