



Over St. John's CE Primary School

'Let your light shine before others.' Matthew 5:16

Collective Worship Policy

Over St. John's CE Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. Our collective worship reflects and reinforces the school's vision, aims and ethos of ensuring that our children can grow in the love of God to enable them to shine their light before others. Our collective worship both implicitly and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of friendship, thankfulness, compassion, forgiveness, community and hope through being invitational, inclusive and inspirational.

At Over St. John's, we consider collective worship to be an important part of the school day. An opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, spirituality, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

Aims of our acts of collective worship

We aim for our collective worship to:

- be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision;
- be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff, parents and visitors;
- offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection;
- enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and where appropriate, the Eucharist;
- help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language;
- enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training;
- encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective Worship includes the educational opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate;
- sharing and experiencing differences and understanding that there are no outsiders;
- 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.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Head Teacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship which is shared via this policy on our school website.

It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship and parental contact needs to be made with the Head Teacher.

Planning of Collective Worship

The Head Teacher plans the whole school collective worship themes and then creates a detailed plan for each collective worship taking account of school activities, festivals and important events. Class collective worship focusses on the Christian values of each particular class and are planned for by the class teachers.

The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson.

Pupils are involved in planning and leading Collective Worship. Whilst each class focusses on their Christian value with their class collective worship, on a rota basis, the class will also lead whole school in collective worship to share their Christian value.

Themes

We take the themes of our Collective Worship from a variety of sources. In addition each term the festivals and events of the Christian calendar are included.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Head Teacher. We welcome the St. John's Church Team, to lead collective worship with the school on a weekly basis.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the Head Teacher.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The contents/ planning of the worship are recorded electronically and are centrally stored in schldocs – Collective Worship.

The staff and Roots of Faith Group seeks feedback from the children and staff about collective worship. At time of writing, the format and regularity are in development and will be updated in due course.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed:



Head Teacher

Date: February 2024

Review Date: February 2025

