



St. John's C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Ratification Date:	January 2024	Headteacher:	Carolyn Wilkinson
		Chair of Governors:	Jean Watson
Reviewed:	January 2025	School reviewed	Carolyn Wilkinson

'Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs'

Psalm 100

School Vision:

St John's Gosport C of E Primary School endeavours to provide a happy, safe, caring community rooted in Christian values; where everyone is valued and grows to their full potential.

John 10:10 – I came so that they may have life – life in all its fullness

Mission Statement:

At St John's Gosport C of E Primary School we aim to achieve our vision by providing a broad balanced curriculum and learning experiences that develop our children in body, mind and spirit; setting high standards for all, confident that we can achieve success. Thus ensuring that when our children leave us they are independent learners, who are well equipped to be responsible citizens of the future and reach their potential.

Safeguarding at St John's Gosport C of E Primary School is carried out in line with the statutory guidance in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' published by the Department for Education.

Introduction

This policy is an agreed statement of the values and aims of collective worship at St John's Church of England Primary School. It has been prepared by the governors and headteacher with assistance from other staff and diocesan advisers. Collective worship is valued as a central aspect of the life of our church school, through which children grow spiritually, emotionally, morally and culturally.

Legal status of collective worship

In a Church of England school, worship must be in line with the trust deed of the school and will reflect the traditions of the Church of England, i.e. the Anglican tradition.

The right of withdrawal

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from acts of worship. We ask for this to be discussed with the headteacher so the exact nature of worship is understood by the parents before this becomes a permanent arrangement. If parents nevertheless require their child to be withdrawn from collective worship, they will be required to advise the school on what alternative spiritual activity they wish their child to engage in during this time. Please be aware that this does not mean that the children will be exempt from the Christian ethos of the setting which underpins our teaching, learning and relationships.

Worship in our school should:

As worship:

- Be at a level to enable children and adults to explore their own understanding of God within a Christian framework
- Explain and promote the core Christian values of the setting
- Have Integrity as acts of Anglican worship whilst being *invitational, inclusive and inspirational*
- Be based on Biblical text or themes
- Be central in importance to the life of our school community, which is part of a wider community that embraces the whole world
- Mark the seasons and festivals of the Christian year
- Develop understanding of Anglican traditions such as the lighting of a candle or use of a cross

For people:

- Develop personal spirituality within the setting community through a range of experiences including individual and collective prayer
- Celebrate the God given gifts and talents of individuals
- Make a significant contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of members of the school community

Aims of our worship

- To promote the joy of worship as engaging, inspiring, inclusive and transformative
- To develop spirituality, morality, social and cultural values
- To give an opportunity to experience the meaning and significance of faith as revealed in the Bible
- To understand, celebrate and develop children's knowledge of Christian beliefs, celebrations, traditions and religious festivals in the Anglican Church's year
- Facilitate a deeper understanding of the Christian story narrative, from creation to the present day
- To appreciate that people, cultures and beliefs differ and to demonstrate respect, tolerance and generosity towards them
- To develop young children's sense of self-worth and to provide opportunities to celebrate achievements.
- To develop a caring attitude to others and a sense of community and loyalty
- To provide opportunities for children to plan, lead, contribute to, monitor and evaluate collective worship
- To invite clergy of the parish, other lay members of the parish and other Christian leaders in the community [as are acceptable to the parish church] to lead worship weekly



How we achieve our aims

We aim to promote collective acts of worship, which are rich, meaningful experiences that are appropriate and significant to the pupil's needs, age, development and interest by:

- Creating a sense of occasion and reverence
- Providing opportunities that develop pupil's awareness of what is beautiful, good, wonderful, awesome and puzzling in life experience
- Arranging worship at different places when possible, different times with different people and groupings, involving all members of the setting community at some time
- Planning and linking themes which focus on a particular idea/concept, i.e. the liturgical year; festivals and celebrations, our Christian values
- Using a wide range of resources, artefacts (from religious and secular sources), music, art, drama and external visitors to engage children's interest
- Encouraging children to participate and experience different styles of worship, e.g. prayer, praise, silence, rituals, and become familiar with the language of worship, Biblical readings and liturgy
- Providing opportunities for children and adults to reflect, contemplate their own thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- Using the centrality of prayer – personal silent prayer, personal shared prayers, collective prayers, writing prayers; all prayer will be invitational
- Using the liturgical colours on the altar, cross and presentation backgrounds we mirror the church year.
- Involving young children and members of the wider community to participate in collective worship and activities within the parish
- Presenting and creating displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas, thoughts and questions
- Through providing a peaceful environment enabling stillness, reflection and prayer as well as times for a joyous environment with singing, music, dance, drama, etc

Central attributes of an act of worship

The setting will endeavour to fulfil the following 'central attributes' of worship:

- Gathering** Making worship a special time of the day.
- Engaging** Using the best available techniques to stimulate interest in the content.
- Responding** Ensuring there is time and opportunity for individual, group reflection and thought, so those attending can respond in a variety of ways.
- Sending** Summarising the worship in a meaningful short message used to create an opportunity for those attending to implement the ideas covered and to conclude the worship.



Collective worship should be planned systematically, so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian stories, values and traditions. Worship is led by a variety of people that include school staff, children, representatives from the parish church and members of other Christian denominations.

The centrality of prayer

During the collective worship there will be a time for response and reflection, to ponder on a question, statement or thought. This may also be reflected in an invitational prayer, offered spontaneously by a child or adult, read out or recited. This prayer can be displayed and used in class and setting reflective areas so that:

- Children understand the nature and purpose of prayer
- Children understand the part prayer may play in their lives and the life of the setting community
- Prayer contributes to the spiritual development of individuals and the whole setting community
- There will also be appropriate opportunities for prayer and other worship activities, including reflection, outside of collective worship



The school has 'reflective areas' throughout the building and its grounds to engage children in prayer, including a Spirituality Garden as well as designated Spirituality Spaces in classrooms and Reflection Stations.

Planning and Organisation

Planning

Collective worship is planned systematically so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals.

Organisation

Monday	Whole school weekly liturgy based on the Sunday scripture or our focus bible story led by the Headteacher or Deputy
Tuesday	Whole school church led Collective Worship
Wednesday	Key Stage Singing Collective Worship led by designated staff members
Thursday	Class Picture News Collective Worship led by the Class Teachers
Friday	Whole school Celebration Collective Worship led by the Headteacher or Deputy

Resources

The setting has resources available to support collective worship and these are stored in resources room or the Hall, these includes artefacts, books and music resources. Electronic resources can be found on the school network in: Teachers Resources, Collective Worship.

Communication

The school will communicate with parents our collective worship themes via newsletters and display boards.

Parental involvement

Parents are actively encouraged to participate in collective acts of worship when possible. Parents will be kept informed about the themes of worship at the school through our weekly newsletters which contain a scripture reading and reflection and the collective worship section of the school website.

Responsibilities

The normal expectation within our church school is for all staff to view collective worship as an important part of their own well-being and spiritual development as human beings. All staff attend Collective Worship whenever possible. Staff receive collective worship training from the Headteacher and Collective Worship lead on a regular basis which includes information from the Diocesan Education Team.

At interview all applicants are informed that the setting holds acts of collective worship that promote the Christian ethos and values of the school. The normal expectation will be that staff will participate in and lead collective worship.

Carolyn Wilkinson is responsible for co-ordinating the programme of induction and training for staff.

Suzanne Schneider is responsible for planning and organising collective worship.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship is undertaken by governors and key staff. This process supports the school's self-evaluation and staff development and appraisal. All leaders of collective worship are asked to evaluate continuously, reflect after every worship, to develop and improve their practice.

Review

This policy should be reviewed annually.

References to 'parish' refer to the local parish church to which the school is linked.