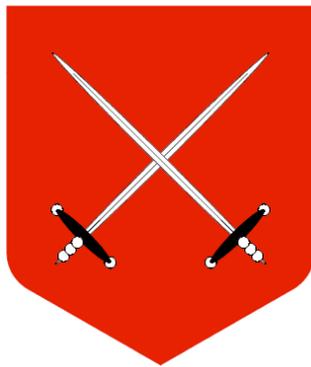


St Paul's Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Policy Adopted:	16 th May 2022
Review Date:	Summer 2025



Worship is...

*Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer,
thanksgiving and adoration to God.*

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Introduction

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of St Paul's Primary School. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed (Strand 6 SIAMS 2018). As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the academy it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience/participate in/take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through our Anglican Foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school and its historic partnership with St Paul's Church. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirements:

Lichfield Diocese

This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.

DfES guidance

We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools>

1988 Education Act

We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

'....all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship',

And, that this should be,

'.....mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Purpose

At St Paul's Primary School collective worship aims to provide an opportunity for the school community to meet in various groups to explore issues about worship and spirituality, to reflect on belief and to be part of an active worshipping community.

Aims of Worship

The gathering of pupils each day incorporates collective worship. Worship will:

- Be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils.
- Provide the children with the opportunity to take part in worship, which is broadly Christian.
- Contribute to the mission statement and broad aims of St Paul's Primary School, particularly in respect of the Christian ethos and values.
- Meet the legal requirements of collective worship in a Church controlled school.
- Give children and adults the opportunity to take part in collective worship.

The Role of Worship should provide opportunities to:

- Enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- Foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- Create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- Foster a reverential attitude to God
- Foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways
- Actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing)
- Explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- Affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God
- Affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
- Explore the schools/academies Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school/academy, local community and wider world
- Learn about and reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- Worship together rather than apart
- Provide an evocative setting for worship that fosters spiritual growth and reflection
- Experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship)
- Inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition
- Encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship
- Develop a sense of community and shared values
- Consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- Celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- Celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life
- Foster a thought provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response
- Make regular use of local church buildings for worship

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- Celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school/academy

- Celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academies community
- Reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines
- Share local school/academies and community information

Organisation of Collective Worship

Collective worship will be provided for our pupils on each school day. The responsibility for organising collective worship is that of the worship co-ordinator.

Worship will be organised on a whole school, key stage and whole class basis. Worship may be led by the Headteacher, teaching staff, the children, the clergy of St Paul's Church and other denominations, members of St Paul's congregation and by visitors to our school.

The overall responsibility for the provision of collective worship rests with the Headteacher in consultation with the Lichfield Diocese.

Worship Activities

The activities within our acts of worship seek to foster a thought provoking atmosphere, in which there is time for spiritual reflection and response.

Worship should be challenging and enjoyable; relevant to the needs of the pupils in the worship group; encourage pupil participation; foster a sense of community and shared values; allow the children to engage in, or observe, religious values and practices.

Worship Themes

Year groups are encouraged to make links between the Christian values and the curriculum. These links will be identified by teachers in their curriculum planning. Time will also be identified in the termly plan of worship to cover the major Christian festivals.

However, flexibility is built into our policy to allow the school to respond to both what may be happening in school, the local community and in the wider world. In this way we can make our worship topical and relevant to issues not apparent when the termly themes are being planned. When this occurs, those taking worship should discuss alternative themes with the worship co-ordinator prior to the act of worship.

Weekly worship themes will be agreed on a termly basis and displayed on the staffroom notice board, in the hall and in the relevant section of the worship record folder. A copy will also be made available for the use of those from St Paul's Church who come into school to lead worship and to all class teachers.

We recognise the importance of music as part of some acts of worship. This may include listening to music, responding to music, making music and singing hymns and songs.

Staff Presence

Staff will be present during worship time unless they are on non-contact time.

Important elements of Collective Worship

Those leading worship should consider the following important elements:-

- To create a calm and reflective, though not daunting, atmosphere for worship.
- Creating an effective welcome and conclusion to worship.
- Creating a pleasant point of focus- a picture or artefact if appropriate.
- Creating a sense of occasion.
- Selective use of prayers and hymns within the act of worship.
- Due to timetable constraints worship should normally last about 15 minutes with a clear focus and purpose.

Record of Collective Worship

A record of collective worship will be kept with the worship table materials. A member of staff attending the Key stage and whole school worship are asked to complete the record during worship. This record will be used by the worship co-ordinator to evaluate worship and to inform the planning of future worship themes.

Resources for Worship

Each half term the Worship Co-ordinator provides staff with the focus for each week with possible Bible stories to use.

Use of the Church Building

Each term the school will hold an end of term worship at St. Paul's Church. Additionally, there will be other occasions throughout the school year when the church will be used, e.g. Harvest, Easter and Christmas.

Worship Leaders

A worship committee is formed at the start of each academic year and consists of pupils from both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. These pupils meet with the worship coordinator at least every half term and are responsible for saying the Greeting at the start of Key Stage, whole school, church and celebration acts of worship. They are also available to read prayers. Within class they will support class worship. The worship committee are given the role of collecting evidence on the current Worship Value by speaking to other pupils in the school.

The right of withdrawal

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals.

This policy was approved by the IEB 16.05.22
It will be reviewed in Summer 2025.