



St. Peter's School

A Church of England Primary School

**For the children to realise their God-given gifts and talents,
and grow following the example of Jesus**

*Matthew 19:26- But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man
this is impossible but with God all things are possible"*

WORSHIP POLICY

As with Religious Education, we at St. Peter's School regard Collective Worship as an important part of each child's experience in school. As a Christian School the Governors seek to provide a spiritual experience with the atmosphere of collective worship providing an opportunity for children to worship and build a relationship with God.

AIMS OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship must be appropriate for all the children, developing a deep sense of community together. It will develop spiritual and moral awareness.

- To allow children the opportunity to worship God in an appropriate atmosphere.
- To give children a special time for spiritual reflection and thought.
- To enable children to develop a sense of awe and wonder.
- To help children develop their own beliefs.
- To help children develop their own understanding of Spirituality
- To provide the opportunity for participating in acts of celebration.
- To enable children to affirm and develop a strong set of moral values based around the Gospel Values.
- To develop a understanding of the Trinitarian nature of Christianity

CONTENT OF WORSHIP

Collective worship is planned for each term with our vision in mind under an umbrella theme that weekly themes are then planned from. The themes change each term and reflect the needs of the school. All worship is explicitly Christian. The weekly worship theme is introduced by the Head on Monday, and then broken down

to explore the theme more explicitly. This is done by the Deputy Head-teacher on Tuesday, Vicar on Wednesday and concluded by the Head-teacher on a Thursday. Thursday is also an opportunity for children to share their achievements. On Friday, children take part in a Whole School worship through Song. It is important that the worship is as interactive and engaging as possible for the children.

We have a Worship Book that is circulated to a new class each week. The children are asked to reflect on the worship and fill out the reflection so that we can better respond to their needs. Furthermore, they then write the prayers for the Vicar's assembly the following week.

Major Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost are always celebrated.

The Headteacher is responsible for keeping records of the whole school Acts of Worship. The views on the collective worship are gathered from the staff, Vicar, pupils and also from the Church School Liaison Group.

ORGANISATION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Children are escorted to the Hall and sit quietly in silence or listen to music as a preparation for collective worship. Each Worship begins with the school candle prayer that staff and pupils recite together. Often a child is picked to light the candle on our worship table at the front of the hall. There is always a clear link to a bible reference that is used as the basis for the worship and to explore the theme. A variety of resources and internet links are used to engage the children and the children will take part through acting etc. Often, children will lead a prayer at the end of Worship based on the theme or use their class prayer books to lead the school in prayer. We will often say the Lord's Prayer during Worship too. A song will be sung during each worship that is put on the rota by the Music subject leader. Staff are present for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday worship.

The format for assemblies/collective worship is as follows:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Grouping</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Monday	10.00	Whole School Act of Worship	Head
Tuesday	10.00	Whole School Act of Worship	Deputy
Wednesday	10.00	Whole School Act of Worship	Vicar
Thursday	10.00	Whole School worship through Song	Music Subject Leaders
Friday	10.00	Whole School Act of Worship	Head and pupils

Visitors who assist the School deliver worship include local Clergy, Education Officers from various charities & missionary societies.

Collective Worship also occurs at the following times:

Lunchtime - Classes sing or say grace.

End of the Day - In each class a prayer is recited before children depart. This can be taken from the class prayer books.

On residential journeys specific acts of worship will be carried out.

SCHOOL EUCHARIST

Once a term the Eucharist is celebrated as follows:

Autumn Term - All Saints Day

Spring Term - Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday.

Summer Term - St. Peter's Day

Year groups take it in turn to be blessed at the Eucharist services and throughout the year all children in all year groups will be blessed.

At the beginning and end of every term a Church Service is held to which parents, governors and parishioners are invited. The school celebrates Harvest Festival at the church through a special service. Education Sunday takes place annually during the family service at St Peter's Church and the children now lead the serving, singing, readings and reflections.

All year groups attend all the School Church Services with the exception of The Foundation Stage who will attend all services except the very first one when they have just joined the school.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Prior to admission, parents are informed of the religious foundation of the School and the links with St. Peter's Church, South Weald. The Christian content of Collective Worshipping and Religious Education is made clear and their rights of withdrawal are explained on request. Under the 1988 Education Act teachers also have the right to withdraw from Collective Worship.

APPENDIX 1- Section 48 Characteristics of Worship

1. The central attributes of collective worship and to what extent they:

- a. develop the Christian vision and ethos of the school and contribute to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of participants
- b. ensure worship is relevant to the life experience of the whole school community
- c. ensure worship is engaging, inspiring and transformative
- d. provide opportunities to understand and celebrate the religious festivals in the Church's year

2. The theological basis of collective worship and the extent to which it:

- a. reflects local Anglican/Methodist traditions and practices, including the Eucharist/ Communion where appropriate
- b. contributes to learners' understanding of Christian theological concepts and beliefs at an appropriate level
- c. reflects the Trinitarian nature of Christianity
- d. gives the Bible a significant place in worship

3. The key elements of an act of worship and the extent to which:

- a. the gathering for worship is enhanced by, for example, music, actions or symbols and by those leading the worship
- b. the engagement and encouragement of participants is grounded in distinctively Christian teaching
- c. participants respond in, for example, praise, the use of silence, songs, guided reflection, prayer and also through their actions
- d. those who lead worship provide an appropriate conclusion to the act of worship

4. The leadership and management of worship and the extent to which:

- a. worship is planned systematically so that there is continuity, variety and clear focus on Christian beliefs and festivals
- b. monitoring, evaluation and planning involves the whole school community and results in improvement