



# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

<b>Developed in consultation with:</b>	Governing Body, SLT, Staff, LA
<b>For use by:</b>	Governors, Staff, parents, volunteers, visitors and external service providers
<b>Reviewed:</b>	Autumn 2018
<b>Agreed by:</b>	PCC
<b>Next policy review date:</b>	Autumn 2021
<b>Signed Chair of Governors:</b>	
<b>Signed Headteacher:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	Oct 2018
<b>To be read in conjunction with:</b>	Religious Education Policy



## **1. Introduction:**

Leigh St. John's C of E Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School. The core narrative of our school is Jesus. We aspire for our community to be a community of grace, one that is enriched in love and one that 'glows in the dark' through the overflow of God's love for us. We seek to empower our children and staff to do justice, love mercifully and achieve great things – hearts and minds connected.

This document is a statement of aims, principles and strategies regarding collective worship at St. John's Church of England Primary School, in accordance with the trust deed of the school. It has taken into consideration the recommendations of the Manchester Diocese.

This document was reviewed during the Autumn Term 2018 through a process of consultation with teaching staff, governors and clergy.

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher, the Governors and all the teaching Staff.

## **2. Our Mission Statement:**

As a Church of England School, we will provide the framework for children to develop within a Christian community, to their full potential.

We will provide the environment to enable the children to acquire and display:

- . A respect for others and themselves.
- . A respect for personal property.
- . Courtesy when dealing with others.
- . Self-discipline to work co-operatively.

## **3. Intent:**

The school serves an area that has historically employed miners and cotton workers. These industries are now non-existent and most pupils' experience of the world of work centres around retail, hospitality and non-skilled work. Thus, the school curriculum, wider opportunities and

enrichment programmes effectively meet the needs of our pupils, opening their hearts and minds to what is available to them. Through the implementation of our curriculum, we seek to fill the gaps from our pupils' backgrounds and previous life experiences. Our curriculum coupled with our unique school charter drive the aspiration to ensure every child is provided with opportunities to make informed choices about the next stages in their learning and their career. Teachers will make explicit the careers that can stem from learning each subject within the school curriculum and they will promote high aspirations for each child. Teachers seek to develop in their pupils a wider sense of spirituality, enabling children to have a relationship with themselves, other people, the environment and God.

#### **4. Motto:**

Our motto for worship is: "Come celebrate together."

#### **5. What is Collective Worship?**

At St. John's Church of England Primary School, collective worship is a special time and a crucial part of each day where we can come together as a family to collectively celebrate our faith. It is attended by all pupils, staff and any visitors, including governors in school are also very welcome to join in. All acts of worship reflect the Anglican status of the school; however we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members and we frequently make reference to the beliefs of others. While the majority of acts of worship in our school are distinctly Christian, we also hold assemblies and special events that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community, consistent with the policy of the Church of England to affirm other religions. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church in accordance with important festivals within the Church's calendar.

Daily worship provides opportunities for pupils and staff to explore and share beliefs; consider the importance of prayer, reflection and stillness; think about the needs of others and develop a sense of community, part of a greater whole – the Church and God's family. Worship also provides an opportunity for pupils to explore the 'big story' of the bible and gain a good, sequential understanding of God's Big Plan.

## **6. Aims and Objectives:**

It is our aim at St. John's Church of England Primary School that worship should:

- reflect the Mission Statement of the school
- be carefully planned
- be appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of the pupils
- offer opportunities to worship God
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the distinctly Christian vision of the school and its associated values
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on human existence
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality, to grow in faith and as young people
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community
- respect and develop awareness of other faiths.

## **7. The Organisation of Collective Worship:**

Our Acts of Worship, which are held daily in our school hall, are based on Christian belief in God the Holy Trinity, and support pupils' developing understanding of key concepts within Christianity and with their own understanding of the world and wider religious literacy. Our typical schedule for worship is:

Monday – Class based

Tuesday – Whole School (led by Revd. Crinks)

Wednesday – Whole School (Headteacher)

Thursday – Whole School Superstars Celebration (Deputy Head teacher)

Friday – Whole School (Headteacher)

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that this time is a period of calm reflection and they are therefore encouraged to respond thoughtfully and to enter into a quiet attentive stillness. We regard it as a special time of 'togetherness', which refers to one of our eight core school values, and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We encourage learners to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, movies and always a focal point at the front for the attention of the children. This may include a variety of symbols and candles. Our aims are to help the children to experience, in a way appropriate for them, a sense of the loving presence of God, and to root our values learning in key Christian virtues.

In worship the values that are central to the life of our school are:

- Love
- Friendship
- Togetherness
- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Believe
- Kindness
- Trust

### **8. Planning for Collective Worship:**

Collective worship is treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. The content of Collective Worship is varied and there should be evidence of this in planning.

Each week there is a theme for Collective worship based on a combination of Values for Life, Understanding Christianity and the materials provided by the Diocese of Manchester etc. The Collective Worship leader publishes these at the beginning of the year. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme and the Collective Worship leader supports this through an electronic library stored on the school's learning platform app. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The collective worship leader takes the overall responsibility for outlining the weekly planning and drawing together appropriate resources into the school's electronic library stored securely on the school's learning platform app. All those leading collective worship are asked to log onto the learning platform and familiarise themselves with the content for their pending act of worship in advance of implementation. At this point they are expected to adjust the content according to the approach they prefer to take e.g. drama, PowerPoint etc. (in as much detail as they would any other learning activity). Focused staff meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate Acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term.

Reverend Kevin Crinks, known to our children as '*Father Kevin*' is the 'Parish Priest in Charge' at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Leigh. Each Tuesday Reverend Crinks leads our children and staff in worship when he delivers his weekly Assembly. In addition to leading our pupils in worship at school, Father Kevin also invites our children and their families to join him and the clergy in special services and celebrations at St. Mary's Church.

Once a week worship takes place in the classroom and the school makes use of the classroom prayer and reflection areas as well as holding crosses and worry boxes.

Our 'Superstars Assembly', which is held once a week, reflects the achievements and learning of the children. These assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, as well as for their values in action. They play an important part in promoting the Christian vision of the school, which is rooted in the biblical passage Micah 6:8. At this special weekly assembly one child is awarded the prestigious '**St. John's Heart Award**' for consistently

displaying our school values. Other children are awarded our values wrist bands for the outliving of our school values.

One of the schools Foundation Governors has a role monitoring Collective worship at the school and we welcome governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

### **9. The JAM (Jesus and Me) Squad**

We seek to encourage pupils in the planning, resourcing and evaluation of collective worship and we do this effectively through our JAM Squad. Members of JAM are assigned specific roles and responsibilities and contribute to different committees during the course of the year. For example, some pupils are responsible for creating a beautiful focal point at the front of the hall. Others are responsible for writing prayers that match the theme of our worship. Some pupils use video to evaluate acts of worship, whilst some create the weekly sign for the theme. Through weekly meetings with the collective worship leader, members of JAM are able to voice the views of others regarding collective worship and are part of the evaluation process. We do this formally after each act of worship and record it electronically, as well as informally e.g. canvassing pupils' views on Top Table each week. JAM Squad regularly seek the views of their classmates and reports these findings to the worship leader.

### **10. Typical Structure of Worship**

- Music video to come into Worship – encouraging the children to take time to be calm and still to allow us to hear and listen to God
- Greeting and lighting of the Candle
- “The Lord is here” with the response “His Sprit is with us”
- Hymn/ Song
- Slideshow template, including the bible passage and God’s Plan
- Story / video stimulus
- Reflection- something to think about as we lead our lives/ how will we lead our lives differently
- Prayers- quiet private prayer/ Lord’s Prayer/ Children’s own Prayers

### **11. Collective Worship Tables/Displays**

- Cross & Praying Hands
- Prayer box/ collection of children’s own prayers

- Children's reflections of Collective Worship can include pictures/ quotes from younger children
- Bible- age appropriate
- Candle
- Display relating to the school's values and biblical reference
- Cloth to cover the table
- Portfolio of Collective worship – may include events attended, photographs, piece of children's work

## **12. Community Involvement:**

It is intended that collective worship nurtures links between school, home, parish and the local community. We also welcome parents' attendance at our Special Assemblies (held in school, periodically) and family services e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the school year. They take place in school and in church where they are led by Reverend Kevin Crinks. Annually pupils from school take part in singing carols to senior citizens, shoppers etc. Christmas and Easter productions are shared with the local community.

Each Classroom has a Reflection Area, whereby Collective Worship is reinforced and provides opportunities for children to extend their prayer and thought processes. The school actively promotes the pupils' engagement in prayer and reflection outside of worship through its thought-provoking displays. God's Big Plan is also a focal point inside each classroom and provides an opportunity for children to reflect on the big stories and concepts within the Bible.

The themes for collective worship are discussed and reviewed after canvassing the views of staff and pupils. Informal discussion on effectiveness is carried out and used to influence future planning. Parents are informed weekly via the school newsletter of the themes that will be explored during collective worship. Our thought of the week is also shared.

## **13. Cross-curricular themes:**

Collective Worship at St. John's reflects and shapes the core values and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. Social action, global citizenship, courageous advocacy and care of the environment are key foci.

## **14. Equal Opportunities:**

All children will have the opportunity to share in quality acts of collective worship. At St. John's we ensure that collective worship is accessible to all, offers the opportunity, without compulsion, for both pupils and staff to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.

### **15. Collective Worship Leaders Role:**

It is expected that the Collective Worship Leader will take a lead part in the planning and review procedure. The Leader is available in an advisory role to aid leaders of worship in implementing quality collective worship.

### **16. Entitlement and Rights of Withdrawal:**

The Education Reform Act of 1988 outlines that all children should take part in daily collective worship. Although St. John's is an Aided Church of England School, the worship is appropriate for all Christians. We seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. It is hoped, however, that all pupils will attend and any issue related to this can be discussed further with the Headteacher.

This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

At St. John's Church of England Primary School teachers including the head teacher don't have the right of withdrawal.

### **17. Resources:**

The worship leader stores resources for worship electronically on the school's Learning Platform app. Artefacts, books and materials for the focal point are stored in the hall storage cupboard. CD's are stored securely in the headteachers office. The school has a budget of approx. £500- £1000 to develop these resources annually and it is the responsibility of the collective worship leader to oversee this spending.

## **18.                    Monitoring and review:**

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious

education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship and supports the school with all issues relating to SIAMS.

**Reviewed: December 2018 by, (Foundation Governor)**

**Collective Worship Leader: Mrs E Lightfoot (Headteacher)**

