



Collective Worship Policy

Date: Spring 2022

Lead: Headteacher

Next Review: Spring 2024

Our School Vision

'Shine, Encourage, Love and Learn'

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (MATTHEW 5: 14-16)

We aspire to **shine** as lights in the world as we journey together. We ask for God's **blessing** to:

- **Encourage**, through valuing and celebrating diversity;
- **Love**, so that we may flourish as one, nurturing the unique contributions of all, impacting positively on our world;
- **Learn**, so that we develop a love of learning, aiming for excellence in all we do.

Our core values: Forgiveness, Love, Encouragement, Wisdom and Togetherness

Our vision is for all in our school to be a *light in the world through encouragement, through love and through learning*. We believe that a key part of this is the spiritual development of children and adults through reflection, discussion and harnessing curiosity, as well as through our prayer and collective worship.

Collective Worship is central to the life of the school and is an expression of our vision. We aim to provide all children with a meaningful daily act of Collective Worship that explores the schools distinctive Christian character and contributes to the achievement, personal development and well-being of its members. Children attend Collective Acts of Worship in school each day of the week. Church services take place in St Jude & St Paul's Church at different times during the school year, including Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Definition

A collective act of worship is where the community comes together to celebrate and worship, giving opportunity for prayer and reflection, as well as praise and thanksgiving.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship in St Jude & St Paul's School:

- is an expression of our school's vision
- will be inspirational, invitational and inclusive. It should engage all learners and they should be able to talk about the impact it makes on their relationships and on life in the school and at home
- will regularly include Biblical material and Christian teaching to explore and relate to our core Christian values of forgiveness, love, encouragement, wisdom and togetherness

- will help all learners to understand Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- will challenge all learners of all backgrounds to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- will invite all to join in with Prayer, Reflection and Stillness
- will contribute significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; by providing all learners with "something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to"
- will be an opportunity to Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals

The positive educational outcomes of Collective Worship at St Jude & St Paul's School include opportunities for:

- the whole community to celebrate
- sharing and experiencing differences
- developing a culture of learning
- building a sense of group identity
- encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility
- a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet)
- learning how to behave in a large social group
- exploring feelings and emotions
- experiencing liturgy
- engaging in reflection and stillness/prayer
- developing inner awareness
- making visible the school's leadership
- developing Biblical knowledge
- developing their own understanding of spirituality

Statutory requirements

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body of every school to provide a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with the schools Trust Deed and foundation.

Collective worship should be an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faith.

Our Practice

Acts of Collective Worship take place on a daily basis for all children in years R to 6, in various combinations in school and on occasion in church. They are an expression of our vision and associated values. They also include a recognition of the church's year and make space for other national events. Care is taken not to be coercive or proselytising. Non-Christian pupils are encouraged to attend and are welcome to take an active part (e.g. reading, assisting or presenting) if they wish, but they are not obliged to do so. We expect all pupils to show respect for the act of worship that is taking place.

Once a week the School gathers for this worship, in which achievements of pupils at the school are celebrated. Staff and pupils may contribute music, drama dance and performance in a class assembly where parents and carers are invited.

Collective Worship and the Curriculum

Collective worship time is distinct from curriculum time given to any subject including religious education.

We aim to enable collective worship and aspects of children’s classroom learning to be mutually supportive. Collective worship provides opportunities for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. To achieve this it addresses a wide variety of themes and topics, uses diverse stimuli and resources and provides pupils with opportunities to ‘respond’ at their own level.

Leading Worship

Every member of the school staff, pupils and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship during in the school year. A weekly act of Collective Worship is also led by the vicar of St Jude & St Paul’s Church.

When do Collective Acts of Worship take place?

	Collective Act of Worship	Lead
Monday	Whole School	Headteacher
Tuesday	Whole School	Vicar
Wednesday	Music/singing focus	Music Teacher
Thursdays	Key Stages 1 & 2 separately	All staff
Friday	Whole School Achievement/ Class assembly	Headteacher/SLT Headteacher/teaching staff

Withdrawal

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. We request that those who wish to exercise this right inform the Head Teacher in writing so that school records are accurate. We also appreciate opportunities to speak with parents who have concerns about collective worship, in the first instance, as we are always keen to develop our understanding of sensitivities and to overcome difficulties where possible.