

St Peter's CE Primary Academy

Collective Worship Policy

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.'

St Peter's CE Primary Academy Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school's aims and ethos. Our vision and values are at the core of all we do. They underpin our teaching, learning and daily relationships and provide a firm foundation for all aspects of our children's development.

Our aim is to provide a happy and caring learning community where every child is known and feels special. We are rightly proud of our pupils, their care for each other and their achievements.

Our Values

We uphold core Christian values which provide the focus for collective worship, class worship, quiet reflection and relationship development.

Our biblical underpinning comes from Colossians 3:23 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart', this is at the heart of all we do at St Peter's. We hold ourselves to the highest standards in all that we do, and our 4 core Christian values of **Respect, Community, Wisdom and Aspiration**, help us to truly work at all we do with all of our heart. We

Our Vision – "Work at it with all your heart"

St. Peter's is a supportive and caring learning community. Our Christian vision is the foundation of everything that we do. As you enter our building, you see a boat like the one used by St Peter and his friends when Jesus was here. It reminds us of the friendship and collaboration they experienced; some of the challenges they overcame; and the amazing things that Jesus did through them.

We say: 'Strive Beyond; Defy Limits'. That is certainly what those disciples of Jesus did, and we really mean it for ourselves. We aim to equip children with a love of learning and passion to succeed. We make education memorable, cutting-edge and challenging. Children will leave St. Peter's having been influenced by our Christian values, equipped as expert learners, and endowed with a rich tapestry of core skills and competencies, to allow them to achieve anything.

Our Aims

We believe that Collective Worship is a significant educational activity which underpins the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff. It reflects and explores the school's distinctive character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners.

Collective worship is planned to provide all members of the school community opportunities to:

- Worship God in an inclusive and sensitive way. It should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith,
- Learn from Biblical and Christian teaching.
- Develop a personal understanding of salvation and The Trinity – God the Father, Son

and Holy Spirit.

- Develop and reflect on a common ethos and shared values.
- Personally respond to worship in a way that impacts daily life.
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet.
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection.
- Begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship in the Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements of those within the school and to take part in local, national and international occasions of significance, including festivals.

Collective Worship Programme

Our worship programme is on a two-year cycle, following both the fruits of the spirit and key biblical figures and links to one of our Christian Values each term:

Year A

Term 1: Gratitude

Term 2: Love

Term 3: Kindness

Term 4: Joy

Term 5: Self-Control

Term 6: Hope

Year B

Term 1: Who is St Peter?

Term 2: Who is Moses?

Term 3: Who are the Women in the Bible?

Term 4: Who is David?

Term 5: Who is Daniel?

Term 6: Who is Joseph?

Worship songs are planned termly and carefully chosen to reflect our values and are key in expressing personal spirituality. We believe that worship through music is a core element of our collective worship and provides an opportunity to praise God and to express a range of emotions such as joy and wonder. Our worship songs should contain words and style of music which supports this.

Leading Worship

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4-stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'Engaging' 'Responding' 'Sending'.

Gathering

- We gather together and greet each other.
- We all come to play a part in this community.
- We are preparing to meet God.

Engaging

- We engage with the big things and the little things in life.
- We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible.
- We are listening for God's message for us.

Responding

- We respond to what we have heard and seen.
- We respond together as individuals.
- We are given the opportunity to worship God.

Sending

- We are sent out to love and serve one another and to make a difference in the world.
- We are all dismissed with God's blessing.

We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting and extinguishing a candle, beginning with our opening prayer and closing with a prayer and our school bible verse.

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of our worship. Our unique school prayer, which is used during collective worship, is very special to us and there is a strong sense of ownership amongst us. We also use 'The Lord's Prayer' and regularly reflect on the special meanings behind this Christian family prayer.

Children also have an opportunity to reflect and pray at any time through the use of our reflection areas in our classrooms and our reflection area by the boat in the ILZ, which is renewed regularly.

Our Worship Structure is:

Monday – Whole School Worship

Tuesday – Class/Phase Worship – supported by Clergy & Staff from the Bridge Project

Wednesday – Worship lead through singing/music and a worship connected to our value of wisdom. (These run alternative weeks)

Thursday – Class worship inspired by iSingPop

Friday – Celebration Worship

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through our collective worship leader & a group of pupils in the collective Worship Council. These Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of collective worship. They are also involved in the reflection of worship.

Visitors

We warmly welcome visitors to lead our daily act of worship. Children look forward to regular worship which is led by clergy and lay volunteers from Bemerton Parish and 'The Bridge Project'.

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Legal Status

The Act of Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Governing Body in consultation with the Headteacher. It will be carried out in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act and with the Trust Deed of the school, in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Church of England; although in accordance with modern ecumenical good practice it may reflect and draw upon non-Anglican (Christian) traditions. This policy has been drawn up by the Headteacher, in consultation with the teaching staff and with the approval of the Governing Body.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Head of School.

Review: Summer 2026