



Preston C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

This policy has been written with the underlying principles of our Church of England school status.

In our school, our Christian vision shapes all we do.

Our School Strapline is: "*Work together, learn together, grow together.*"

Our School Motto is: "*Let Your Light Shine.*" (taken from Matthew 5:16)

Together, they underpin our belief that we are guided by the light of Jesus within us so we can work, learn and grow together to shine as one to serve our wider community.

At Preston C of E Primary School, we are committed to providing the best education for our children so they may be happy and successful in life. Through high academic standards and an exciting, enriched curriculum, our children will flourish spiritually, emotionally, physically and academically. They will feel valued in our safe, caring environment, and develop a love of learning and a desire to make a positive impact on their community and beyond. The children lie at the heart of everything we do. We aspire for our pupils to be the best they can be, in an inclusive Christian learning environment.

We have 5 Core Christian Values which underpin all that we do. They are: Love, Integrity, Gratitude, Hope and Truth, and they remind us of the LIGHT of Jesus within us. We also aspire to live our lives through the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

Policy Statement

Collective Worship in a Church school should enable every child and adult to flourish and to live '*life in all its fullness*' (John 10:10). It will help educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills, hope and aspiration, dignity and respect, and developing community and understanding of living well together.

In Preston Primary School, worship is central to the life of school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision. It is well planned and of high quality so that the whole school community is engaged on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in Church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A school is not a Church but is a collection of people who come from a variety of backgrounds for the purpose of education. The family backgrounds may be very different and collective worship must take account of the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Preston Primary School, collective worship aims to be inclusive, *invitational and inspiring* (in accordance with C of E Collective Worship Guidance) and will lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in, if they wish:

- Inclusive: Our acts of Collective Worship are collective, involving interaction and exploration. They welcome everyone and accommodate diverse faith backgrounds and varying spiritual journeys. Pupils have space to question, participate, or step back. The language used in worship avoids assuming faith, ensuring an inclusive and accessible experience for all. Pupils are involved in planning, leading and evaluating worship and is shaped by pupils' experiences and our local context.
- Invitational: Our worship is friendly and open and individuals can engage as they feel comfortable. Prayer is optional, always with a chance to reflect. Music blends traditional and modern to suit the spiritual needs of the school community.

- Inspiring: Our worship inspires a positive mindset, prompting individuals to rethink their actions and beliefs. It encourages courage, responsibility, and a commitment to positive community impact. It aims to spark curiosity about identity and purpose, motivating individuals to become advocates for causes. It encourages deep reflection on personal beliefs and values.

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story. They will be offered an understanding of worship through being invited to participate in or observe prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy and pain of the world will be given. Pupils will be given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time will be given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark the seasonal festivals of the Christian (*and other faiths*¹) calendar. Pupils will be offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually, and explore their relationship with God.²

Legal Requirements

A daily act of collective worship takes place during the school day.

Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Worship in Preston Primary School is distinctly Christian and reflect Christian traditions.

The trustees and governing body of Preston Primary School have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.

The right of withdrawal

In Preston Primary School, there are significant numbers of children whose families are members of another faith, or who hold a non- religious world view. Part of the distinctively Christian nature of Church of England Schools is that they should be as hospitable and inclusive to all in the community they serve. As collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, this should be made clear on induction, and it is hoped that parents will be making a specific choice of the school knowing that the distinctive ethos will determine a Christian tradition within collective worship.

The 1944 and 1988 Education Acts state that parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children.

On occasions, a parent may make a request for their child to be withdrawn from Collective Worship. There is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements. It may be helpful to establish:

- The elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part

¹ Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship.

² "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)

- The other aspects of school life that are impacted by the Christian foundation of the school such as prayer and reflective areas
- The practical implications of withdrawal
- Whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and if so, how much

Where parents have withdrawn their children from collective worship and request religious worship according to their particular faith or denomination, the governors and head teacher will seek to respond positively to such requests providing:

- Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school
- That the alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum as set out in the Education Acts

If the Parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attending any religious worship at the school, then the school must comply.

(This means that a parent may, for example, request their child does not take part in a carol service when otherwise the child takes part in daily collective worship.)

Guiding Principles

Collective worship in Preston Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school
- Support pupils and adults in their spiritual growth
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored so that the whole school community is challenged and engaged with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, offering an opportunity to take part whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity
- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief
- Provide a variety of different opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality whilst contributing to the communal journey
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory foci and introduce them to some well know Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving before mealtimes and home time
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community. Pupils will be at the centre of this process taking on increasingly independent roles in planning and leading worship
- Ensure that materials and themes for worship are carefully selected to make sure pupils understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.

Development of the policy and links to other policies and documentation

The CEEO Guidance published in May 2021 is useful to support school leadership in developing good collective worship:

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-children/school-effectiveness/collective-worship/>

We ensure that the principles for collective worship are reflected and applied in our policies and practice including those that are concerned with:

- Pupils' personal development and wellbeing
- SMSC and PSHE
- Staff recruitment, retention and professional development
- Care, guidance and support
- Behaviour, discipline and exclusions
- Working in partnership with parents, carers and guardians
- Working with the wider community

We also ensure that information about collective worship is included in the school prospectus and on the school website.

An act of worship will take place each day, either in the hall or in the classroom and for some specific occasions (e.g. Remembrance Day) outside in the school grounds. Children also visit the parish church of St James for services to celebrate festivals such as Harvest and Christmas or at the community centre for Easter Services. Year Six visit the Diocesan Cathedral at Wells for the leaver's service.

The act of worship is led by members of staff, the vicar, by carefully chosen visitors or our own children, or children from other schools and churches.

The worship has a clear focus and involves pupil participation. Worship is planned to take account of the major festivals of the Christian year and other key themes such as charity events. Worship aims to provide continuity and progression in considering issues and an opportunity for children to develop spirituality over a period of time. Worship will include a quiet time for prayer or reflection and any notices will be clearly separated from the act of worship.

Planning

- Worship is planned by the Headteacher, class teachers, pupils and the Vicar, as well as any visitors who attend for a collective worship focus.
- Christian Values are selected each week as a focus for Collective worship. These are displayed In classrooms.
- Explicit links are made between Bible stories and the Christian values of the school through the reading and sharing of stories and discussion with pupils.
- A variety of materials are used, including: websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points e.g. a picture or candle.
- Opportunities are provided for children and adults to explore faith in today's world through RE lessons and Collective worship, as well as celebrating and learning about special events that occur during the year.
- The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored through RE lessons and Collective worship through bible stories and discussions.
- Spiritual growth through prayer, stillness and reflection is nurtured throughout the week through daily prayers and reflection. A prayer meeting takes place every Monday morning, where Governors, visitors and staff read and share prayers that pupils have written.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place in key stages, class groupings and individually through using the reflection garden, willow dome, local church and quiet places around the school. A Collective worship display is located in each classroom, which includes the Lord's Prayer, school prayer, lunchtime prayers, candle, cross and a bible. The Christian Values are also displayed.

There is a Collective worship display located in the corridor which includes a bible, cross, candle and the prayer box for pupils to write prayers to share at the weekly prayer meeting held with members of the community and staff. The tablecloth on the table represents the liturgical colours of the seasons of the Church Year.

Key Stage 1

Monday: Headteacher led Key Stage Collective worship.

Tuesday: Class Collective worship

Wednesday: Key Stage Singing Collective worship/Class led Collective worship (1 class per half term)

Thursday: Class Collective worship

Friday: Celebration Key Stage Collective worship

Key Stage 2

Monday: Headteacher led Key Stage Collective worship.

Tuesday: Class Collective worship

Wednesday: Key Stage Singing Collective worship

Thursday: Class led Collective worship (1 class each week)

Friday: Celebration Key Stage Collective worship

Roles and Responsibilities

- The responsibility for arranging Collective Worship rests with the governing body, after consultation with the Headteacher.
- At Preston C of E Primary School the Collective Worship Coordinator has responsibilities for updating the policy, ordering and organising resources and organising Inset needs.
- The governing body have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship on the school community in consultation with the headteacher.
- Clergy and church partners have responsibility for visiting and welcoming pupils to the church, as well as delivering Collective worship throughout the year.
- Teaching and support staff have the responsibility of ensuring pupils take part in Collective worship acts every day as well as encouraging pupils to plan and lead their own Collective worship.
- Pupils will plan and lead Collective worship as well as take part in acts of Collective worship each day.
- Parents and carers are given opportunities to visit for specific Collective worship and are expected to respect the Christian nature of the school.

- Visitors are given opportunities to visit for specific Collective worship and are expected to respect the Christian nature of the school.

Staff development and training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of worship are carried out regularly and are changed/adapted as necessary.
- Pupils, staff, link/foundation governors, clergy are involved in monitoring and evaluating the impact of worship.

Disseminating the policy

We ensure that this policy is known to all staff and governors, parents and carers and, as appropriate, to all pupils. This policy is available on our school website.

Other Useful Documents: (can be found on the Diocesan website)

- Guidance for visitors leading Collective Worship, including a code of conduct
- Example Visitors Leaflet about Collective Worship
- Collective Worship Planning Proformas
- Evaluation and Monitoring – Ideas and Systems
- Suggested Resources for Collective Worship
- Spirituality – What is it?

Date of last review: July 2022

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