

ST. PAUL'S C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Paul's C E Primary School
School Collective Worship Policy

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At St Paul's School, we believe that Collective Worship plays a very important role in the life of our school. It is an opportunity to promote the Christian foundation of our school, to celebrate and support all aspects of school life and to provide time for stillness and reflection in what is often a very busy, active day for our children. We recognise that in our school at present we have children from mainly Christian faith traditions and those who have no faith background. Great care and sensitivity will be taken to ensure that all our children feel valued and special. Collective Worship will be known as 'Worship Time' in our school.

Aims

The main aims of Worship Time at St. Paul's are:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to worship God.
- To promote pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To enable pupils to explore their own beliefs.
- To promote a common sense of ethos and shared values.
- To help our pupils to develop respect for and sensitivity to the beliefs, culture and values of others.
- To explore Christianity whilst fostering a respect for peoples of all races and faiths.
- To help our pupils understand the nature and language of worship.
- To support the broader curriculum through the use of art, music, dance, poetry, story, drama and other visual and oral means of communication.

1988 Education Reform Act

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that collective worship must be on a daily basis for all registered pupils. The religious foundation of St. Paul's School as stated in the Trust Deed is Church of England and the daily Act of Collective Worship is delivered in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Daily Act of Worship. A parent wishing to do so will need to make a written request to the Headteacher.

Organisation

In order to promote our pupil's learning and meet the needs of different age groups, our Worship Times vary in size and groupings. Our current schedule is as follows:

- Monday
Whole school Worship led by Headteacher in the Hall.
- Tuesday
Key Stage 1 Worship in the Hall lead by KS1 staff or Headteacher,
Key Stage 2 individual class Worship lead by class teachers.
- Wednesday
Whole school Worship is usually led by our Vicar.
- Thursday
Key Stage 1 class Worship lead by individual class teachers.
Key Stage 2 Worship lead by Key Stage 2 teachers or Headteacher.
- Friday
Celebration Assembly (which includes informing the school of Housepoint totals for the week and awarding of the Attendance trophy).
These will be led by either the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or teachers.

Act of Worship Framework

- Worship themes are planned half-termly and reflect the Christian church year.
- They promote the values of our school Ethos.
- They are usually linked with curriculum themes or special occasions and festivals through which these key issues can be developed.
- Reference to festivals and main events in other main world religions such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism may be made with the intention of promoting understanding of others who hold differing beliefs to ourselves. We do this with the aim of developing Community Cohesion.

The key issues relate to our Mission Statement and include love, respect, honesty, caring and sharing, change, trust, fairness, the wonders of nature and the gospel values. The record of Worship Time have been logged in the Assembly folder where activities and resources can be logged. Related bible readings, prayers, music and hymns are also recorded on the grid. This grid aims to help staff plan Acts of Worship and to avoid unnecessary repetition. Although the themes will be revisited on an annual basis, they are broad enough to allow for sufficient choice and flexibility. Worship Times should last approximately 20 minutes.

Elements of Worship

- Songs and music from a variety of cultures (if appropriate.)
- Prayer (both traditional, contemporary and simultaneous)
- Reflection and contemplation.
- Individual and group activity.
- Readings, sermons.
- Artefacts.
- Discussion, speech and silence.
- Dance and drama.
- Use of the senses.
- Artistic imagery.
- Different seating plans

Attitudes to be developed.

- Sense of beauty, awe and wonder.
- Feelings of belonging.
- Respect for others regardless of gender, social, racial or cultural differences.
- Sense of pride.
- Sense of pity, empathy.
- Sense of peace or thankfulness.
- Sense of shared sadness or loss.
- Sense of smallness in the face of the greatest of things.
- Sense of grandness in the face of the smallest of things.
- Sense of stillness in the midst of a busy experience.

We also aim to ensure that our children leave St. Paul's School knowing 'The Lord's Prayer', "The Grace" (which they are encouraged to share with others) and a variety of lunch time and evening prayers.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

Each Act of Worship will be recorded by the member of staff leading the assembly. There is a column for teachers / Headteacher to jot down any reflections / evaluations on a particular Worship Time when it is necessary to do so.

Any comments should be brief and aid the planning of future Worship Times.

Children will evaluate the Act of Worship each day through discussions within their classes which serve to reinforce the themes.

The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring the Collective Worship. This process will involve all staff. It shall be carried out as part of the whole school self review process.

Resources

Each class will have an area in their classroom that is a focus for their class Acts of Worship. This spiritual corner will contain a focal point chosen by the class such as a Christian symbol (e.g. cross or poster) and a candle reflecting the time in the Church's year. Each class should have a bible and a collection of prayers to use. Other bibles, bible stories and prayer books are kept in the library. Most Christian artefacts are displayed around school and are available for use at any time. All hymn music and cassettes / CD's are kept in the hall. Teacher resource books / folders with ideas for Collective Worship are kept in the library or Assembly folder.

*Lord, We thank you for the simplicity and directness of children;
Their freshness and unconscious closeness to their creator.*

In them is so much hope for the world.

Grant us the patience to learn from little children;

To feel again the wonder of discovery;

To share the magnified minutes of make-believe;

To know the joy that brings hand clapping and shouts of delight;

To see our gaze in the eyes of a child;

To hear your voice in the love and truth of a child.

Amen

(Frank Topping: 'lord of Time')

Adopted by the Governing Body on:-

Date

February 2016

Headteacher signature

Mrs A E Jackson

Handwritten signature of Mrs A E Jackson in cursive script, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chair of Governors signature

Mr D Blow

Handwritten signature of Mr D Blow in cursive script.

