



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Through the teachings of God, we
Love Others, Value Everyone

At St Peter's CE Primary School, Collective Worship is central to the life of our school and is an expression of our Christian vision and identity. It provides a daily opportunity for the whole school community to gather together, reflect and grow spiritually. Collective Worship reflects and proclaims our Church of England foundation and underpins our ethos as a Christian community. A Christian community that warmly welcomes and values the many different backgrounds, faiths and cultures represented within our school family.

Our Collective Worship is rooted in our core **Christian values** of:

- **Respect** – for one another as individuals created in the image of God
- **Honesty** – living truthfully in the eyes of God and with each other
- **Forgiveness** – showing grace and reconciliation so that we may move forward together
- **Love** – reflecting God's love in the way we care for one another

Through Collective Worship, staff and governors seek to nurture the spiritual development of all members of our community, enabling them to flourish in body, mind, soul and spirit within a Christian context. Worship provides opportunities to explore Christian beliefs and teachings, particularly the life and teachings of Jesus, while also being invitational and inclusive, supporting all children and adults to reflect on and develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes.

Collective Worship is a key expression of our school vision, values and ethos mission:

Love Others, Value Everyone

1 Peter 3: 8

'Live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love each other, be compassionate and humble'

Our school vision, values and ethos at St. Peter's Church of England Primary School is the foundation for everything we do in school. St. Peter's religious character is grounded in its historic church foundation and reflects the principles of the Church of England.

Nestled in the Harborne community, St Peter's serves its multi-faith community offering families a strong Christian ethos, loving environment and a sense of belonging. Our split-site school is uniquely centred around

the church, which serves as the heart, connecting our sites. The church is a symbol of unity and shared purpose providing a spiritual and community anchor where children, staff and families come together as one.

We encourage and promote our Christian values through the various experiences we offer to all of our children, and this is summed up in our school mission statement:

Our School Mission Statement:

At St Peter's CE Primary school, we aim to create a Christian community whereby we live in harmony before God and provide a warm, safe and caring environment in which to learn and grow.

St Peter's children are inspired to share God's love through acts of service and living by Christ's example learnt through the stories in the Bible in high quality RE lessons and Collective Worship. At St Peter's, we learn and play together, with high aspirations that all members of our school community will become confident, life-long learners. We encourage everyone to show curiosity and perseverance as they embrace the many opportunities offered during their time at the school.

Every Child (and Adult) Matters to God because every child and adult is made in God's image and is loved by him. We are therefore committed to every student at St Peter's achieving all they can and growing into the best version of themselves.

Through our ethos and through learning, loving and sharing, we aim to develop our values and develop each individual to equip them with all that they need as we journey through St Peter's and on into the wider world including valuing all who we encounter in life.

This is demonstrated through our school motto:

Through the teachings of God we Love Others, Value Everyone.

Through Collective Worship, we seek to live out this vision, enabling all to experience a sense of belonging, develop spiritually and understand how our Christian values guide our relationships, choices and daily lives.

'Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England in partnership with the church at parish and Diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils'

At St Peter's CE Primary School, we are proud to serve a diverse and inclusive community, where many of our pupils and families come from a range of faith backgrounds and worldviews. Collective Worship is rooted in our Anglican foundation and reflects the traditions and practices of the Church of England; however, it is also invitational and inclusive, ensuring that all members of our community are welcomed with dignity and respect. We recognise that every person brings their own beliefs, experiences and identity, and we are committed to ensuring that Collective Worship provides opportunities for all to engage in reflection and spiritual growth

in a way that is meaningful to them. Within our Christian framework, we also acknowledge and, where appropriate, reflect the religious traditions and festivals represented within our school community. This enables Collective Worship to be a channel for developing mutual respect, deepening understanding and affirming both the Christian vision of the school and the spiritual and cultural identities of all who are part of it, enabling everyone to flourish together in a spirit of harmony and shared belonging.

Aims of Collective Worship

At St. Peter's CE Primary School, Collective Worship is central to the life of our school and is a key expression of our Christian vision. It plays a vital role in promoting spiritual flourishing and enabling all members of our community to grow in body, mind, soul and spirit. Through Collective Worship, we seek to provide meaningful, invitational and inclusive experiences that are educational, reflective and spiritually enriching.

Through Collective Worship, we aim to:

- Provide pupils with regular opportunities to experience being part of a loving and caring Christian community, where all are valued as children of God.
- Enable the whole school community to gather together in unity, fostering a sense of belonging and offering time to reflect on God's presence and the spiritual dimension of life.
- Develop pupils' understanding of Christian belief, particularly the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Nurture a sense of awe, wonder and gratitude for the beauty, diversity and gift of God's creation.
- Deepen pupils' understanding of our core Christian values of love, respect, honesty and forgiveness, and encourage them to live these out in their daily lives.
- Provide safe and supportive opportunities for pupils to reflect on their deepest thoughts, questions and experiences, encouraging spiritual growth and personal reflection.
- Offer a distinct and special time, set apart from the rest of the day, where pupils are invited to respond through prayer, silence, reflection and participation in ways that are meaningful to them.
- Enable pupils to explore how faith and belief can offer guidance, hope and strength in their own lives and in the life of the wider community.
- Support pupils in developing an understanding of the language, symbols and practices of Christian worship, including prayer, thanksgiving, celebration, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Encourage pupils to reflect on local, national and global issues, and to consider how, inspired by Christian teachings, they can respond with compassion, courage and hope.
- Foster hope and resilience, enabling pupils to see themselves as valued, unique and precious individuals, and to develop respect, dignity and compassion for others.

Through these aims, Collective Worship enables all members of our school community to flourish spiritually and live out our Christian vision in their daily lives.

Monitoring Collective Worship

Collective Worship is regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure it remains meaningful and impactful for our school community. We gather the views of a range of stakeholders, including pupils, the Ethos Council, governors (particularly those serving on the Ethos Committee), parents and school staff. Pupil voice forms an important part of this process. Following Collective Worship, a number of children are invited to reflect and record their thoughts in a dedicated reflection book. They respond to prompts such as: *What did you learn from this Collective Worship? What was meaningful for you? If there was time for reflection, how did you use it? and How did the Collective Worship make you feel?* These reflections help us to understand the impact of worship on pupils and inform future planning and development.

The Nature of Collective Worship

At St. Peter's CE Primary School, Collective Worship is a central and valued part of our daily life, offering a time when our school community can come together to encounter God, reflect and grow spiritually. Worship is understood as both a shared and personal experience. It is directed towards God and rooted in the Christian faith, but it is also invitational in nature, recognising that each individual response is personal, meaningful and unique. We recognise that worship is an inner response which cannot be imposed, but rather nurtured through opportunities for reflection, stillness, prayer and engagement.

Our Collective Worship is firmly grounded in the traditions of the Church of England and is recognisably Anglican in character. It reflects the richness and diversity of Anglican practice and follows the rhythm of the Christian year, including key festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Worship regularly draws upon biblical teaching, particularly the life and example of Jesus Christ, and includes the use of Christian symbols, prayers and hymns. Pupils are provided with opportunities to engage in a variety of forms of worship, including listening, reflection, prayer, silence, music and creative expression, enabling them to experience awe, wonder and a sense of God's presence.

Through Collective Worship, we seek to create a sacred and respectful space where all members of the school community are invited to:

- Explore spiritual and moral questions in a safe and supportive environment
- Reflect on their own experiences and those of others
- Develop spiritual awareness, sensitivity and understanding
- Experience stillness and reflection
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery in the world and their place within it

In keeping with our Christian vision, Collective Worship supports the spiritual flourishing of all, enabling pupils and adults to deepen their understanding of faith, develop their own beliefs and values, and grow as members of a caring Christian community.

Equality

At St. Peter's CE Primary School, Collective Worship provides a meaningful opportunity for our school community to come together to share what is significant in our lives, reflect on our shared responsibilities and nurture the Christian values that shape who we are. Rooted in the Christian belief that all people are created in the image of God (Imago Dei), our worship affirms the inherent dignity, equality and worth of every individual. Through Collective Worship, we seek to create a welcoming and respectful environment where each person is valued and enabled to flourish. We celebrate and honour the uniqueness of every member of our community, ensuring that all are included and respected, regardless of physical appearance, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, academic ability, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. In living out our Christian vision, Collective Worship strengthens our commitment to being a community where love, respect and justice are at the heart of all we do, and where everyone is supported to grow spiritually and personally.

Special Educational Needs

The Staff and Governors at St Peters CE School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefits from Collective Worship, whatever their individual needs. Every attempt is made to ensure that the materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests.

Organisation of Collective Worship at St Peter's

At St. Peter's CE Primary School, Collective Worship is a statutory requirement and is placed at the very heart of our daily life, reflecting and strengthening our Christian vision and identity. It provides a regular opportunity for the whole school community to gather together to reflect, pray and grow spiritually.

Collective Worship is led by a range of members of our community, including school staff, clergy, representatives from the local church and Christian organisations, and pupils themselves. This shared leadership enriches worship and strengthens the partnership between the school and the Church, enabling pupils to experience worship as a living and active part of the Christian faith.

As a Church of England school, inviting clergy and Christian visitors to lead worship and contribute to the wider life of the school is an important way in which we live out remembering our Christian foundation. These experiences help pupils to develop their understanding of Christian beliefs and practices, while also deepening their sense of belonging within a Christian community.

Collective Worship at St Peter's is invitational and inclusive. We fully respect the beliefs and backgrounds of all members of our school community and ensure that no child is pressured to adopt beliefs that are not their own. Our priority is the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of every pupil, enabling all to flourish. Christian values underpin our ethos and teaching and are explored through carefully planned worship themes that are relevant and meaningful to pupils' lives.

Invitational worship means we use language such as *"We invite you to reflect/pray/think..."* rather than *"We will now pray..."* Children may choose to: join in a prayer, listen quietly, use the reflection time in a way that is meaningful for them. No one is forced to make statements of personal belief. Activities are presented as opportunities, not obligations (e.g., lighting a candle, responding aloud, singing).

Collective Worship takes place daily at the start of the school day, providing a calm and purposeful opportunity for reflection and spiritual development. All pupils and staff are encouraged to participate as part of our shared community experience. However, in accordance with statutory guidance, parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from Collective Worship, and this right is respected.

Through these practices, Collective Worship remains central to our life as a Church school, nurturing spirituality, strengthening our Christian character and enabling all members of our community to grow and flourish.

Each collective worship includes music on arrival and departure and a hymn. The music is selected according to the theme. Our collection of music includes many classical pieces of music, film soundtracks, festival music and world music. Hymns are carefully selected from a range of music that is meaningful to St Peter's and our community, chosen to uplift, inspire and enable children to connect with and experience the music fully.

Due to the split-site nature of our school, collective worship is usually held separately for the infant and junior children, ensuring it is age-appropriate and meaningful for each phase. However, we place great value on coming together as a range of year groups in our school community and actively create opportunities for shared collective worship whenever possible. These occasions are special and help to strengthen relationships across the school, foster a shared sense of belonging and unity, and allow all pupils to experience worship together.

At times, Collective Worship may take place outdoors to enable pupils to experience reflection and worship within the natural environment. Being outside provides opportunities for children to develop a sense of awe and wonder in the world around them, encouraging them to notice the beauty of creation, the changing seasons and the calm that nature can bring. Outdoor worship can help pupils feel more connected to the themes being explored, offering a peaceful space for reflection, prayer and gratitude. It also supports pupils' wellbeing by providing a different environment in which they can pause, reflect and consider their place within the wider world and community.

The weekly timetable for worship is as follows:

	Infant	Junior
Monday	Theme lead worship	Theme lead worship
Tuesday	Theme lead worship	Singing worship
Wednesday	Class worship/ Church/ visitor	Class worship/ Church/ visitor
Thursday	Singing worship	Theme lead worship
Friday	Celebrate and praise worship	Celebrate and praise worship

The general pattern and presentation of themed worship is as follows, but wide variations are encouraged to facilitate a variety of presentational formats:

- ✚ The children enter the hall to appropriate **music** to establish an appropriate atmosphere for worship to take place.
- ✚ Each class brings in their class (battery operated) **candle** from their prayer and reflection space in the classroom and is placed, lit, on the table.
- ✚ Before the worship begins, the presenter will welcome the children and any visitor(s).
- ✚ All acts of collective worship start with a welcome/ gathering. (see Appendix I)
- ✚ Another candle is lit which reminds us of the presence of Jesus, the light of the world, who is there with us throughout.
- ✚ The content of each collective worship should follow the guidelines below.
- ✚ A hymn is sung which may include actions.
- ✚ A Prayer is shared with the children.
- ✚ The worship with end with a sending. (see Appendix I)

Content within each collective worship (**Theme lead worship**):

- ✚ Share the theme for the week.
- ✚ Ask a thought-provoking question related to the theme.
- ✚ Share information related to the theme.
- ✚ Share information about how the children can live out the school values related to theme. This may include some drama, a short quiz etc.
- ✚ A Bible story relevant to the theme (this can be shown through a animated clip).
- ✚ A reflection of the Bible story and how it links to the theme (Motto - Through the teachings of God, we Love Others, Value Everyone).

- ✚ During one of the themed lead worships there will be a reference to the value of influential individuals in life today or in the past. An example could be Malala Yousafzai who had an influence around the theme of Peace.
- ✚ A hymn/ song.
- ✚ A time of **reflection** asking the children to consider the theme and how it relates to their life.
- ✚ A prayer related to the theme – using the phrase: *“I will read the prayer, and if you would like to make my prayer your prayer, you may say Amen at the end, which means ‘I agree’.*
- ✚ The Lord’s Prayer – children to say this with the adult leading.
- ✚ A thought/ concluding idea or message to go away with related to the theme, a question they may consider or an action to complete.
- ✚ Share a task to complete during the class worship for the Spiritual Journey books (Juniors to complete their book).

Content within each **class worship**:

- ✚ **Welcome and Gathering including:** A calm signal (music, candle lighting, a familiar phrase). A simple greeting (e.g., *“We gather together for our class worship...”*). Invitation to stillness.
- ✚ **Recap of the Theme.** Remind the children of the current whole-school theme and key ideas or Bible stories explored in the previous whole-school collective worship.
- ✚ **Revisiting the Previous Message.** Children should be reminded of the main learning point, challenge, or question set in the previous worship. Any instruction or reflective thought given to the class.
- ✚ **Deeper Thinking and Discussion.** Provide opportunities for children to explore the theme more fully.
- ✚ **Short Task or Activity.** This task should link directly to the worship theme and the instruction given to the class. It should be simple, meaningful, and reflective rather than “busy work.” Key Stage 2 will place evidence of this in their spiritual journey books.
- ✚ **Closing Reflection or Prayer.**

Connecting prayers and other opportunities to hold collective worship

During Collective Worship, time is given for quiet reflection and prayer. A prayer is read to the children, and they are invited to join in respectfully if they wish. The invitation used is: *“I will read the prayer, and if you would like to make my prayer your prayer, you may say Amen at the end, which means ‘I agree’.*” Following the prayer, The Lord’s Prayer is shared together. In addition to prayer during Collective Worship, the rhythm of prayer forms part of the school day, with a morning prayer, a lunchtime prayer and an end of the day prayer, providing regular opportunities for reflection, gratitude and community.

Morning Prayer	Lunch Time Grace	End of the Day Prayer
At the start of this new day we take a moment and we pray: Help us, God, to be like you, kind and gentle, helpful too. As we work and as we play, bless all the things we do today. Amen.	Infants: We fold our hands and softly say, thank you God for our food today. Amen	Thank you God for today Keep us safe on our way Thank you for our family And all the friends you give to me Guide us through the dark of night And in the morning send your light Amen
	Juniors: For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful Amen	

Children's contribution to Collective Worship

Children are encouraged to take an active role in collective worship in a number of ways –

- Setting up for collective worship
- Taking part during collective worship – drama, singing, questioning, prayer.
- Leading collective worship – KS2 Ethos Council have opportunities to plan and deliver collective worship
- Leading collective worship – class/year group assemblies.
- Being consulted for their views about themes and hymns.
- Having the opportunity to reflect on the theme and think deeply during class worship.

Parent Partnership

Good relationships, understanding and partnership with parents and the local community are signs of a successful school. Therefore, parents, religious communities, Head Teachers and Governors are encouraged to discuss worship in school, just as they would discuss any other important aspect of school life. St Peter's parent prayer group meet once a week to pray for the school and the families who attend. Everyone is welcome to join.

Parents are provided with the termly worship themes, a list of dates and venues (e.g. infant hall, junior hall, St Peter's Church) and when class assemblies are taking place.

Parents are welcome to attend worship in church.

Community Links

An ecumenical approach (Christians from different churches coming together in unity while respecting their differences) to worship is provided through our relationships with other churches and organisations, including St John's Church and Birmingham City Mission who lead acts of worship.

Appendix I

Collective Worship follows a clear and recognisable structure to support pupils in engaging meaningfully with the experience. Worship typically begins with a **Gathering**, where the school community comes together and is welcomed into a time that is set apart from the rest of the day.

Worship concludes with a **Sending**, where pupils are encouraged to take the message of the worship into their daily lives, reflecting on how they can live out the values explored within the school community and beyond.

Welcome and Gathering

Leader: The Lord be with you. Response: And also with you.	Leader: Peace be with you Response: And also with you
Leader: We come together to learn, reflect and grow. Response: Help us to listen, think and care for others.	Leader: We gather together as a Christian community to worship, learn and reflect. Response: May our hearts and minds be open.
Leader: We gather together in the name of God, Response: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	Leader: This is a time to be still and think about God. Response: Help us to listen and learn
Leader: I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my open heart. Response: I will tell of all your marvellous works	Leader: God is good Response: All the time Leader: All the time Response: God is good

Sending

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Response: In the name of Christ. Amen.	Leader: Let us go from this place ready to show kindness. Response: Help us to live out what we have learned.
Leader: May God bless our school and everyone in it. Response: Amen.	Leader: Go and shine your light in the world. Response: Help us to share love, peace and kindness.