

Collective Worship Policy Statement

Created: Autumn Term 2018

Next Review: Autumn Term 2019

This policy should be implemented within the context of the vision, aims and values of our Church School.

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for collective worship at St. Peter's School. It was developed through a process of consultation with teaching staff. It was recommended for approval by the Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee and ratified by the full Governing Body.

We aim to:

- Foster a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty, mystery and power of the world and to bring pupils to the threshold of worship.
- Allow reflection on the fundamental questions of life and focus attention away from concerns of the moment to concerns of the eternal.
- Provide an opportunity for celebration, thanksgiving and sharing of emotions such as love, joy, hope, sadness, fear and loss.
- Foster a concern for the needs of other people.
- Provide a time for sharing successes and failures in personal, school and community life.
- Provide an experience of being part of a caring community.
- Foster new insights about life and empathy for others.

In order to achieve these purposes we adopt the following practices:

- Acts of Collective Worship are at the centre of children's lives and a distinctive time of day (at the end of the day) is set aside for these special occasions.
 - Collective Worship takes place in the hall on Monday and is led by the collective worship coordinator.
 - On Tuesday teachers lead a class worship, following with the theme of worship for the week, including elements of SEAL and any class specific PSHE issues and needs as they arise during worship.
 - On Wednesday all children engage with singing worship which encompasses songs and hymns and prayerful reflection.
 - On Thursday the children have buddy worship, led jointly by a key stage 2 teacher and a key stage one teacher. This gives opportunity for collaborative thinking around the theme for the week as well as opportunity for children to contribute their own ideas and share their thoughts with their class buddy and brings a sense of togetherness and community.
 - On Friday we give opportunity for celebration, thanksgiving and sharing of achievements and successes and rounding up the theme of the week.
- At the end of the day there is a short prayer in every classroom, as well as before lunch.
- We provide a wide variety of approaches towards worship taking into account the fact that we are all different and have different preferences and needs.
- We encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in worship offered.
- The collective worship coordinator offers support to teaching staff in their deliverance of class-based worship, detailing weekly the aims and ideas that could be delivered to classes.
- The difficulty of eliciting responses from differing children with the ages of 4 and 11 is acknowledged and many discussions are taken up at the appropriate level in the classroom, class worship and buddy worship provide opportunity to further discuss issues and reflections as they arise.
- The importance of staff and pupils in the development of a whole-school ethos is strengthened in shared worship in which we support the promotion of Christian values. In appointing new staff the

Governors seek candidates who will actively support the Christian ethos and aims of a Church School.

- Parents are made aware in the School Prospectus of the Aims of the School (Mission Statement) and that as a Church School we regularly worship God together. All children are encouraged to attend certain Acts of Worship but are also informed of their legal right to withdraw their children.
- Whilst most of worship is non-denominational, we wish our pupils to be mindful of our distinctiveness and to value our own traditions. We broadly follow the Christian calendar and encourage the children to participate in and reflect upon major events in the life of Christ and the main religious festivals.
- We make plans and keep records of acts of worship but allow time for the considerable number of topics which arise spontaneously and which must be considered immediately.
- The collective worship coordinator has the responsibility for and undertakes organising a pattern of meaningful worship. They works closely with Staff and Governors to ensure that all necessary discussion, training and liaison is carried out in order to implement this Policy.
- We learn from and about Christianity and learn something of other faiths represented in Britain.

Monitoring

Monitoring takes place as part of the school’s monitoring cycle. The collective worship leader and RE and Worship governor regularly monitor worship. Governor visits take place half termly and regular church and school community meetings take place to review and reflect on the development of worship in the school.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the schools’ policy review schedule. The head teacher is responsible for reporting to the governors’ Teaching and Learning committee about the quality of its implementation and its impact on standards. In the light of this, policy amendments may be made.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Child Protection Policy and procedures and safeguarding procedures.

Signed.....
Chair of Governors

Date.....