



Collective Worship Policy 2009 - 2010

Adopted	11 November 2009
Ratified	30th November 2009
Review Date	June 2010

1 Introduction

Collective Worship is a central feature of our school at St. Peter's and we endeavour to identify, affirm and celebrate ideals and values held to be of importance to St. Peter's School.

To this end all aspects of school life including the academic, social, recreational and pastoral, are considered to be part of our giving to God in worship and praise.

We want our Collective Worship to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery & meaning of the Christian faith by:

- Being creative & visionary
- Being closely connected to the curriculum, community and world
- Being personally and collectively inspiring
- Promoting values consistent with God's values as revealed in Jesus Christ, such as caring & sharing, self discipline, loyalty and respect for others
- Being appropriate & relevant to all pupils regardless of their personal commitment, isolating no-one
- Being a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses, and provides an opportunity to focus and reflect on stimuli encouraging individuals to respond with integrity

2 Approach for Collective Worship

At St Peter's Primary School it is important to develop an environment that is conducive to worship and reflection through music, stillness and quiet, and a variety of thought & prayer.

The members of the school community are encouraged to:

- Help pupils to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God
- Give expression to, reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, as well as the local and international community.

- Develop a clear understanding of the rhythm of the church year.
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – recognition of the vulnerability of self and others.

3 Structure

At St. Peter's Primary School worship is organised in the following way:

- Teacher/visitor/pupil led worship.
- Key Stage Collective Worship is held.
- Thinking time in class based groups using a variety of resources.
- Whole school worship takes place in Church for special celebrations within the church year.

Collective Worship is led by staff, pupils, clergy, & visitors and takes place as follows:

- Monday – whole school
- Tues – in class led by teachers
- Wed – whole school led by teachers
- Thurs – whole school led by clergy
- Fri – whole school 'sharing and celebrating'
- In the 'School Development Plan 2011' it is intended to extend the pupil led worship

4 Planning

Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for pupils founded on the liturgical calendar, supplemented by Diocesan resources, including the Values for Life Pack.

The main source for planning of worship at St Peter's Primary School is the Values for Life Pack, supplemented by Diocese resources. In planning worship regard is given to:

- Observing the cycle of the church's year and selecting themes appropriate to this and the pupils' aptitude and ability.
- How worship reflects the Anglican heritage.
- Special occasions, e.g. welcoming new pupils to school or acknowledging the departure of older pupils.

- Linking with the broad dimensions of the curriculum.
- Creating an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols.
- Using the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupil's imagination, reflecting the diversity of our community.

5 Legal Requirements

St Peters is a VA Church of England Primary School.

As such it has a Trust Deed which states that worship should be 'in accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'.

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards & Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking account of the age, aptitude and background of pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will only be made in exceptional circumstances following discussions with the Headteacher. This discussion is to be followed by written confirmation of withdrawal by the parent/guardian/carer. The school has a system of suitable supervision for children withdrawn from acts of worship. In an aided school the staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship.

6 Recording and Evaluation

All acts of worship are planned and recorded, and evaluation takes place during staff meetings and school council sessions to see how worship was received. Pupil evaluation is planned within the School Development Plan 2010-2011 and will be achieved by asking a child, teacher or class to reflect on the worship. These evaluations will be part of the ongoing monitoring of Collective Worship, which is achieved by the use of the Values for Life worship scheme and the record keeping of all visitors to school and ongoing monitoring of the acts of worship by the Headteacher.

7 Monitoring

The Collective Worship will be monitored by:

- Discussion at staff and governor meetings (minutes to be kept with the records). This discussion will include:
 - Review of content and methodology.
 - Suitability for age, aptitude and ability.
 - Variety of styles, groupings and leadership.
 - Links to curriculum and classroom experience.
 - Resources and budget.
 - INSET.
- Review of job description and role of collective worship co-ordinator.
- Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes.
- Checking that the requirements of the law being met.