

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

2024

**With God's help, together, we aspire,
achieve and believe.**

Christian Vision

With God's help, together, we aspire, achieve and believe.

Christian Narrative

At St John with St Augustine Church of England Primary School, our vision is to be inclusive, inquiring and inspirational by:

Providing our children with a curriculum and experiences of God's wonderful world and prepare our school family for their life journey. We want all our pupils to achieve and become the person God created them to be.

We hope to foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge, understanding and skills in order to shape their lives.

Together, as a nurturing, Christian school, our goal is to encourage each other to believe in ourselves. With Jesus' help, we will aim to make a positive difference through our Christian values.

Our Vision rooted is rooted in the parable of the Mustard Seed

The Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-34

'It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.

Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade

St John with St Augustine's is a voluntary aided Church of England Primary School and, as such, the management of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the Curriculum Committee and head teacher. Collective Worship is in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. Although Religious Education and Collective Worship are closely linked, they are separate and, therefore have their own policy.

Our vision within our Collective Worship

To promote the spiritual and moral journey of our pupils through thought-provoking assemblies, spiritual reflections and uplifting songs/hymns. Our deeply rooted Christian vision is supported by our Christian Values of:

Friendship, compassion, trust, respect, kindness, generosity.

Our school is a place where God can be seen working in all aspects of school, including Religious Education, worship and relationships. It is place where everyone is welcome and are encouraged to flourish. We aim to instil confidence and resilience, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge, understanding and skills. By addressing these aspects of our collective worship we hope to help to shape the lives of our children.

Aims:

Collective Worship should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to:

- worship, and grow in the knowledge and love of God
- consider and reflect upon spiritual, moral and social matters
- consider and explore their own beliefs
- participate and respond in prayer
- develop a loving community spirit, promoting a common ethos of shared values and reinforcing positive attitudes

Content

The provision of collective worship conforms to Diocesan policy.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them as well as other concepts or big questions. Our assemblies begin with celebrations and acknowledgements of resilience where we are able to promote positive representations of people from diverse backgrounds. We also look at various ways in which children can reflect on key issues where there is injustice within the world and reflect on spiritually on key matters.

The second stage of our assembly is where we as a school open our hearts up to God and allow him to, as our Christian vision says ask for his help, so that together we can make a difference. We can aspire , achieve and believe.

Constants within our worship are

- The knowledge and understanding that God is of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

Organisation

Collective Worship occurs daily, not only because this is a legal requirement but because we believe it sustains the children and staff spiritually and assists with community spirit. The timetable is attached but, every class is involved in collective worship every day in a quiet, disciplined environment which encourages thought and peace. The timetable is as follows:

Monday	Class Collective Worship		
Tuesday	Class Collective Worship		
Wednesday	Whole school 9.05-9.30 am St John's Parish Church Parents are invited Led by our vicar, class teachers and classes.		
Thursday	Class worship - Picture News		
Friday	Whole school Adapted assembly for children with extreme needs	Hall pm Year 2 classroom	Parents are invited Parents are invited

Whole school worship:

We also have a number of children with extreme sensory needs or learning difficulties. Where this is the case parents are asked if they would prefer their child to be involved in an adapted assembly, where we are able to meet the children's sensory needs. Parents are also invited to this worship and are welcome.

Class Worship is led by class teachers. Classes lead acts of worship on Wednesday mornings (rota basis). In addition to the above, the School meets for worship in Church for major Christian festivals or events. Parents, family members and friends are welcome to attend the worship sessions on Wednesday and Friday.

We believe that worship and prayer should not be limited to these formal 'slots': opportunity is taken to pray and reflect throughout the day, children are encouraged to pray spontaneously and all classrooms have prayer boxes for this to take place.

A sense of worship is built up through the use of music, silence, appropriate movement into and out of worship and through the setting (including display) and the use of Christian symbols, including 3 candles to represent the Holy Trinity at the front of the hall. All assemblies begin with our gathering which is our school prayer.

Class Collective Worship

Every class holds a class collective worship session three times a week. The children are encouraged to take an interactive part in the session, reading or acting out the Bible story, creating their own prayers and responding during reflection time. In Key Stage 2, children are encouraged to run and organise these sessions.

Daily Prayers

Children join in 'class prayers' at least three times a day: first thing in the morning, at lunch time and at home time.

Invitational Worship: Parents and Carers

Parents, family members and friends are very welcome to attend the worship sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship, after discussion with the Head Teacher.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Subject Leader has responsibility for:

- implementing the Collective Worship Policy, action plan and timetable.
- liaising with teachers and teaching assistants who are responsible for teaching collective worship in Key Stage 1 and 2.
- auditing and organising school resources for collective worship which are located in the Nurture Room cupboards.
- Supplementing resources as the budget allows and incorporating resource requirements in the Action Plan.
- maintaining regular contact with the Diocese and attending Subject Leader courses.
- liaising with the Curriculum committee via Reverend Hugh Scriven (Vicar)
- monitoring the quality of collective worship along with the worship group.

Worship group

The school has a worship group made up of children within Key Stage 2 school who meet regularly with the RE subject lead. They help plan events in school, monitor the standards of collective worship in school, help forge stronger links to our church. They are integral part of the collective worship team and set agendas for improvement in school and give a voice to the children's response to collective worship.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

At our school we believe every child should attend worship sessions, whatever their ability and individual needs. Collective worship complements the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children.

We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. Where children have extreme needs or sensory needs, we provide the option of a special assembly, which takes place at the same time. Parents are invited to this as well. All children in our school are like our 'mustard seeds'. We want them to grow, thrive and flourish as that they can be the 'tree'... the best they can be!

It is the responsibility of all teachers to ensure that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, including gifted pupils, ethnicity and social circumstance, have access to the curriculum and make the greatest progress possible.

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the tradition of the Church of England.