

St. John's Church of England Primary School

'Thriving and learning as we build God's Kingdom'



Worship Policy

St. John's Vision statement

Shine like stars

Through God's love, we will flourish and develop our gifts in our nurturing community, as we strive to be an inspiration to all.

Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.' Matthew 5:16

Policy: Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed: June 2023

Future Review: July 2025

Statement of Vision and Values

In consultation with pupils, parents, governors, community members and staff our vision and values were generated.

Vision

Our vision is:

Our Values

To grant forgiveness, to grow in respect, to practise endurance, to share compassion, to work for justice for everyone, and to know confidence through Christ.

Rationale

At St. John's Primary School, worship is a central part of each school day. Acts of worship are wholly Christian, with an opportunity for reflection on a variety of aspects of life for all children. As a Church of England school, we provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development in accordance with the Law. This school has at its foundation the provision of education in accordance with the teaching and doctrine of the Church of England.

The School Aims for Worship

Worship at the school should be: inclusive, invitational and inspiring.

Worship in our school:

1. To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
2. Worship offers the opportunity, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
3. Worship is Reverent. This is developed through entering the hall in silence.
4. Worship is an activity in which all members of the school participate.
5. To provide pupils with the opportunity for reflection and personal response.
6. To ensure acts of worship are meaningful and relevant to pupils.
7. To challenge pupils to think about Bible stories and teaching and thereby to provide all pupils with an opportunity to reflect upon Christian beliefs and values.
8. Worship develops an understanding of the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
9. Worship is creative and informative, enabling all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example through using music, silence, story, prayer and reflection.
10. To mark or celebrate occasions of importance to the school and to the wider, local and national community.
11. Worship celebrates and acknowledges difference and diversity.
12. Worship is relevant and helps pupils and adults to make links to 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.
13. To define and reinforce the shared Christian values and ethos of the school community.
14. Worship develops in each individual a growing appreciation of their uniqueness as a part of the creation of God.

Worship should celebrate our School Values and common British Values:

Our school values are:

Forgiveness, respect, endurance, compassion, justice and confidence

British Values are:

Democracy

The rule of law

Individual liberty

Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

As part of Worship in our school we take a school value every half-term to discuss and explore. Our values underpin our school vision. Our vision underpins everything we do as a school.

Organisation

In line with the aims listed above we provide worship in the following ways.

1. A daily act of collective worship either at the start of the day or in the afternoon.
2. A short prayer at the end of the day, as a class activity.
Singing hymns and songs is an integral part of worship.
3. An atmosphere of tranquility and harmony is provided through appropriate music.
4. Annual pattern of worship in Church as a whole school; celebrating the major Christian Festivals e.g. Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Easter and Ascension
5. Leavers' Service (July).
6. A time for silence and reflection on lighting the candle in collective worship.
7. A table which acts as an altar – it has the candle, cross and Bible on it.
The table cloth is changed in accordance with the Church colours.

Collective Worship Normal Practice – Guidelines

Day	Collective Worship
Monday	Whole School Collective Worship (led by the Headteacher) Pathways attend half-termly Visitors throughout the year e.g. Bridge of Hope Charity
Tuesday	Mother Mitzi to lead the whole school Collective Worship
Wednesday	Whole School Singing / Worship Assembly Church services as listed above – parents/carers & governors invited to attend
Thursday	Class Collective Worship (led by class teacher and or the children) and termly every class takes the Collective Worship – parents/carers invited to attend

Friday	Whole School Collective Worship and Celebration Assembly- parents/carers & governors invited to attend
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Church Links

As stated above the school has good links with the Parish Church and children routinely attend for key services several times a year, examples of which are:

Harvest, Remembrance, Easter Services, Christmas Services, Leavers' Service etc.

With the appointment of Mother Mitzi in June, we are really looking forward to working very closely with her to ensure that our links with the church are continuing to be strengthened further. We recognise and appreciate the key role that worship in a church plays in offering all members of the school community the opportunity to grow morally and spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. Furthermore, it helps us to reinforce the shared Christian values and ethos of the school community.

Themes and resources for Collective Worship at St. John's School

At all acts of worship, a candle is lit on the front table to remind the children of the presence of God. When this is lit, it is a sign to the children that they are present at worship and to behave with reverence.

Themes are selected as a focus for school assemblies, they may include the following: our half-termly Christian values, major events, festivals in the church year, stories from the Bible, topics from Picture News, known national and international events, Eco-Committee and School Council topics and themes from the LDBS worship calendar. There is a weekly focus planned by the Headteacher in the Collective Worship on Monday and this is further developed throughout the week in the daily collective worship that takes place as outlined in the organisation of worship. Teachers may choose from a range of methods to approach worship. These include:

- reflecting from Christian symbols and their use in worship
- observing the cycle of the Anglican year.
- pupils' contributions
- children leading worship
- reflection time and silence
- identified prayers and traditional responses, hymns and songs
- using the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- music, dance and drama
- visitors
- School and class Prayer Books, with prayers written by the children, for use in collective worship
- Collective Worship file which provides a record of all the assembly themes, hymns and songs throughout the year
- Parish church and Clergy
- Collective Worship display/board in every class

START OF WORSHIP

Thank you for joining me for collective worship today.

Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

At the start of our worship we light a candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the World.
Invite a pupil to light the candle – Lord Jesus, shine your light on us today.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

If you would like to join in with my prayer, you can listen carefully and say 'amen' at the end.

At the end of the worship we extinguish the candle with these words, (blow out the candle)

May the light of God shine from us and the peace of God be with us always. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.



Prayer

At St. John's School, we believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. It should be communal or individual and at its heart it is communication between a worshipper and God.

Prayers that are said in class, in acts of collective worship both in school and in services. They are often written by the children either with support from the teachers or by themselves either in school or at home. There is a Prayer Box in the Reception Area for pupils to put any prayers that they may have written during break or lunchtime or from home. These prayers are frequently used in acts of collective worship. The children are also encouraged to say both the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer throughout the week, and always one of these prayers is said at the end of the Celebration Assembly and Collective Worship on a Friday.

Lunchtime Prayer (Ruby Class – Reception & Nursery)

The Lord is good to me

And so I thank the Lord

For giving me the things I need

The sun, the rain and the apple seed

The Lord is good to me.

Home time Song (Ruby Class)

Now the day has ended what a lovely day its been
Thank you for the things we've done and all the things we've seen.
We thank you for the games we've played
And all the friends we've made
And we know the Lord is watching over us.
(Slap, Clap)
We know the Lord is watching over us.
(Prayer Hands)

The Lord's Prayer

and

Our School Prayer

Dear God
Thank you for St. John's School and
for making us one whole family.
Help us to remember that we are a team,
And should all work together and
Care for each other. Keep our hearts
Full of love and friendship.
Thank you for our friend Catriona who no longer is with us.
Help us to keep the school's Golden Rules.
Thank you for helping us to celebrate our good works and achievements.
We ask you to keep us all safe.
Amen.

Evaluating and Monitoring

Collective Worship is the responsibility of the Head teacher, who coordinates and monitors its implementation and impact. Father Stephen and the Chair of Governors, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dean also support within this area, and governors are invited to attend Collective Worship and give feedback to the Head teacher. Views of pupils and staff are also sought and informal feedback given to the Headteacher. Training and support are provided to ensure that collective worship delivers the expected impact and is of a high quality.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

It is the view of the governors that having chosen a Church of England School for their children, parents at St. John's have accepted its faith and teaching. However, the 1944, 1988 and 1993 Education Acts established the parents' rights to withdraw their children from Collective Worship if they wish.

Parents also commit themselves and their children to supporting the school in all its activities, including Church services. For this reason, the governors expect that very few, if any parents will exercise the option under the

law. Withdrawal must be made in writing to, and discussed with, the Headteacher and may be referred to the Chair of Governors. Teachers who work at the school have accepted – on appointment – their duty individually and collectively to promote and to lead in Religious Education and Collective Worship at the school, although their own faiths and levels of conviction will undoubtedly vary.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is reviewed regularly by the Headteacher and the senior management team and ratified by the Governing Body every two years.

Updated: June 2023 and ratified by the Governing Body

Review Date: July 2025