

Collective Worship Policy

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Committee Responsible:	Learning and Welfare

St James C of E Primary School is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. Our collective worship reflects and reinforces the schools, vision aims and ethos:

"Let your light shine"

At St James we are a welcoming inclusive church school community. Collectively, we spark a love of life-long learning and ignite enquiring minds to explore life in all its fullness. All are inspired to recognise, develop and appreciate our talents and use them to illuminate the path for ourselves and one another. We kindle courage to share our light in the world.

Our vision is inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 5:16.

We live out our vision through our values of

Our collective worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values of Love, Unity, Respect and Courage.

At St James C of E Primary School we consider collective worship to be an important part of the school day. An opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

Aims of our acts of collective worship.

We aim for our collective worship to

- a) Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective worship includes the educational opportunities for

- a) the whole community to celebrate;
- b) sharing and experiencing differences;
- c) developing a culture of learning;
- d) building a sense of group identity;
- e) encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- f) a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- g) learning how to behave in a large social group;
- h) exploring feelings and emotions;
- i) learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- j) learning how to respond to a performance;
- k) making visible the school's leadership;
- l) developing inner awareness.

Legal Requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. It is intended that consultation will take place before formal requests are made to withdraw from acts of worship. In the case of parents or teachers contact needs to be made with the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

Planning of Collective Worship

See Appendix 1 for the organisation of collective worship for the current academic year.

The CW leader, headteacher, and the Rector, plan the themes for the year/term and then create a detailed half-term plan taking account of school activities, festivals, and import events.

The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson. We use collective worship plans from the Diocese of Guildford found [here](#) and [Picture News](#) as our main guidance for collective worship.

Pupils are involved in planning and leading Collective Worship arranging the room and resources to support the collective worship environment in the hall and in their classrooms. They are encouraged to write prayers and read them should they wish to, to respond through reflection, and to choose the music to support a reflective atmosphere.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole

collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome Fr. Damian weekly, as well as the Wintershall team at least once a year.

Visitors should understand that in schools **E** is for **Education** not **Evangelism** and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.

Governors

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

Monitoring, Review and Inspection

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The content and brief self-evaluation by the person leading the worship are recorded in a folder, which is kept in by the collective worship leader.

The Collective Worship Leader seeks feedback from the children and staff about collective worship every term.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection

Appendix 1: Organisation of Collective Worship for the academic year 2023 – 2024

We hold a daily act of worship in our School, taking various forms:

The exact day that the style of worship takes place may vary depending on the activities in the school, and availability of visitors however this is the intended pattern for collective worship;

- Monday – led by the headteacher and based on school values, British values and current topics in school
- Tuesday – led by our Rector using the Diocese of Guildford materials
- Wednesday – singing assembly led by class teachers to learn and reflect on the words of songs linked to our current theme.
- Thursday – led by members of staff using Picture News Collective Worship materials
- Friday – led by the leadership team to celebrate the week

Class assemblies

Each class presents two class assemblies in the academic year. We invite parents to watch their child participate in a class assembly.

Festival and celebrations in the church

In St James C of E Primary school we celebrate:

Harvest

Christmas

Easter

Pentecost

Prayer Space

We run prayer spaces in school at different points in the school year.