St Peter & St Paul CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. It is an inclusive, invitational and inspirational experience which allows people of all faith and non to take part without compromising their personal values. It offers pupils, staff, parents and visitors the chance to reflect on values and issues within the context of Christian tradition. It will nurture spiritual growth, enhance social understanding, explore beliefs from the children's own cultural heritage and enable children to explore moral issues within the context of Christianity. It will reflect the rich traditions of prayer and worship that characterise the worldwide community of Christians. It should be an enjoyable and uplifting experience for adults and children alike.

Legal Requirements

All maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development.
Collective worship in county schools and equivalent grant-maintained schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. (DFE Circular 1/94)
Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the daily act of collective worship.

Introduction

Collective worship at St Peter and St Paul is set in the context of our school values, the Lincoln Diocesan Vision for Church Schools (June 2024) and is underpinned by the wisdom and teaching of the Church of England. Worship is values led and enables children to reflect on how particular values and issues affect them, their family and the community.
Collective worship will provide the opportunity to:-
Our collective worship provides the pupils and staff the opportunity to:

- worship God;
- experience a variety of styles of worship;
- celebrate:
    - Christian festivals;
    - school values;
    - achievements;
- grow in understanding of and participation in prayer;
- develop a reflective approach to life and reflect on Christian values
- develop as a community based in Christian values;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship;
- develop an understanding of Christianity as a varied, living, worldwide faith;
- feel valued, safe and affirmed.
- Develop an understanding of spirituality through a shared language and experience moments of joy, awe, wonder, stillness, reflection and, at appropriate times, sadness

Agreed Procedure

- The worship rota will be planned half-termly by the SIAMS lead with suggested resources for staff to use or change as they prefer. The worship rota is a working document and may change to reflect the needs of school and staff. A long term worship plan is in place on a 2 year rolling programme and will be reviewed annually (Appendix iii- long term plan)
- Half-termly worship will be centred around:-

a) one of the school values with other worships reflecting local and global issues or festivals
b) the parables and stories of Jesus

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c) the Diocesan Vision for education
d) celebrations that are relevant to the school and its community
e) News and events that develop their personal, social, emotional and spiritual development through resources such as jigsaw worship and picture news

- All members of the teaching team will lead worship on a rotational basis with the exception of new members of staff in their first term. ECTs will lead worship in their final term.
- Worship will follow the GERS structure (Gather, Engage, Respond, Send)
- Worship will include a range of modern songs and hymns as well as traditional hymns and classical music. This will be chosen to fit the theme and values
- Parents will be invited to a weekly act of collective worship which will usually be led by the Head Teacher or local Clergy
- Visitors are encouraged and will come from a range of traditions including some from other faiths where available and appropriate
- Visitors which support the children to live safely and responsibly in the local and global community will be encouraged e.g. Canal and River Trust and RNLI (water safety), Jerry Green's (Dog safety and charity work)
- A range of resources are available for worship including Values for Life, Flipping Praise, Child-Led Worship, Jumping Fish's Explore series, Out of the Box assemblies and Roots and Fruits as well as other assembly books and websites.
- Children from Year 5 and 6 will be given the opportunity to become an elected worship leader. They will take up the post for 2 years. There will be 4 leaders from each community and they will work primarily with the SIAMS lead to lead and evaluate worship both in our school and, where possible, in liaison with other schools. They will work towards earning the "Worship Works" award bronze, silver and gold from the Roots and Fruits Resource.
- During the week, children will engage in a range of different worships including whole-school, choral worship, community worship and celebration worship.

Withdrawal From Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all collective worship and from parts of collective worship. For example, a family may choose that their child joins in with the majority of worship but does not sing due to their own personal beliefs or leaves the hall before the prayer. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos, distinctive Christian character of our school and the invitational nature of our worships, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the Headteacher before making their decision. Any queries about withdrawal from collective worship should be directed to the Headteacher.

We acknowledge that teachers also have the right to withdraw from collective worship. However, as a church school, all members of staff are asked to support the Christian ethos of the school and therefore we expect teaching staff to attend worship. Collective worship cannot be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time. Any member of staff wishing to withdraw from worship should discuss their wishes with the Headteacher. Should a member of staff still seek to withdraw following this discussion, they should provide written notice to the Headteacher.

Is this working?

- Are pupils able to discuss their thoughts and feelings about values, worldviews and explore their thoughts about questions relating to spirituality?
- Do pupils, staff and parents feel they are able to participate in worship without compromising their own values?
- Can pupils talk about the story of Christianity and do they show an understanding of the diverseness of worldwide Christianity?

- Do pupils feel safe and affirmed in worship time?

This policy refers to

- The Diocesan Vision for Church Schools 2023- Lincoln Diocesan Website
- Long term worship plan (Appendix iii)

Policy Written: September 2026
Policy Ratified:
Policy to be reviewed: September 2029