



**ST JAMES'**  
Church of England  
Primary School



## Collective worship policy

**Adopted:** October 2020

**Next review:** annually, unless any changes are required prior to this

**Person responsible:** Becky Rowley

**Governors who oversee:** Christian Distinctiveness committee

### Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life of St James' CE Primary. Pupils, staff and parents / carers of all faiths or none are welcome to worship. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It reflects our mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God
- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate Christian festivals, values (see appendices), achievements
- grow in understanding of prayer
- participate in prayer
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values
- through active involvement, participate and respond in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- grow an understanding of God and Jesus' teachings
- show compassion and love for others
- feel safe and affirmed in God's love

### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural

Acts of collective worship will aim to offer opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development:

- appreciate the dignity of the image of God in all human beings through working for social justice and encouraging students to consider the needs of others through charitable service
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer
- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words
- provide a sense of occasion that is distinct from the rest of the school day
- provide the awe and wonder of personal and spiritual human experience within nature
- foster an appreciation of the natural created world and our shared responsibilities for maintaining it
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community

### Inclusive

St James' CE Primary is a faith community that celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages dialogue and understanding. Collective worship, whilst rooted in Anglican tradition, is conducted in a manner which is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all pupils, staff and parents / carers of all faiths or none. We are proud of the diversity of our school community and as such hold collective worship that reflects and celebrates the traditions of other religions, particularly those that are represented in the school and the wider community. Through their Christian character, our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths which exist in our school and local community

- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe
- be appropriate for every student to attend
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the pupils
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership

### Patterns of collective worship

Collective worship takes place in in the main hall, classrooms and on occasions outside. Usually the school will take part in collective worship at St James’ Parish Church to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers’ Service, throughout the school year. We follow the seasons of the liturgical calendar and within this significant festivals and other special days are observed:

These <b>always</b> include:	These are <b>occasionally</b> included:
Harvest, Advent, Christmas, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Easter, Trinity	Pentecost, Candlemas and Epiphany

Whenever worship takes place, it is planned to promote thinking beyond the time given to worship itself.

### Leading worship

Worship has a variety of leaders from both within school and from the local church community. Children are also given opportunities to lead worship during the year. Visitors lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils’ awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

### Planning worship

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. Leaders, including the children, plan the content and activities included in collective worship according to what is most appropriate to the season/theme, and the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils. Throughout their time at our school, children will encounter a wide variety of activities such as dance and drama alongside traditional elements of worship such as prayer and song.

Our worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants; observation and reflection; and evaluations (see appendices). All stakeholders are represented in this review process: pupils, parents / carers, governors, church leaders and staff. The reviews inform the planning of future worship. On occasions leaders, including children, will be asked to submit a plan (see appendices) for their act of collective worship in order for worship to be monitored and evaluated.

### Organisation

Acts of collective worship are regarded as a special moment in the school day and are conducted accordingly. Pupils, staff, parents / carers and all other stakeholders are expected to behave respectfully and thoughtfully throughout. All members of collective worship are invited to participate in worship through song, music, prayer, reflection, discussion or participation. Collective worship is led by a member of staff/leader of the church community and is supported by at least two other members of staff.

Christian values, as chosen by the Church Council, are followed on a half-termly rota and consist of **forgiveness, friendship, honesty, love, peace and perseverance**. Throughout each half term, Wednesday’s collective worship is dedicated to exploring and reflecting upon the chosen value and feelings around it. This is followed up in the reflection areas and reflection time in each KS1 and KS2 class.

Except in weeks during religious festivals and special days in the liturgical calendar, acts of collective worship follow the following structure:

day	theme	time	leader
Monday	Living & Learning Statement	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff
Tuesday	St James’ Church Worship	2.45 – 3.00	church leaders/community
Wednesday	Christian Value	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff / children
Thursday	Bible Story	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff / children
Friday	Achievement Assembly	9.00 – 9.15	teaching staff

Acts of collective worship typically begin and close with our agreed welcome and dismissal (see appendices). The candle should be lit and extinguished at these times.

### Covid-19

Due to Covid-19, collective worship takes place in the classroom for the foreseeable future. As before, it begins and closes with our agreed welcome and dismissal. Due to the flammability of the hand gel we are currently using, a battery-operated candle will be used for the foreseeable future. Collective worship will follow the following pattern with videos/recordings prepared in advance.

day	theme	suggested time	leader
Monday	Living & Learning Statement	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff
Tuesday	St James' Church Worship / Reflection Area response time	2.45 – 3.00	church leaders/community
Wednesday	Christian Value	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff / children
Thursday	Bible Story	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff / children
Friday	Achievement Assembly	9.00 – 9.15	teaching staff

## Prayer and reflection

Prayer is a vital part of our worship. It is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers may include formal or traditional prayer and other more reflective situations of quiet meditation. Pupils who prefer not to pray are encouraged to use these times to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

Our pupils are formally taught and encouraged to know and use the Lord's Prayer and the Grace (see appendices). When appropriate, the vocabulary and semantics are discussed. The Lord's Prayer will be formally said, as a minimum requirement, at the end of Tuesday's collective worship and the Grace will be said at the end of Thursday's assembly and whenever else is appropriate.

A lunchtime prayer (see appendices) is said before lunch and our School Prayer (see appendices) is said at the end of the school day. The children are encouraged to extemporise prayers or suitable messages, or sometimes compilations of prayers made by pupils during times of reflection or collective worship. Prayer may also be used in the classrooms and other appropriate times of the school day.

## Legal requirement

It is a legal requirement that all registered school-age pupils take part in an 'act of worship' each day. These acts of worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character' for the majority of the time. They must also be 'appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils' (1988 Education Reform Act and the Education Act, 1993).

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Every effort is made to show sensitivity towards personal faiths and to include all pupils and staff in collective worship. A parent / carer may make a request for their child(ren) to be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at school. In the first instance, we ask parents / carers who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the Head of School. Staff also have a right of withdrawal from collective worship; they should inform the Head of Federation of their decision to exercise this right, but should note the requirement that they may be required to assist in the supervision of pupils in collective worship, as necessary.



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## Collective worship policy: appendices

### Our Christian Values chosen from:

honesty  
love

forgiveness  
friendship

peace  
perseverance

### Prayers

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and glory are yours.  
Now and forever.

Amen

#### Lunchtime Prayer

For what we are about to receive,  
may the Lord make us truly thankful.

Amen

#### Welcome

*We light the candle as we say:*

Leader: The Lord is with us.

Response: His Spirit is with us.

#### The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all,  
now and evermore.

Amen

#### School Prayer

Thank-you for the world so sweet.  
Thank-you for the food we eat.  
Thank-you for the birds that sing.  
Thank-you Lord for everything.

Amen

#### Dismissal

Leader: The peace and spirit of Christ be always with you.

Response: And also with you.





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## Planning for collective worship by pupils

Date:		Theme:	
Music:		Children's names or class:	
Main:			
Resources:			
Hymn:			
Prayer:			
How did we do?			



Name:

Date:

Relationship  
to school:

## Content

Was the value and theme made clear?	
Was the content appropriate for the age range?	
Did the content contribute to the spiritual development of the children?	
Were the needs of all the children addressed?	
Was there an opportunity for the children to participate?	
Was there a focus to look at? How was it used?	
Was there an opportunity for children to reflect on what is being discussed?	
Was there an opportunity to worship God?	
Were links made to our Christian values?	
Was it distinctively Christian?	

## Delivery

Did the leader hold the children's attention?	
Did the leader check the children's understanding or explain things well for them?	
Did the leader make appropriate use of their environment?	