



Policy for Collective Worship 2023 -2026

Adopted by LGC Nov 2023

Our Vision

'All things are possible for those who believe.' Mark 9;23

Our Values

St Peter & St Paul CE Academy encourages and promotes Christian Values. Our pupils, governors, staff, parents and community members chose our three key values of Respect, Honesty and Perseverance.

Introduction

The vision of the school, encompassing all that we stand for, is reflected in and expressed through Collective Worship at St Peter & St Paul CE Academy; it derives from the Christian tradition and seeks to activate our beliefs and values. Collective Worship, within a Christian context, plays an important part in the life of our school. It is a spiritual time in the school day when children meet together with members of staff, in a calm and peaceful atmosphere and where all present are given the opportunity to reflect and participate.

Legal requirements

- Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school, which requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian in character.
- The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society.
- All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.
- Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from collective worship.

School aims

- Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring at St Peter & St Paul CE Academy.
- Collective worship encourages pupils to consider fundamental questions about the purpose of being and about moral and ethical stances.
- Collective worship brings children together, enabling them to experience the security of belonging to a community.
- Collective worship affirms the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God

Objectives

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins our shared values.
- Introduce pupils to the practice of religious worship through music, art, story, poetry, movement and prayer
- Create a warm, caring and respectful atmosphere conducive to worship; including the manner of entry and exit
- Help pupils experience a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and inner stillness
- Raise pupil's curiosity about the ultimate mysteries of life
- Enable pupils to learn about and consider in depth Christian teaching, Christian festivals and biblical material
- Help pupils appreciate that we are 'stewards' of God's world
- Enable pupils to reflect upon their own beliefs in relation to those of others
- Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Guide children towards the spiritual and religious options open to them
- Help children distinguish between right and wrong

- Affirm pupils' personal worth and responsibility
- Celebrate individual and collective achievements
- Develop a sense of community within the school
- Celebrate religious festivals and special occasions with specified worship

Management of Collective Worship

The Governing Committee is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the Foundation of the school is honoured and that the worship policy is firmly based upon the intentions set down in the Trust Deed
- Ensuring that the Collective Worship Policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate Governor.
- Engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 48 Inspection of a church school alongside the OFSTED Inspection.

The Co-Headteachers have responsibility for managing the worship on a day to day basis ensuring that all legal requirements are complied with. Collective Worship will be reviewed within the cycle of School Improvement Planning. This review will cover the following aspects of collective worship: themes and approaches, the development of resources, staff training and support, pupil participation and response

Organisation

Daily acts of Collective Worship take place mostly in a school hall as follows:

Across the week, collective worship includes 'Window into the World', Christian reflection linked to a value, Reflections connected to sacred texts, messages from sacred texts, worship songs and singing. On a Friday Collective worship happens in class linked to one of the above themes or picture news. There is also a celebration assembly on a Friday to celebrate successes from the week.

Pupils are involved in the collective worship through the reading of prayers, lighting of candles and activities within the services.

Each year group leads a Church service throughout the Year which parents of pupils in the year group are invited too. In addition to this there is a Christmas Carol service which is open to all.

Visitors and outside speakers are invited to lead our worship across the year.

Records and Assessment

- Themes for Collective Worship are shared with the staff by e-mail and there is a summary of the Collective worship from the week on the weekly Newsletter.

Monitoring of Collective Worship is carried out jointly by the Co-head teachers, RE and Ethos Leads, LGC and RISE.

- Checking that practice matches aims and objectives.
- Classroom feedback from pupils, both written and verbal.
- Comments from parents, visitors and governors.
- The extent of the influence upon pupils' attitude and behaviour throughout the school day.
- Pupils are involved in monitoring Collective worship through the Pupil Parliament.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have equal opportunity to take part in Collective Worship and to benefit from the experience. The school prospectus and website informs parents of their right to withdraw pupils from Collective Worship. Such pupils are fully supervised in another part of the school.

Multiculturalism

Collective worship celebrates the global and multicultural nature of Christian worship. A variety of multicultural material is available throughout the school. Stories are shared and festivals celebrated in accordance with the major faiths represented within the world. Understanding and celebration of other religions is encouraged throughout the year across the school.

Review

The Governing Committee will review this policy, formally, 3 years from the date of its adoption. Informal review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.

Sources

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Collective%20Worship%20Guidance%2018052021.pdf>