



Collective Worship Policy

“Learning to make the world a better place”

Created	Autumn 2016
Next Review	Autumn 2018

Collective Worship Policy for St John's Angell Town CE Primary School

'Learning to make the world a better place.'

Legal Requirements

St John's Angell Town CE Primary School (SJAT) VA Church of England Primary School. Our school works in accordance to the national legal requirement that there should be daily act of worship. We follow the principles and practices of the Church of England'. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils.

Collective Worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. Here, the school affirms the claims of Christianity underlying the values of the school, and representing the faith stance of some teachers and children. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all. It reflects our Anglican tradition as well as exploring with pupils and staff a variety of ways in which Christians worship God. Through collective worship, we help our pupils learn about and reflect upon the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the central role of the Trinity in our faith.

In acts of Collective Worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition.

Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths and none, in addition to children from Christian homes, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. The original source of the material (story, song, text, information) is clearly stated, and then set in a Christian framework, and the connections with the Christian tradition are explored. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of Eid Ul Fitr, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with Lent (and sacrifices made by Christians during this period).

At SJAT School Collective Worship offers a space to all

to think about God

to make a response to God

to explore a relationship with God

to enjoy being in the presence of God

to contemplate the awesomeness of God

to offer adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God

to listen to God

to get a sense of things unseen

to explore personal belief

to feel a sense of belonging to a group that shares and celebrates together, as well as being thoughtful or sad together

to experience a feeling of connectedness to others in the world and a sense of responsibility towards them

to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture

to wonder

to gain inspiration

to receive a challenge to live differently

to rejoice in being unique and precious

.....to be

Educational

to learn about different ways of worshipping and about imagery and symbolism

to learn about the faith of the local church community

to participate in marking important features of the church calendar

to explore the Christian values of the school

to use stillness and quietness

to have a quiet moment in a busy day

to celebrate gifts, talents and achievements

to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum

In satisfying these aims the following principles are also observed:

....and to be.....

Inclusive

... whatever their age, aptitude or background

... where the integrity of each is respected

... enabling children to explore and evaluate their beliefs

... sharing worship from time to time with parents, governors and members of the local community

The organisation of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place daily usually in the school hall at 3pm (at St John's church at least once per week, currently Tuesday)

It follows the pattern here:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group	Whole School	Whole School	Whole School	Whole School	Whole School
Style	Bible Story	Church Service	Presentation	Songs of Praise	Awards Celebration
Venue	School Hall	Church	School Hall	School Hall	School Hall
Leader	MC (head) or Spinnaker (visiting organisation)	Canon Reverend Rosemarie	Led by class teachers or pupils (on rota)	KD (SLT)	PW, NR, FB (SLT)
Time	3pm	2.50pm	3pm	3pm	3pm

The planning of Collective Worship

Each term there is a theme for Collective worship based on Christian values and Christian calendar. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to these areas. The areas chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the week the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Alternatively, class teachers may develop their worship from themes and events that occur on the curriculum during the week. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

The content of Collective Worship

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include:

- Story
- Music
- Powerpoint presentations
- Images
- Poetry
- Drama
- Puppets
- Games

- Dance
- Questioning
- Singing
- Praying

As we are an Anglican school we reflect aspects of Anglican worship in the following ways

- We use the Bible as a source of Christian teaching, and give it a prominent place in our worship.
- We follow the cycle of the Anglican year; Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Pentecost and some saints' days.
- We use liturgical colours for our worship focus.
- We use Christian symbols and artefacts, exploring their meaning for Christians
- Anglican prayers and hymns (including the Lord's Prayer)

Our worship follows a liturgical pattern eg Gathering .. Engaging ...Responding...Sending

At some of the acts of worship meditation and silence are used.

Using Anglican sentences and responses (eg The Lord be with you ... and also with you)

Celebrating the Eucharist

The management of Collective Worship

The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring that collective worship takes place. The nominated person with specific responsibility for collective worship in our school is Martin Clark . We liaise with Canon Reverend Rosemarie Mallett from St John's Church (and School Council)in the planning, monitoring and evaluating of collective worship.

Arrangements for recording, monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship

A record of the theme and content of the collective worship is kept in a file. Evaluation takes place in the following ways:

There is a daily reflection by a pupil in the collective worship diary

There is a rota for evaluation by the RE lead.

There is a termly agenda item for the school council

Governors monitor the provision of collective worship, by asking a representative to attend a session per term and then feeding back to the governing body (celebration assemblies). Governors ensure that collective worship is reviewed on a regular basis.

Parental Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

Agreed by Governors on Autumn 2016

Signed by Canon Rev Rosemarie

Designation: Chair of Governors

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