



St Peter's C of E (Aided) Primary School

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Believe Achieve Succeed

Our Vision Statement

"At St Peter's we have high expectations where everyone achieves and succeeds within a safe, inclusive Christian community. We promote independence, respect and empathy. Through an exciting curriculum, children are inspired to become lifelong learners and active world citizens."

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Person Responsible:	Head & Deputy Head Teachers
Review Period:	Every 3 years or in light of new regulations
Date Adopted:	Autumn Term 2016
Next review:	Autumn Term 2019
Ratified by Governors:	Autumn Term 2016

What does Worship mean to us?

At St Peter's worship is at the heart of every school day. It is a time for the whole school community to step away from the busyness of daily routines. It is a time to come closer to God. At St. Peter's, we try to create a sense of belonging through worship. We aim to provide a variety of opportunities to enable our school community to both understand the mystery of God and develop a spiritual awareness. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities. Members of staff aim to lead the children to have positive attitudes and values towards life and the gifts that God has given us. We are committed to ensuring each individual will derive some benefit from these sessions.

Our collective worship affirms and celebrates the values and ethos of our school. It is a central feature of the school's life. We aim to begin to understand the issues of Christianity with God and the teachings of the gospels, being the main focus of worship. We may also refer to festivals from other faiths, but always in the context of Christianity. Collective worship is a special time for our children and staff to reflect upon their life experiences.

In order to achieve these aims we provide the following opportunities:

- Time to come together to praise God;
- Time for thinking, sharing, listening, discussing, silence and reflection;
- Time to learn about Jesus' teachings from The Bible;
- An understanding of Christian traditions and beliefs;
- An awareness of key events in the Liturgical year;
- Time to reflect on Christian symbols and their use in worship (e.g. cross, candles, bread, wine etc.);
- Time to worship through traditional and contemporary hymns and songs; and
- Visitors who are invited to attend and lead school worship.

The worship leader plans termly collective worship themes and each member of the teaching staff will receive a copy.

All acts of worship will:

- follow a structure to ensure a quality experience for all;
- follow a given theme;
- have God/Jesus or the Holy Spirit as the focus or point of reflection;
- be distinctively Christian in teaching;
- include a Bible reading or similar;
- include a prayer;
- give a message to take forth; and
- be varied in delivery.

A variety of methods and experiences are covered during our collective worship sessions, including:

- A story or reading from the Bible
- A poem or story
- A film clip or presentation
- A personal account of an experience or event
- Pictures/artefacts
- Hymns
- Prayers
- Music
- Silence for reflection
- Visits to church
- Visitors to school

We hope that all our pupils will participate in our collective worship. However participation in worship is not obligatory and parents or guardians who wish to withdraw their children are asked to discuss their decision with the Head teacher.

Collective Worship takes place daily in a variety of settings:

- Monday 10am:** The whole school gathers together and Collective Worship is led by the head teacher or deputy head teacher. This assembly follows our planned theme and will have a Christian focus or if PSHE led, it will be linked to Christian teachings. If the focus is another major faith, links will be made with Christian teachings.
- Tuesday 10am:** Collective worship is organised in key stages. One key stage will attend a worship session led by the Vicar of St Peter's Church. The other key stage will attend class, year group or key stage worship.
- Wednesday 2.30 pm:** The whole school joins together to worship through hymns and a prayer
- Thursday 10 am:** Worship in class, year group or key stage. Once a year, each class will have an opportunity to lead an assembly to which parents will be invited. A prayer and hymn will always be included.
- Friday 9am:** Whole school collective worship is led by the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or a member of the SLT. This is a special assembly to celebrate children's achievements and the school's successes. Parents are invited to this assembly. A prayer and a hymn will always be included.

One theme will feature throughout the week.

Worship which takes place in class or year groups provides opportunities for children to reflect and pray in smaller groups. It allows children to learn to lead the worship. Through this they may gain confidence in asking questions and giving their thoughts on spiritual subjects. In addition to formal prayers, the children are encouraged to compose their own simple prayers on a variety of themes. These form an important part of our special assemblies and other festivals. All classes will have a defined Worship area/corner in the classroom. Teachers will build up a collection of suitable artefacts. All classes will have a Spiritual Journey Book which will record children's experiences of spirituality and awe and wonder.

Special forms of Collective worship

New Children Welcome Assembly

A Special Welcome Assembly will take place in the Autumn term to welcome the new Early Years children into our St. Peter's family. Parents will be invited.

Church Services

We organise special services which take place at St Peter's Church to celebrate events in the Church calendar. These traditionally include Christmas, Harvest, Easter and St Peter's Feast Day. All children attend these services. A Christmas Carol Service is also held at St Peter's Church.

Staff Reflection

This will be held before school once a month on a Thursday and will be led by the clergy from St Peter's. It is open to all staff.

Pause Day

A Pause Day will be held each year to celebrate either Easter or Pentecost. A prayer/reflection room will be made available to the whole school community.

Worship Committee

The school's Worship Committee will exchange ideas with another Church school and will also act as a channel for all children to voice their ideas for developing Worship in the school.

Prayer

Prayer reflects a personal relationship with God. At St. Peter's, we encourage pupils to explore different forms of prayer from individual prayer to group prayer in both formal and informal settings.

During our prayer, it is important to:

- Create the right atmosphere and setting;
- Make the best use of both silence and music;
- Lead the children in a meaningful experience of traditional prayers;
- Enable children to pray with spontaneity and openness;
- Always respect the right to be listened to and to remain silent;
- Have the courage, as adults, to share with the children;
- Instil in children, a sense of respect and reverence;
- Ensure that prayer reflects the essence of our lives: joy and sorrow, a sense of belonging, peace, anger and loneliness and above all, celebration for our lives; and
- Give children an understanding of the value of prayer, and its importance in the Christian faith and other faiths.

Commitment

The Worship Leader will ensure that all staff members have any necessary support in planning and delivering worship sessions. Resources will be available and training will be delivered on a regular basis. This will be supported by the clergy at St Peter's. All staff will participate in Worship.

Evaluation

Worship will be well planned and recorded. Its impact will be evaluated. Through the SLT and The Governing Body, the following questions will be addressed:

- How important is worship to the life of the school?
- How positive are learners' attitudes to Collective Worship?
- To what extent do learners and staff of all faiths derive inspiration, spiritual growth and affirmation from Collective Worship? (Diocesan Guidance on Collective Worship)
- How well does Collective Worship develop learners' understanding of Anglican faith and practice?

Class Worship will be evaluated by the Worship Leader and other staff members and governors. Children will also be invited to give feedback on Worship led by adults.

Sarah Marshall
Worship Leader

APPENDIX

Prayers said at St Peter's C of E Primary School

Grace before lunch

For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful – **Amen**

At the end of the day

God our father I come to say thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your light – **Amen**

St Peter's School Prayer

Dear God
Thank you for our school family
May we be filled with your joy and peace?
May Jesus' love guide everything we do and say,
And help us to care for each other.
In Jesus' name.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and glory are yours
Now and forever – **Amen**

*The traditional version of The Lord's Prayer will also be used.