



ST JAMES'
Church of England
Primary School



Policy for collective worship

Date: September 2023

Introduction

St James' CE Primary's vision is to be a happy and healthy place to achieve and believe. Collective worship is central to the life of St James' CE Primary and helps to support this vision. Worship offers the children and others in our school an opportunity to reflect on and engage with values and issues in the context of our Christian ethos. It shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

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

- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values
- show compassion and love for others
- nurture pupils' personal development, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally
- worship God
- celebrate Christian festivals, values (see appendices), achievements
- recognise festivals from other religions in the context of celebrating equality and diversity
- grow in understanding of prayer and participate in prayer (invitational)
- participate and respond in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- develop an understanding of God and Jesus' teachings
- feel safe and affirmed in God's love

Pupils, staff and parents / carers of all faiths or none are welcome to worship.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural

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

- provide pupils with opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives through music, images and words
- nurture reflection, meditation and prayer
- 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
- 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
- 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:

- 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, we 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 always include:	These are occasionally 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 school and the local church community.

Pupils are integral to collective worship. Members of the Junior Leadership Team, supported by other pupils, play a key part in leading worship:

- choosing music
- welcoming children into the hall for worship
- planning, organising and leading some worships or parts of worships eg choose and read a prayer
- evaluating worships

In addition, children are encouraged to contribute during worship, and following worship by contributing their views (Tuesday Views Day) and thoughts (Thoughts on Thursday).

Visitors from St James' Church community often lead collective worship. They are given guidance on our worship policy.

Organisation

Our acts of worship are carefully planned to ensure a balance between content and experience. They 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:

day	theme
Autumn 1	perseverance
Autumn 2	compassion
Spring 1	honesty
Spring 2	forgiveness
Summer 1	peace
Summer 2	courage

Throughout each half-term, Wednesday's collective worship is dedicated to exploring and reflecting upon the chosen value and feelings around it.

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

day	theme	time	leader
Monday	Living & Learning Statement	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff
Tuesday	Tuesday Views Day	2.45 – 3.00	Head of School
Wednesday	Christian Value	2.45 – 3.00	church leaders
Thursday	Thoughts on Thursday – Bible story	2.45 – 3.00	teaching staff
Friday	Achieve and Believe	2.45 – 3.10	Head of School

Acts of collective worship begin and close with our agreed welcome and dismissal. The candle is lit and extinguished at these times.

Reference is made to the Trinity at the start of worship.

Monday's collective worship centres around the Living & Learning statement. It is led with opportunities to reflect and develop on relationships, justice and responsibility and is rooted in our vision and Christian values.

Tuesday Views Day centres around personal development. We explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural questions, equality and diversity, and British values of democracy, rule of law, respect and tolerance, individual liberty. Throughout collective worship, children are invited to reflect and respond.

Wednesday collective worships are an opportunity to consider our Christian values. This could be through Bible stories or other stories with a moral theme.

Thoughts on Thursday features a Bible story which reflects the current half-term's Christian value. The story is read several times over the half-term and we explore the story with different questions, relating it to our own lives.

Achieve and Believe is our name for Friday's achievement assembly. Each week, certificates are handed out to each class: at least one for achievement based on our learning and at least one for believing related to our Living and Learning or Christian values.

Prayer, liturgy 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. 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. When appropriate, the vocabulary and semantics are discussed.

Other prayers are more responsive, based on the content of the worship. Typically, these may offer thanks or ask God for something such as courage or wisdom.

Children are sometimes asked to lead a prayer, whether a traditional prayer or one they have written themselves.

A lunchtime prayer is said before lunch and our School Prayer is said at the end of the school day.

Prayer may also be used at other appropriate times of the school day.

In addition, some prayer takes the form of quiet meditation – a moment of silent reflection.

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 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.

Monitoring and evaluating

Worship is regularly reviewed through discussions with participants; observation and reflection; and evaluations. The reviews involve key stakeholders, including pupils and staff. They inform the planning of future worship.



Collective worship policy: appendices

day	theme	time	leader
Monday	Living & Learning Statement A moment of silent reflection	2.45 – 3.00	teachers
Tuesday	Tuesday Views Day A prayer to respond	2.45 – 3.00	Natalie Beatson
Wednesday	Christian Value A prayer to respond or Lord's Prayer	2.45 – 3.00	church leaders or Ben Freeman
Thursday	Thoughts on Thursday – Bible story 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	2.45 – 3.00	Michaela Palmer or Jamie Kilner
Friday	Achieve and Believe 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	2.45 – 3.10	Natalie Beatson

Prayers and liturgy

Friday: Achieve and Believe worship

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

Welcome – Monday-Thursday collective worship

Christians believe the candle is here to remind us
God the Holy Spirit is all around us, and in *our
happy and healthy place to achieve and believe.*

(Italics is said by pupils and is when the candle is lit.)

Welcome – Friday collective worship

Christians believe:
The Bible is here – through it, God the Father
speaks.
The cross is here – by it, Jesus shows God's love.
The candle is here – to remind us God the Holy
Spirit is all around us, and in *our happy and healthy
place to achieve and believe.*

(Italics is said by pupils and is when the candle is lit.)

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The Bible is here – through it, God the Father
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Spirit is all around us, and in *our happy and healthy
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Thursday: Thoughts on Thursday worship

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

Daily: before lunch

Lunchtime Prayer

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

Amen

Daily: end of day

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

At the end of worship, as we blow out the candle, we
say:

May love and peace be with you all *and also with you.*



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Planning and evaluating for collective worship by pupils

Date:		Theme:	
Music:		Children's names or class:	
Gathering:	Music playing on entrance:		
	Candle:		
	Say words (opening):		
	Focus:		
Engaging:	Resources:		
	Key message:		
Responding:	Reflection time:		
	Hymn:		
	Prayer:		
Sending:	Close:		
	Candle:		
	Music:		
How did we do?			
Evaluation:			
What did you learn?			
Will it make you behave differently? How?			



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Support for our collective worship by leaders and other appropriate adults

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?	



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Collective worship: welcome and ending

Purple text in *italics* is said by pupils if they choose to.

Welcome: Monday – Thursday

As we light the candle, we say...

“Christians believe the candle is here to remind us God the Holy Spirit is all around us, and in *our happy and healthy place to achieve and believe.*”

Welcome: Friday

“Christians believe:

The Bible is here – through it, God the Father speaks.

The cross is here – by it, Jesus shows God’s love...”

As we light the candle, we say...

“...The candle is here – to remind us God the Holy Spirit is all around us, and in *our happy and healthy place to achieve and believe.*”

Reflective moment

Links to Christian teaching

How would God want us to respond?

What would Jesus do?

In silence, let us think about what we have learnt and how it might change what we do?

Dismissal

As we blow out the candle, we say:

“May love and peace be with you all and also with you.”