

St. John the Evangelist C of E (Aided) Primary School Policy For Collective Worship

Introduction

St. John the Evangelist C of E (Aided) Primary School is an Anglican School, the school's worship is shaped by the rites and practices of the Church of England. The trust deed informs the aims and purposes of the school. We believe that our worship is consistent with the trust deed and provides all members of the school community with the opportunity of discovering the reality of God in their lives.

The Aims of Worship at St. John's

Worship is central to the life and purpose of our school. It is a time when all members of the school family, both Christian and non-Christian, can come together to reflect on attitudes, values and behaviours. Through our worship themes we seek to promote our school's vision:

“St. John's is a caring, Christian community striving to support its members to achieve their God given potential. Exploring our unique gifts and raising aspirations, we prepare our children for the challenges of the modern world. Following Jesus' example, we seek to grow good people who can make a difference.”

Worship is a time where we come together as a family to share the love of God in our lives and celebrate our achievements together. Remembering that Jesus said “For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.” (Matthew 18:20). It is a time to reflect on God's word and the teachings of Jesus and an opportunity to consider the impact that gospel teachings have on our everyday lives and how they can guide us on life's journey.

Through worship we aim to provide invitational opportunities for those present to:

- Experience the presence, power and peace of God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Explore and deepen an understanding of The Christian Church, the teachings of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit can provide.
- Experience how worship can lead to a practical expression of love both in the school and the wider community, developing a sense of justice for all and valuing all of God's children.
- Experience how worship can transform, strengthen and challenge the way we live our lives.
- Develop and deepen a personal life of prayer through exploration of: response prayers, silent prayers, individual prayers and personal prayers for family and the wider world eg following a significant trauma. Prayer also takes place at other times in the school day.

Worship Themes at St John's

Each half term's worship is based on a different Christian value, following a two year cycle of themes. Each Christian value is planned carefully through a series of acts of worship, each of which has opportunity to explore both Biblical teaching and non-Biblical texts. Planning for worship also takes into account the church's year and events of national or international importance. Each Christian value theme has a high status with the entrance hall display reflecting children's response to the theme and a worship banner which is displayed at the front of the hall.

Leaders of worship are varied: staff, clergy, children and visitors. All worship leaders are provided with an outline of the theme upon which to base their teaching and are supported so that they feel confident in the role. Different styles of presentation are used, as are prayers and, songs from different traditions. Children are invited to play an active part in daily worship through drama, prayer, singing and written

response, no matter how young they may be. During the year the school family also attends services at St. John's Church (Harvest, Advent/Christmas, Lent/ Easter). The Year 6 leaver's service is held in the church too.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Collective Worship

Monitoring of collective worship will be achieved over time by asking all members of the school family. Useful strategies for collecting evidence will include:

- Pupil voice – a sample of children to complete a questionnaire focused on worship at St John's.
- Informal 'speech bubble' feedback from classes.
- Parent comment cards.
- Feedback from clergy and other visitors.
- Regular discussions with colleagues.

Monitoring evidence will then feed into the annual action plan for collective worship.

Right of Withdrawal

We acknowledge the parents' legal right to withdraw their children from worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. At present no children are withdrawn from collective worship. We make it clear that the act of worship is central to the life of our school it's an opportunity to come together as a family and grow as a community. We also affirm that the withdrawal of pupils from collective worship would not isolate them from the Christian teaching the school gives.

Review of the Collective Worship Policy

This policy document will be reviewed annually by the Senior Management of the school before being presented to the Governing Body.