



St John's Church of England Academy

Belonging Believing Becoming



Collective Worship Policy

Date of Review: September 2021

Date of Next Review: September 2022

Responsible Group: LGB



Collective Worship Policy

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful song.” Psalm 100: Verse 2

Vision

Belonging, Believing, Becoming

Growing a creative school community that encourages belonging, nurtures believing and works together to become responsible members of God’s family and the world.

Our vision is rooted in Mark 4: 30-32 ‘The Parable of the Mustard Seed’

Then Jesus said, ‘How can I show you what the kingdom of God is like? What parable can I use to explain it? The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed you can plant in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants. It produces large branches. Even the wild birds can make nests in it and be protected from the sun.’

At St. John's Church of England Academy we believe that every child has the right to a great education. We aim to offer a quality education and to embed Christian values so that every child can achieve their full potential. Every child in our school will have their individual needs supported.

This policy reflects our school core Christian values of ‘Belonging’, ‘Perseverance’, ‘Respect’, ‘Forgiveness’, ‘Truth’, ‘Aspiration’ which form the basis of our termly worship.

Rationale

The School Collective Worship Policy reflects and reinforces the school’s aims and vision. It will demonstrate the partnership between the conduct and content of school worship and the ethos of the whole school based on Christian values of respect, forgiveness, truth, aspiration, perseverance and belonging.

At St John’s Church of England Academy we consider Collective worship to be a significant educational activity that both reflects and explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of all learners. We warmly invite all members of our school community of all faiths or none to join our worship.

Belonging

Perseverance

Respect

Forgiveness

Truth

Aspiration

Collective worships provide an opportunity for our school community to gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to the world. It provides a time when the school can reflect upon the Christianity underlying the values of the school and provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God.

Collective Worship at St John's Church of England Academy will:

- be inspirational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school
- regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching and this should explore and relate to the school's core Christian values
- have a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit enabling all learners to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide.
- challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey. They should understand the value of Prayer, Reflection Stillness
- contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at St John's Church of England Academy include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences;
- developing a culture of learning;
- building a sense of group identity;
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- learning how to behave in a large social group;
- exploring feelings and emotions;
- learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- learning how to respond to a performance;
- making visible the school's leadership;
- developing inner awareness.

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Legal requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

The School meets this requirement and is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. This is stated in the school prospectus and handbook.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Planning Collective worship

Specific time is set aside for this activity and we recognise the importance of marking out the act of Collective Worship from other assembly activities. We attempt to mark out this special time by lighting candles, asking for reflection, stillness and using special words.

Each person leading worship is expected to plan his or her act of worship with the same degree of thoroughness as any other aspect of their teaching. We encourage a 4 stage structure of planning including 'Gathering' 'engaging' 'responding' 'sending'. There should also be space for evaluation.

An Ethos group meets led by the worship co-ordinator meets regularly. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate and amend the Acts of Collective Worship and to plan for the next term.

The views of pupils about collective worship are sought through the Schools Council/Ethos committee. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in the planning leading and monitoring of Collective worship.

Schools governors have a role monitoring Collective worship through membership of the ethos committee at the school.

There are a number of resources available to form the basis of collective worship planning. If you use a specific planning resource to a significant degree you could mention it here. This might include such as 'Values for Life' or 'Roots and Fruits' both available on www.imaginer.co.uk

Pattern of Collective Worship

The programme of acts of Collective Worship is coordinated by Mrs Joanne Peaper.

Acts of worship generally follow themes that are aligned to the school's values but include recognition of the Church's year and make space for other national/international events.

| Day | Person Leading | Venue |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday | SLT | School Hall – 2.50 pm |
| Tuesday | In Class Assembly | School Hall – 2.50 pm |
| Wednesday | Open the Book Team | School Hall – 9.00 am |
| Thursday | Local clergy / Worship through music | School Hall/classrooms – 2.50 pm |
| Friday | Celebration worship (Parents invited) | School Hall – 2.50 pm |

Leaders

Every member of the school staff, pupils. Local clergy and regular visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

Class based Worship

Every other week pupils meet in their classroom for an act of worship. Pupils reflect on statements, thoughts or ideas, provided or approved by teachers. Pupils may also contribute ideas for reflection. Pupils who believe in God are invited to reflect that, through these thoughts, God may be helping them to discover the most important directions and values for their lives.

Whole School celebration: Act of worship

Once a week the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are recognised and celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama and dance. Parents may be invited. This worship will normally provide opportunities for spiritual development.

Special Worships

Throughout the year each class will plan and organise at least one worship which they will lead and deliver to the whole school community. This worship may take place in the local church or in the school hall. Parents will be invited to these worships.

Visitors

Visitors should understand the educational aims of Collective Worship at the school and the need to avoid any proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. In general the Headteacher is consulted before a visiting speaker is confirmed. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause(s) without the prior permission of the Headteacher.

Worship planner

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| Theme: Date: Time: Leader/s: | | |
| Beginning | This is how we let people know that worship is starting – music playing, pictures, video | Resources |
| Welcoming A way of recognising the gathering of the community | The words of the greeting are accompanied by the lighting of the candles | |
| Engaging This is the equivalent of a sermon in a church service | This part of worship creates the engagement of those who are gathered with a theme or a purpose of the gathering. It can be a story, poem, play, newspaper article etc. This is usually linked to scripture | |
| Responding | How the community respond to the ideas and messages in the engagement. This can take many forms but should always provide an opportunity for prayer . | |
| Sending Out Conclusion | How are we going to live out the message from worship? What changes are going to be made? | |

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Worship Evaluation

| | |
|--|--|
| Theme: Date: Name of evaluator: Leader/s: | |
| Beginning | <i>This is how we let people know that worship is starting</i> |
| Welcoming A way of recognising the gathering of the community | <i>The words of the greeting are accompanied by the lighting of the candles</i> |
| Engaging This is the equivalent of a sermon in a church service | <i>This part of worship creates the engagement of those who are gathered with a theme or a purpose of the gathering. It can be a story, poem, play, newspaper article etc. This is usually linked to scripture</i> |
| Responding | <i>How the community respond to the ideas and messages in the engagement. This can take many forms but should always provide an opportunity for prayer.</i> |
| Sending Out Conclusion | <i>How are we going to live out the message from worship? What changes are going to be made?</i> |

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