



St Paul's Church of England

Primary School

Leamington Spa



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

1. Introduction

Our Collective Worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and our values of kind and brave, thankful and thoughtful, challenging and encouraging. It celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

2. Aims

Collective Worship at St Paul's supports the school's distinctive vision and values, by providing opportunities for members of the school community:

- to consider spiritual and moral issues and, through reflection, raise awareness of the ultimate questions of life
- to reflect on their own beliefs
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to encounter God in Jesus Christ
- to reflect in ways that are of a broadly Anglican Christian tradition, whilst recognising the validity and importance of other Christian denominations, religions, belief systems and other world views.
- to nurture a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it
- to take responsibility for their own conduct, charitable giving, and social actions so that they might contribute positively to a multi-diverse society
- to develop a sense of sharing and belonging through different groups of students coming together
- to experience silence in a busy world
- to encourage inquisitive engagement with, and reflection on, the teachings of the Holy Bible

3. The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following are shared as Christian elements of Collective Worship:

- Exploring the Christian understanding of The Trinity; God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Using the Bible for inspiration, stories and guidance
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Saints Days
- Saying prayers, in particular the Lord's Prayer, and using liturgical responses at the beginning and end of worship
- Singing a variety of hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbols in worship and reflecting on their meaning
- The use of prayer, silence, and reflection

4. Implementation

In accordance with the 1988 Education Act, the worship is mainly of a broadly Christian character, and whilst acknowledging the Anglican heritage of the school, our worship is ecumenical and intended to be accessible to both adults and children of any faith or none.

Daily acts of worship are held at St Paul's School and are led by a wide team of people; the head teacher, deputy head teacher, class teachers, staff members of St Paul's Church, the children themselves and on occasion by visitors. During the week Collective Worship takes place in class groups, in phases and as a whole school.

Collective Worship at St Paul's is inclusive, and all members of our school community are invited to attend. It is conducted in a calm and dignified way, with children entering and leaving in a respectful manner. All children are expected to be quiet, thoughtful and behave in an appropriate way, listening carefully to the teachings and participating appropriately in prayers and songs.

We light three candles and use a response to signal the start of each Collective Worship. Themed displays are used to enhance the worship, pupil interaction and create a reflective school environment. We are mindful of the variation in personal spiritual styles and provide a range of creative opportunities including (eg: music, silence, symbolism, drama, use of IT).

Our Friday Collective Worship also offers opportunities to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of school, allowing us to promote the ethos of the school where all children are valued and achievements and learning celebrated.

We hold worship services at St Paul's Church at Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and the end of the school year. Parents/carers are invited to join these Church Services.

We base our Collective Worship around the 4 stages set out in the Imaginor Roots and Shoots Curriculum.

- **Gathering/Welcome**– we welcome the community with music, liturgy, and the lighting of a candle
- **Engaging/Learning** – we share a bible reading or verse, followed by an activity/ story to engage pupils with the Christian message
- **Reflecting and Responding** -- pupils discuss, share, reflect, pray or sing

- **Sending** – we share the message of the worship again and ask pupils to think about how they will affect their day / learning/ behaviour. When appropriate the Collective Worship Leaders are given something that supports worship to take back and place in the class worship area. We end with liturgy and the blowing out of the candles.

5. Organisation

MON	Church CW
TUES	Whole School Worship led by a member of SLT
WED	Singing CW
THURS	Phase CW – teachers on a rota
FRI	Whole school Celebration Collective Worship – Usually led by a member of SLT and CW Leader

EYFS follow the same themes as the main school. When appropriate Reception pupils join with the rest of the school and Nursery have their own quiet time.

Phase Collective Worship is based on the Roots and Shoots curriculum on a two-year rolling cycle.

Cycle A: Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship and Respect.

Cycle B: Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness.

Whole School Collective Worship is based around our school vision and values, Kind, Brave, Thoughtful, Thankful, Challenging and Brave.

6. Collective Worship Leaders

Each class from Y1 to Y6 selects a Collective Worship Leader for the year.

The role of Collective Worship Leader includes:

- Leading actions for songs and The Lord's Prayer during CW
- Maintaining the class worship area and prayer station
- Helping to plan and lead class CW (How much they do will depend on their age)
- Meeting with the member of staff responsible for CW on a regular basis

- Planning and preparing resources the display in the hall that links to our theme for phase CW
- Planning and preparing the display in the classroom that links to our theme for class CW

7. Worship Areas

The school hall and the studio both contain a worship table which displays the following items;

- A coloured cloth that is changed to match the seasons of the church year
- 3 candles to represent The Trinity, during Advent we change these for an Advent wreath
- A Bible
- A laminated picture linking to the current Phase CW theme.
- A large wooden cross

The worship areas within each classroom illustrate the importance of worship throughout the school. These areas contain the following items;

- Battery operated candles
- Crosses
- Prayer dice
- A variety of Bibles
- A selection of prayers, some of which are written by our pupils.
- In KS2 the worship areas are covered with fabric that corresponds to the seasons of the church year
- In EYFS and KS1 there is a Rev Freddie Fisher doll whose vestments correspond to the seasons of the church Year.

Each class also has its own unique prayer station. These prayer stations focus on various aspects of prayer for example, thankfulness, forgiveness, praying for others. As the children move through the school our prayer stations will help them to encounter a variety of creative ways to pray. These are usually found in or near the class worship areas.

During the school day there are opportunities for children to pray as a class, children will be invited to think of their own prayers that could be shared with the class.

8. Saint Days

At St Paul's the children are divided into four houses which are named after the patron saints of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. We celebrate each of these four saint's days with Collective Worship; this is led by the Year 6 captain, vice-captain and prefects from the relevant house. Children learn about the saint and their country. They also celebrate by wearing their house colour tops and by taking part in various activities and competitions.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The subject leader and SLT monitor collective worship regularly, through observations and discussions with the children. Collective worship leaders and other pupils have opportunities to evaluate collective worship.

Collective worship is inspected under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools framework (SIAMS), in accordance with the Education Act 2005.

9. Access and entitlement

Whilst we plan to make our school worship as accessible as possible to those of any faith or none, parents do have the right to withdraw their child; however, this is very rare. Please talk to the Headteacher if you would like to withdraw your child from worship.

Headteacher Signature _____

Date _____

Chair of Governors Signature _____

Date _____