



# **St John's C of E Primary Academy**

## **Collective Worship Policy**

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### **Key Personnel**

**Principal: Sarah Cockshott**

**Chair of Governors: Fr Roger Gilbert**

**St. JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**SCHOOL POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP.**

**Organisation of Collective Worship.**

The Staff and Governors of St. John's Church of England Primary Academy, in accordance with our Trust Deed and with the statutory requirements, place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life. It is a time when we come together to share Christian values and experiences of our everyday lives, to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of our pupils.

Worship is organised on a whole school basis and is led by different members of the teaching staff, a range of visiting church ministers, outside speakers and also the pupils in school. This enables us to provide an exciting and varied approach towards our collective worship and greatly enhances the schools Christian character.

The whole school attends St. Bartholomew's Church at least once each term to worship and to reinforce our Church foundation.

The RE co-ordinator produces a half term plan for collective worship, which include the themes to be developed, the visiting speakers, the Anglican prayer for the half term as well as other practical elements such as the members of staff responsible for Collective Worship.

The weekly Collective Worship timetable is usually organised as follows:

	<b>Main feature of worship</b>	<b>Assembly usually led by:</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Celebration assembly: Star of the week Get fab award Attendance	The Head teacher
<b>Tuesday</b>	Teaching of the Bible by the Open the Book team at St Bartholomew's Church.	Simon and the OTB team
<b>Wednesday</b>	Praise & Worship- focused on one the school's Christian values.	Teaching staff
<b>Thursday</b>	Praise and Worship	Music coordinator
<b>Friday</b>	Celebration assembly: Writer/mathematician of the week House points Reading around the world	Deputy Head

Parents are invited to the Monday celebration worship if their child is receiving an award.

Different groups of Year 5 and 6 children are responsible for preparing the hall for collective worship.

**The Nature of Collective Worship at our School**

**Communal and Personal Reflection:**

Collective Worship at our school is a time when staff and children meet together and have the opportunity to reflect on the non-material dimensions of our lives together in the school community and as individuals. It is not regarded simply as a time to exchange information or deal with organisational issues. It is therefore important that wherever possible 1 member of staff per class attends Collective Worship.

**Praise and prayer:**

We give children the opportunity to develop spiritually in the gathering together for Daily Worship to praise the awe and wonder of God and the beauty of the world God has created; to pray together, to learn about the teachings of both the old and New Testament with particular emphasis on the teachings of Jesus. Each class has a prayer bag and this is encourage children to write their own prayers to be placed on the school's TSP prayer board.

**Life Application:**

Children are given opportunity to consider what is important in our lives, about beliefs and values, and application of their beliefs to practical situations in their lives. They are taught to understand and respect the beliefs of other cultures and religions.

### **Celebration & Achievement:**

Worship takes place through a variety of media such as Bible teaching, stories, songs, poetry, drama etc. Class led worship is often used as an opportunity to share experiences and achievements with the whole-school community and with parents and friends.

### **Family Community:**

Through our Daily Worship we aim to bring an awareness of what it means to be part of a community, which cares for each other, for God and for the environment. In so doing we hope that pupils will develop the ability to explore issues for themselves, be able to reflect upon and learn from experiences and develop a sense of awe and wonder about the wider world whilst understanding their role and responsibilities to their local community.

### **Equal Opportunities:**

Staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that opportunities for worship are relevant to all pupils and pay due regard to their ages, abilities and interests. We aim to recognise the equality of each child in God's sight, whatever the child's gender, race, physical or mental ability. Pupils currently take part in collective worship and often lead worship however each parent has the right to withdraw their child for religious reasons.

### **Special Education Needs:**

Staff and Governors attempt to ensure that materials and subject matter used in collective worship are appropriate for the range of abilities of all pupils in school.

### **Planning:**

Collective Worship planning is outlined on a Half Term Plan and includes several features:

- Biblical theme
- Anglican prayer
- Visitors from St Bartholomew's Church
- Visitors from other churches
- Charity for the half term
- School initiative eg Eco, Fair trade initiatives
- Healthy Clubs promotion developing God given gifts and talents
- Club performances each week
- Class led worship where the parents are invited
- Friday award celebration and performances with parents
- End of term visit to St Bartholomew's Church to celebrate main Christian Festivals
- Pupil led prayer for the half term ahead and interactive pupil prayer display
- Highlights of the half term and pupil led praise / thankfulness at the end of the half term.
- 1 main song each week led by pupil worship leaders
- Greeting and dismissal

### **Monitoring and Evaluation.**

Strategies staff currently use for assessing the outcomes of collective worship include:

- observation of children's reaction and participation during worship.
- feedback from children in class - written or verbal.
- parents' comments.
- observation by Foundation Governors
- observations of the quality of worship by the Head teacher or Deputy Headteacher.

### Collective worship in the classroom.

Through twice daily prayer adults within each class embeds the Christian understanding of prayer being a personal time to communicate with God. A range of prayer activities are encouraged. All pupils learn the following prayers throughout their life at St John's CE Primary School:

	<b><u>Before Lunch</u></b>	<b><u>End of day</u></b>	<b><u>General</u></b>
<b><u>EYFS/KS1</u></b>	Thank you for the world so sweet, Thank you for the food we eat, Thank you for the birds that sing, Thank you God for everything. Amen	At the end of the day we are here to say; thank you Lord for our work and our play. We've tried to be good, as we know that we should. And this is our prayer for the end of the day. Amen	The Lord's Prayer The Grace
<b><u>KS2</u></b>	For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful. Amen	Lord. Keep us safe this night. Secure from all our fears. May angels guard us while we sleep 'til morning light appears. Amen	

Reviewed February 2017 R.Rudd