



# Collective Worship Policy

St Peter's Eaton Square C of E Primary School

At St Peter's School every child and adult must be equally valued and respected. Our collective worship contributes to a school environment in which each person can discover "life in all its fullness," as Jesus promised.

Together, we will realise the potential God has given us, academically, morally and spiritually, in a community which is safe, and keen to embrace difference. We welcome children of all faiths and of none, and our worship recognises and values the breadth of human experience and culture.

St Peter's is a Church of England school and the beliefs and practices of the Christian faith underpin our values, teaching and spiritual development. Christian belief in God as creator, redeemer and sustainer ensures that each child is valued as one of God's children. The school builds on the nurture and spiritual teaching begun by parents and through partnership with them continues their education in the fullest sense. Each member of our school community is encouraged to respect themselves and others as they discover more about the world in which they live, a world made by God for us to cherish.

The Collective Worship Policy at St Peter's Eaton Square C of E Primary School pays due regard to statutory requirements, and has taken account of the guidance offered by the LA through its SACRE.

In line with the 1988 Education Act, daily Collective worship at St Peter's is *wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character*, and where we may reference other faiths we base all collective worship both in assemblies and in class on those aspects of Christian teaching that are shared with these faiths.

## **Definition of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a time when the whole school, or groups within the school meet together in order to be inspired by the teaching of Jesus, and the Christian understanding of God's loving purposes. Christian belief and teaching is applied to daily life, to provide a foundation for moral and ethical living. Often this will incorporate references to common concerns, world issues and other interests and how our Christian values link into these. It offers all pupils an opportunity to worship through engaging in relevant, meaningful experiences and provides opportunities for the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

As an inclusive Church of England school, we ensure that all children of other faiths and no faiths are included in all acts of worship in some way.

### **Aims of Collective Worship**

#### **For the School:**

Collective Worship contributes significantly to the ethos of St Peter's Eaton Square C of E Primary School and it is our aim that it is a time when the school community can:

- † Understand Christian teaching and Biblical texts, and how these impact on our lives today
- † share common aims and values
- † celebrate achievement and special times
- † explore together the world in which we live
- † develop a community spirit

#### **For the Pupils:**

We also intend that Collective Worship contributes to the development of the pupil as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will allow participants to respond to the presence, glory and peace of God
- Introduce children to Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the church year
- Explore a variety of ways of praying and introduce children to some well known Christian prayers, e.g. Lord's Prayer
- Celebrate the gifts that each person brings to the school community, recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Reinforce positive attitudes and reflect on that which is worthy.
- Encourage reflection on the puzzling questions that life poses, consider spiritual and moral issues and response to the wonder and mystery of the world around us
- Explore their own beliefs, spirituality and the direction they wish for their lives.
- Reflect on what it means to be a human being, made in the image of God.
- Foster a concern for others within the school and the wider world
- Foster an appreciation of the created world and an awareness of our responsibility for it.

## **The Contribution of Collective Worship to aspects of the Curriculum**

Collective Worship time is distinct from curriculum time. However, in St Peter's Eaton Square C of E Primary School, Collective Worship will at times reinforce aspects of the curriculum, which will enhance the experiences of pupils by reflecting on the work done in classes. At times, Collective Worship will enrich classwork through its consideration of subject matter from different perspectives.

The provision of opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is in line with school policy which informs our practice. To ensure Collective Worship provides opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development it will address a wide variety of themes and topics, use diverse stimuli and resources and provide pupils with the opportunity to 'respond' on their own level.

### **The Management of Collective Worship**

The Assistant Head (Spiritual Lead) and RE coordinator will plan, monitor and evaluate acts of Collective Worship.

### **The Organisation of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is organised to provide a variety of groupings and will take place in the school hall or the classroom.

Collective worship with assemblies include;

- † **Monday** Head teacher's assembly themed on the Christian value for that term
- † **Tuesday** Singing assembly, prayer and reflection
- † **Wednesday** Year group assembly in Church or  
Teacher led assembly on a Bible story linked to a Christian value
- † **Thursday** Celebration assembly, prayer and reflection
- † **Friday** Eucharist Mass for KS2 and a separate service for EYFS and KS1 both led by clergy

Acts of worship will usually last for approximately 15-20 minutes, although it is recognized that this time will be shortened or lengthened when it is appropriate.

Collective acts of worship are incorporated into whole school assemblies, RE and PHSE lessons and during the day within classroom settings.

### **Leading Collective Worship**

Every member of the teaching staff and occasional visitors will be involved in leading acts of worship at some point in the school year.

### **Planning Acts of Collective Worship**

The content of all acts of Collective Worship will be considered carefully, to ensure relevance and suitability for the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of all pupils.

Termly planning sheets list themes, special occasions and events, but will be flexible to allow the inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets, these will ensure that there is continuity and progression, and enable the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place.

### **The Act of Collective Worship**

A variety of teaching and learning styles and active and interactive methods are appropriate in acts of Collective Worship.

Any and all of the methods employed in the classroom can be used effectively in acts of Collective Worship. A variety of resources will also be used. Leaders will choose the style/method and resources which are appropriate to the content, the age, aptitude and the background of the pupils.

The content and process must be sufficiently stimulating in order to evoke a response in the individual. This may not be visual, but opportunity must be given to express this response through reflection and prayer.

If announcements are to be given at the same time as an act of worship then they will be of a positive nature, which at times may enhance the act of worship itself. Announcements will be made preceding the act of worship and a clearly defined break between them and the act of worship will be made.

### **Withdrawal**

Our assemblies will be conducted in a manner as sensitive and inclusive as to ensure that all children feel comfortable to attend the assembly.

September 2017