



As God's family, together we achieve

Collective Worship Policy

Policy title:	Worship Lead & SLT
Approved by:	Headteacher and Governors
Date approved:	July 2021
Date of next review:	July 2022

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"Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old they will not turn away from it."

Proverb 22:6

Mission Statement

This school aims to provide its pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum set within a caring and supportive Christian community in which each member of the school is valued and is empowered to reach their full potential.

The leadership of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the governors and head teacher. Collective Worship has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in its school.

In Collective Worship the importance of inclusivity and dignity and respect for all is explored, as well as other themes and values that play a part in challenging all forms of prejudicial bullying, including HBT bullying and language.

At St Paul's worship is based on a distinctly Christian Foundation, whatever form the worship takes within school it is underpinned by the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian Church. These will include:

- the nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- the nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- the central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- the central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- the importance of prayer;
- the central symbols of Christianity;
- the cycle of the Church year.

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Aims

- We introduce children to Christian worship and encourage active participation.
- We provide opportunities for spiritual development, developing a sense of awe and wonder.
- We provide opportunity to develop a relationship with God.
- We provide an atmosphere of trust and develop a sense of community within the school.
- We encourage the celebration and development of our school's values, ethos and achievements.
- We enable adults and children to worship together.
- We provide opportunities for silence, reflection and prayer.
- We give the children opportunity to know and understand the cycle of the Christian year, Christian festivals and symbols.
- We encourage the children to ensure that their own speech and actions reflects their Christian beliefs and values.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher.

Organisation

Worship supports the teaching in the RE curriculum but is distinctive. It is also should be distinguished from times when the school assembles for reasons other than worship, such as announcements and notices.

The current organisation for Collective Worship during a week at St Paul's is as follows:

Monday – Whole School Worship- Spiritual Lead- SLT

Tuesday –Class Worship

Wednesday – Whole School singing practice/Teacher's Thought for the Day

Thursday – whole school worship led by Church leaders

Friday – Whole School Achievement Assembly and an act of Worship.

In addition, every term each class will present their own Class Worship to the school. Parents and Carers are invited to attend this as well as the members of the community and church congregation.

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Themes

The themes for each week are planned by the Collective Worship Leader in conjunction with the Head Teacher, RE Leader and Worship Committee. To decide on the themes, the Leader uses the Christian Calendar, Christian values, the current RE curriculum as well as taking into account festivals of other faiths and other important dates in the year such as Remembrance Sunday. Imaginor (Roots and Fruits) scheme supports planning.

On Monday the Whole School Worship starts or extends on the Christian Value focus, scripture and reflection underpins the whole school worship. On Tuesday the theme is discussed in Class Worship at a level appropriate to the class. The teachers are given a plan which may include extensions for activities in the class and higher level discussion ideas for Key Stage 2 children. Thursday the Worship is led by the vicar and is an opportunity for the Vicar to relate the theme to the Bible and the teachings of God and Jesus. Worship may be presented in a variety of ways and where possible children will take an active role.

In both class and whole school worship Christian Symbols are used to ensure the children are aware that worship is taking place such as a cross or a candle. Children are made aware that this is a time for thought and reflection.

The music and hymns chosen during the week will, when possible reflect the theme; these are chosen by both the adults in the school and the children.

In addition, grace is said in each class before lunch and an end of day prayer is said every day. The prayer may vary from class to class as appropriate.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection, including singing practice. A range of prayers is used including the Lord's Prayer, our School Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet. During this time a candle may be lit at the front of Worship as a symbol to the children to reflect on the message of the worship and the impact on their own lives.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, show intolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs.

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The acts of worship may portray other cultures and beliefs which will be used as a stimulus for discussion and comparison with Christian beliefs.

Evaluating and reporting

Whole School Worship is evaluated by the teaching staff and a selection of pupils. When there are visitors to the school worship, they will be asked to fill the Visitors Book in to evaluate their experience of the worship. These evaluations will be used to inform the development of Collective Worship in school. All planning and evaluations are kept in the Collective Worship file by the Collective Worship Leader. The Leader is also responsible for reporting to the Governors on an annual basis, outlining the planning, evaluation and future development of Collective Worship at St Paul's.

COVID-19

Throughout these challenging times, Worship has continued to meet successfully within class bubbles, digitally, via Zoom and pre-recorded, to ensure that children's spiritual journey continues. As Blackburn with Darwen has been identified as an area of "Enduring Transmission", this arrangement will continue for 2021 in the autumn term. With any rise in transmission, risk assessments will dictate the size and frequency of whole school events.

Daily acts of worship take place, alongside weekly teachings of RE. Our new incumbent, Rev. Rebecca Roberts will resume face to face worship with our growing St. Paul's congregation. Working with the SLT and Church leadership, plans for leading worship in school and developing our Spirituality Days (Post COVID restrictions) will take place.

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