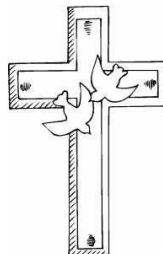




**ST PAUL'S CRAY
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY



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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”. William Temple (1881-1894)

Aspire to be all that you can be

Believe in yourself, those around you and that God loves you

Learn to make the most of every opportunity; through hard work and enjoyment

Achieve excellence in all that you do

As a church school we are proud of our distinctive Christian characteristics. Staff and Governors strive to create an atmosphere where pupils thrive and succeed and are prepared for the next steps in their educational life. We recognise that God is at the heart of all we do and have a set of Christian values which are reflected in every aspect of school life.

The Christian Values that have been chosen by all stakeholders and that guide us in all that we do, are:

- Thankfulness
- Friendship
- Trust
- Forgiveness
- Compassion
- Hope

Introduction

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognizes and follows the Church's liturgical year.

The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

Aspire, Believe, Learn, Achieve

Aims

Collective Worship at St Paul's Cray CE Primary School supports the school's Mission Statement, by providing opportunities for students and staff:

- to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- to reflect on our explicit Christian values
- to develop personal spirituality especially through prayer and also through a range of other experiences
- to be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith
- to develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly
- to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared Christian values
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- Using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories
- Observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints Days
- Learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace
- Using simple Anglican (or Methodist) liturgy at levels appropriate to students'/pupils' age
- Singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs
- Experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, crucifix, bread and wine and candles
- Using prayer, silence and reflection
- Celebrating the Eucharist/Holy Communion

Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement. In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers attend all acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

The whole school or key stage meet together every day for a 20 minute Act of Worship led by the Head Teacher or one of the senior management, other staff, a school class, the Vicar of St Mary's or a visiting speaker. Worship takes place in a number of settings such as the school hall, St Mary's Church, pupils' classrooms when there are class acts of worship and outdoors (weather permitting). Individual year groups also participate in joint year group celebration with other Bromley Church Schools such as the Year Three Transition celebration each September, Year 5 Bromley Church Schools Festival in June (for 300 pupils) and the Rochester Festival for Year 6 pupils.

One Worship a week celebrates the children's achievements. This takes two forms:

- a) A 'Celebration Worship' where the children are encouraged to celebrate their talents and gifts. Visual symbols and songs are used while certificates are awarded.

- b) A class led Worship where a class celebrates their learning; linking to either their RE learning or other curriculum work
- c) One worship a week celebrates the use of song for praise and prayer

The whole school meets together at St Mary's Church to share in services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as at the end of the summer term. As the school is growing, separate KS1 and KS2 services are being held to enable as many parents as possible to join in the services. Pupils help prepare and lead these Worships.

In addition, Year 6 children will be given the opportunity attend a Eucharist Service at the church. They will be prepared for this by the Incumbent.

Prayer is central to the life of the school. Every day each class offers a lunchtime and afternoon prayer. The Lord's Prayer, the school prayer and the Grace are used throughout the school. A candle is lit at each Act of Worship. Each class has a reflective Christian area with appropriate resources and which provides opportunities for interactive activities and quiet reflection. Prayer boxes in each class provide an opportunity for the children to learn to pray in a more personal way and gives them time to reflect and contemplate.

All Worship Services are overseen by the Collective Worship Coordinator (the Head Teacher) in consultation with the Vicar of St Mary's and the Chair of Governors.

Content

Each Act of Worship follows the traditional liturgical structure of the Anglican Church and consists of

- **Gathering** A call to worship and traditional Anglican greeting
- **Engaging:** This is the part of the Worship where the attendees are asked to I join in with something. This might include: listening to a story or a prayer or a song, watching a play or joining in with a chance or activity, thinking about something. This is delivered in a variety of different ways suitable to the topic and age range of the children. Visual stimuli audio visual resources drama and other interactive pupils' participation are used where necessary.
- **Responding:** This is the part of the worship where the attendees are given time to reflect personally on the idea or theme we have explored or the reading we have listened to . This often includes a quiet time for reflection, prayer or song.
- **Sending out:** Attendees are reminded of theme and given encouragement to take forward these ideas into the life of the school, and thereby living our Christian Values. The Worship ends with a traditional Anglican response.

The school welcomes a variety of worship leaders including the incumbent Reverend Paul Prentice who holds weekly Worship in school, the Spinnaker Trust who take whole school Worship every two weeks and other visitors such as Boys' and Girls' Brigade.

The content of each act of worship follows a three year cycle. The Diocesan Worship Framework is used to help with planning and weekly themes are discussed and agreed upon in advance at meetings held previously by the Head Teacher, Incumbent and teaching staff.

Staff and students are also frequently involved when planning specific Worship opportunities such as class assemblies and through taking a lead role at our Easter and Christmas Services in the local Church.

Pupils

Pupils are also encouraged to be involved in the worship by:

- Answering questions
- Holding/demonstrating visual aids
- Reading a Bible passage
- Reading prayers
- Role play/drama

Other examples of pupil involvement might include:

- Setting and clearing the hall (chairs, IWB, etc)
- Choosing the music to be played as pupils enter
- Choosing the hymn to be sung
- Playing live music (recorders, etc)

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation takes place as follows:

- a) the school has introduced strategies for monitoring and recording acts of worship (a proforma is completed by pupil worship helpers following each act of Collective Worship)
- b) the school includes the views of students/pupils, staff, governors and parents when evaluating the Collective Worship process
- c) Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos our Head Teacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

This policy was reviewed in February 2017

Next review date; February 2019

Signed..... Head Teacher

Signed..... Chair of Governors