



Empowering our unique schools to Excel

St John's Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Level:	4 ODBST Policy Guidance Member Schools may use the document to inform the drafting of their non-statutory policy. No approval from the ODBST Board is necessary.
Other related ODBST policies and procedures:	
Committee responsible:	AEC
Approved by:	AEC
Date Approved:	21 March 2019
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Our Vision and Values

Together we will work to enable all our children to achieve their full potential within our Christian family. Through the teachings and examples of Jesus, we nurture individuality - providing challenge, developing self-esteem and promoting care and respect for each other and God's world.

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13

Our Gospel Values

Everything we do reflects our values: what we believe in; what we think is important; the kind of people we want to be; the kind of world we want to create and live in. Our Gospel Values are:

Term	Gospel Value	Associated Parable	Linked Scripture	British Value
Autumn 1	Respect	Wise man and foolish man	1 Peter 2:17	Democracy
Autumn 2	Peace	Sower	Thessalonians 3:16	Liberty
Spring 1	Thankfulness	Lost sheep	Thessalonians 5:18	Respect
Spring 2	Love	Good Samaritan	John 13:34	Tolerance
Summer 1	Forgiveness	Prodigal son	Ephesians 4:32	Resilience
Summer 2	Honesty and Trust	Unforgiving debtor	Isaiah 26:4	Rule of Law

The collective worship at St John's Church of England Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements and has taken account of the guidance offered by the board of trustees of ODBST. At St John's Church of England Primary School, Collective Worship is so much more than this. It is a time where the school family meets together, learns together, reflects together, a time within which children and staff are given a time to be still, to engage and if they feel called, respond. In addition, special church services are held for other important days in the church calendar such as well as Harvest and Remembrance. Collective worship is a valued and valuable part of school life and is taken seriously, because it shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship in St John's Church of England Primary School aims to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to:

- experience a variety of styles of worship
- celebrate together e.g. festivals, school values, individual achievements
- build a sense of community/foster corporate identity;
- develop a reflective approach to living which sometimes encourages understanding of and invitation to prayer;
- look beyond the physical, material and measurable
- worship God or reflect on human values;
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs;
- participate and respond, through active involvement in the planning, leading, presentation and evaluation of worship
- feel safe and affirmed in doing any of the above

Statutory requirements

Through its funding agreement with the DfE, Collective Worship must

- take place for every child not withdrawn by their parents (post 16 students can withdraw themselves) every day

- be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character.
- take account of the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils
- take place on the school premises, except on occasions, with agreement of governors

Therefore, at St John's Church of England Primary School our collective worship reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Not every act of collective worship must comply with this; just the majority so we can include material from other religions and non-religious world views.

Collective Worship and the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education. However, in St John's Church of England Primary School, we aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children's classroom learning to be mutually supportive.

Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in line with school policy. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to 'respond' at their own level.

The Management of Collective Worship

The Headteacher is responsible for the provision of collective worship, supported by and after consultation with the governing body. The following arrangements exist to co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate collective worship:

1. The Collective Worship leader draws up a plan and rota for leading collective worship and themes for each week. The themes are based on the school's six Gospel Values.
2. The headteacher observes at least 6 acts of collective worship (from a range of formats) per term to ensure that they comply with school policy and the law. Governors may also attend collective worship to monitor their policy.

The Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship takes place in a variety of groupings in the school hall, or one of the multi-purpose rooms, or the classroom.

Acts of worship usually last for approximately 15 minutes, although it is recognised that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Collective worship follows the following pattern:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Whole School Worship linked to the Gospel value for the half term	Whole School Worship linked to either a British value or church celebration	Celebration and Awards assembly	Songs of Praise	Whole School Worship - Led by a member of clergy

Leadership

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

Planning Acts of Collective Worship

The content of all acts of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils, as well as the balance between Christianity and other faiths.

Termly planning list themes, special occasions and events, but there is flexibility to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Weekly recording enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship.

Visitors are welcomed to lead collective worship from time to time and are given guidance on our worship policy. Leaders from faiths within the area help us to increase the pupils' awareness, promote respect and raise the esteem of the pupils who belong to these faiths.

The Act of Collective Worship

We use a variety of styles, active and interactive methods and a range of resources in our in acts of collective worship. Leaders make decisions about these elements according to what is most appropriate to the content, the ages, aptitudes and the backgrounds of the pupils.

Where prayer is included in our acts of worship it is introduced with a form of words that invites but does not coerce pupils to participate. Our prayers are addressed to 'God' rather than Jesus as this is inclusive of the beliefs of our non-Christian religious pupils. We hope that pupils who prefer not to pray will use these moments to reflect on the important messages shared in our worship.

At St John's Church of England Primary School children leading worship is a central part of what we do as a school. The pupils have the following responsibilities:

Worship	During Collective Worship	After Collective Worship
<u>Setting up</u> The children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select music • Put out chairs • Prepare the worship table The children will light a candle to call the school to worship.	<u>Gathering</u> The children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say a welcoming sentence. Organise school notices.	<u>Clearing up</u> The children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold doors open for those leaving. • Put away equipment and chairs. • Extinguish candles.
<u>Welcoming</u> The children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet the other children at door • Meet any visitors at main entrance (and help them to set up) 	<u>Engaging</u> The children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a visitor or the storyteller • Take part in Drama activities or gather responses • Support teachers with music, video clips and PowerPoint slides. 	<u>Recording</u> The children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record a log book detailing what the school had learnt about in Collective Worship. • Ask the visitor or the person leading worship to sign the log book to say that it is a true representation of what they have learnt.
<u>Planning</u> The children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose music and songs to be sung in worship that link to our theme. • Write their own prayers to share at the end of worship. 	<u>Responding</u> The children will have the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer questions. • Read or saying prayers. • Leading actions or signing to songs. 	<u>Evaluating</u> The children will have the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the evaluation sheet • Work together to look at evaluations and plan the next steps for Collective Worship. • Share evaluation findings with Governors and school SLT.
	<u>Sending</u> The children will have the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extinguish the candles. • Lead with a closing prayer 	

Collective worship should not be confused with assembly. We often take the opportunity of pupils gathered together to share announcements and notices. Using a variety of strategies e.g. music, silence etc. we indicate clearly to all present when worship begins and ends.

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship and staff (and students in the sixth form) are also free to withdraw from involvement in this aspect of school life. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents and staff who have concerns about collective worship, always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible. Those pupils who are withdrawn from worship are cared for by a member of the school's staff; parents may provide suitable activities for children so withdrawn.

Appendix 1 – Collective Worship Overview
Appendix 2 – Example of Collective Worship plan for a Gospel Value
Appendix 3 – Pupil Collective Worship planner
Appendix 4 – Pupil Collective Worship Evaluation Sheet