



# **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

**January 2018**

**Signed:**  
**Headteacher: Alison Gibson**

**Signed:**  
**On behalf of the Governing Body**

**Proposed Review Date: January 2019**

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

Our mission statement says that: *“Learning, growing, achieving and caring together within our Christian family”*.

The Aims of our School are:

- To help everyone realise their full potential
- To promote spiritual, moral and social growth
- To understand the fast changing, diverse world in which we live
- To encourage intellectual and physical development
- To learn about and live our Christian Faith
- To promote mutual respect and responsibility

And to wholeheartedly play our part, whether that part is to learn, to lead, to teach or to support others

This policy is intended to reflect that statement and build upon it. Children need to grow up within a stable framework of beliefs and values, as an aided school we are able to contribute to this through our act of collective worship.

### AUDIENCE

This policy is intended for all staff, governors, parents and other interested parties. Copies are placed on the teachers drive, and the office computer. Copies are available on request.

### AIMS

1. To develop, through daily worship, the children’s knowledge and understanding of the Anglican faith by reflecting its beliefs, practices and values.
2. To enrich the children’s lives by building upon, or introducing them to, a relationship with God giving them a greater understanding of Him and themselves.
3. To enrich the children’s experiences of prayer, worship and hymns.
4. To provide a time for thought and reflection and to promote spiritual well-being.
5. To promote a sense of awe and wonder about God, His Creation and ourselves as a part of His world.

## WORSHIP

Worship at St. Paul's is a special time for all children and staff to share our school Christian values and reflect on how we can live our lives to support one another and grow together.

**'Learning, growing, achieving and caring together within our Christian family' is at the heart of our Mission statement.**

Worship themes are planned for the year and follow a Gospel theme each half term. The themes are explored further in class through RE lessons, Art, Music and Drama. Children's work, thoughts and reflections are displayed in class, on the Worship board, in Church and are an essential part of our learning environment. Throughout the year the work is added to our 'Ethos Book.' Additional themes include special days in the Christian calendar and special events.

The Headteacher and Vicar will meet to decide on collective worship ideas and when worship will take place in church.

The completed pattern for worship will be distributed to all staff, the Vicar and a copy placed on the parent notice board. A complete record of the themes for collective worship are kept in the Headteachers' room in line with the recommendations of the diocesan advisory service.

Example of worship in one academic year:

### **Academic year 2017-201: Worship themes**

Autumn 1: Generosity & Harvest

Autumn 2: Compassion & Christmas

Spring 1: Courage & Candlemas

Spring 2: Forgiveness & Lent & Easter

Summer 1: Friendship & Pentecost

Summer 2: Respect & Trinity

Every class has a worship table linked to a special theme, season, topic or event valued by the class and this provides a focus point in class worship.

## ORGANISATION

It is a legal requirement that an act of collective worship takes place daily. Daily worship will take place at St. Paul's and will be so organized as to be appropriate for all pupils and staff. Parents do have a right to withdraw their child but the governing body will not make any arrangements for pupils who are withdrawn - this is clearly stated in the school prospectus. All staff are required in an Aided school to attend daily acts of collective worship.

It should be noted that approx: once per half-term worship will take place in St. Paul's church and will be led by a member of the clergy team. The date and timing will be detailed in our termly planning. Parents, family and friends are warmly invited to church worship.

In addition each class will say a grace before lunch (chosen by class teacher) and a prayer to close the school day (again chosen by class teacher).

Each week the pattern of worship follows the following timetable:

Monday: Whole school led by the Head Teacher

Tuesday: Class worship led by the class teacher or in Y.6 by the children who plan, prepare and deliver their own worship

Wednesday: Y.R, 1 & 2 led by KS 1 teacher. Y.3, 4, 5 & 6 led by KS 2 teacher on a rota or Hymn singing

Thursday Whole school led by the Vicar of St. Paul's Church: Class worship led by the class teacher or in Y.6 by the Children who plan, prepare and deliver their own worship

Friday: Celebration assembly at 2.30pm to which Parents, Carers and friends are warmly invited.

Once every half term one class will invite parents and family members to a whole school worship led by the children.

Worship begins with music, the lighting of a candle or the introduction of a special focus such as a vase of flowers, an image, a cross, a natural object or significant artefact. The children are told that this is a special time to think and reflect on Christian messages and values. There is time to listen, observe, participate, reflect, be still and sing. Everyone in worship can sing hymns which are accompanied on a DVD or a CD. Prayers are said. Worship concludes with the children departing to class whilst music is played. Older pupils escort children back to their classes.

At regular intervals a '**Worship chair**' is introduced in worship and placed in school for children to contribute their thoughts and feelings about the theme following the whole school collective worship. It is intended that the provision of the chair with artefacts, pictures, questions and suggested activities allows the children the opportunity to think about their feelings, relationships and their ability to make a difference to their communities. Children who take part in the activities are given the opportunity to develop a range of skills. These skills include;

- Interpretation
- Reflection
- Empathy
- Application
- Expression
- Self-understanding

The on-going activities from worship are designed to promote positive attitudes such as **curiosity** to explore religious ideas through reflection, empathy and imagination. In addition they encourage **respect** to recognise the needs and concerns of others and to develop a balanced sense of self-worth and value.

## PRAYERS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Whilst those leading collective worship will choose appropriate prayers to use for that day, specific prayers have been identified for regular use. These are included at appendix 1.

## RESOURCING

Resources for collective worship can be found in the cupboard in the hall. In addition the R.E. resources also contain materials that are suitable for use in acts of collective worship.

## ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR

Collective worship is co-ordinated by the Headteacher in consultation with the Vicar and the Governing body. It will be the responsibility of the co-ordinator to (i) regularly review and, if necessary, update the policy. (ii) consult with the Vicar regarding themes for collective worship (iii) keep the Governing body informed (iv) make provision for appropriate training that may be required by new staff or governors (v) make use of support and advice given by the Diocesan Board of Education and the advisory team based at Blackburn (vi) ensure there are adequate and appropriate resources for collective worship.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Collective worship is made accessible to all pupils in the school regardless of gender, race religion or social background. It is intended that the format and themes used will provide for all.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

All pupils will be able to contribute to Collective Worship and will be encouraged to do so. Because of the nature of our Collective Worship those pupils identified as having special needs should be able to contribute as well as none SEN pupils and worship should be accessible to all children.

## MONITORING, EVALUATING

Whilst the co-ordinator has the specific responsibility to monitor and evaluate Collective Worship, all staff will be involved as part of the school monitoring policy. In addition the Vicar and Governors need to reflect upon the provision made and offer advice and suggestions for improvement

## APPENDIX 1

Traditional version of Lords Prayer

The Grace

Lord, bless our school, that working together and playing together we may learn to serve you and to serve one another. Amen.

The Lord be with you. RESPONSE: And also with you.

Lord in your mercy. RESPONSE: Hear our prayer.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. RESPONSE: And also with you.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. RESPONSE: In the name of Christ, Amen.