

# Collective Worship Policy



***This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment***

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Committee responsible:</b>       | Full Governing Body |
| <b>Member of staff responsible:</b> | Lenia Greenaway     |
| <b>Date approved:</b>               | Summer 2025         |
| <b>Review period:</b>               | Annual              |
| <b>Next review date:</b>            | Summer 2026         |

# COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

## RESPECT – RESOLVE – ASPIRATION – WELLBEING

At St Peter's School we recognise that the act of Collective Worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Christian foundation, values, and ethos of the school. Collective worship will be held daily so that we can all come together to worship God in a shared experience to which all can contribute and from which all can draw. It is a central, invitational and reflective part of the school day.

Collective Worship has a high priority at St Peter's School. It is Biblically rooted and pupils are able to relate the core Christian Values to their own lives through Christian teachings. It has a strong focus on God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Collective Worship is an essential part of the experience of our Christian community. It is intended to give those connected with our community an opportunity to experience worship, participate in worship, and profess the Christian faith, whichever is most appropriate to each individual, so that each can contribute or benefit

It should promote spiritual growth in all participants whatever their faith or none.

We fully embrace the vision stated in the Church of England's Vision for Education 'Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good' published in Autumn 2016 of educating the whole person.

*"Our vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. We offer a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, but sets them in a wider framework. This is worked out theologically and educationally through four basic elements which permeate our vision for education:*

- *Wisdom*
- *Hope*
- *Community*
- *Dignity"*

(Church of England Vision for Education: "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good", page 2).

### Aims

We aim for Collective Worship to be of the highest quality, engaging all pupils. In line with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education's (SDBE) Policy Statement, it is expected that acts of Collective Worship at St Peter's School should always be Christian worship and it should reflect the traditions of the Church of England. It aims to provide opportunities for those in school:

- To promote the spiritual development of all our children so that they can respond and reflect upon the wonder and mystery of the world around them.
- To help the children enjoy, celebrate, experience and understand the meaning of Christian worship and the cycle of the church year.
- To strengthen and support the school community and affirm the distinctive Christian values and beliefs that are central to the school.
- To share each other's joys and challenges.
- To foster respect and unity.

## Objectives

- To introduce children to the reasons for worship.
- To develop an understanding of the life of Jesus and his influence on our lives today - on our behaviour, standards and attitudes.
- To evoke responses from children and to think about the meaning of life and events and to share common concerns.
- To understand the importance of religious festivals and celebrate significant events (e.g. birthdays).
- To clearly establish the Christian faith, but also to encourage understanding and respect for other faiths.
- To experience the caring of one for another in our school community and beyond.
- To foster an appreciation of the created world and a responsibility towards it.
- To give the opportunity to say thank you, give thanks and acknowledge achievements.

## Legal requirements

The daily act of Collective Worship is a legal requirement in all schools. In a Church of England School it should always be Christian worship and it should reflect the traditions of the Church of England, developing learners' understanding of Anglican traditions and practice.

Collective Worship needs to make a major contribution to upholding the religious character and Christian distinctiveness of a church school and ensuring that it is understood and owned by all pupils, staff and governors. The importance of worship therefore should be central to the life of the school.

## Planning

Collective Worship will take place daily as a whole school and will be led by either the Headteacher, Rector and class teachers on a rota basis. A worship plan is drawn up for each term providing a different theme every week. This will provide opportunities for children of each year group to plan, prepare and lead Collective Worship to the rest of the school (which is led by them at least termly). All children in the class participate and plan around a theme either given in the Collective Worship planner or that which is integral to the values of the school.

Links are made to the School's Christian values (see Christian Values at the end of this document). The plan takes account of the church year, the Bible as a source of inspiration and learning, and a commitment to giving children an understanding of other faiths. One aspect of the theme for the week will be considered daily, except on Friday when there will be a 'Celebration of Great Learning' assembly during which work and behaviour will be celebrated and shared. The act of worship will include a welcome, the lighting of candles, a hymn, and an invitation to prayer.

It is important to have a variety of approaches and a balance must be achieved between a tight formal structure and spontaneous freedom to worship.

"Above all however, Collective Worship should be "the relevant and essential component of an education that enables all .... To flourish and to 'live in all its fullness.' John 10:10"  
(SDBE Policy Statement)

## **Distinctively Christian Character of this School**

We place a high priority on the distinctive Christian and specifically Anglican character of this school. The Christian character runs through everything we do. In Collective Worship this is seen through the liturgical patterns in each Worship experience.

Our Collective Worship leaders open and close each worship in the following way: the children enter the hall quietly listening to music and are encouraged to prepare themselves for worship. The start of the service is indicated by a welcome and the lighting of a candle to represent God being the Light of the World. The act of worship should be twenty minutes daily.

Collective Worship should always include:

- A time to celebrate
- A time to think
- A time to reflect
- A time to sing
- A time to pray

## **Music**

Hymns and songs will be selected by the Headteacher, class teachers and on occasions, the pupils. Time each week may be devoted to practising and learning new ones. Sometimes instruments will be used or a specific class will perform a song or specific prayer.

## **Resources**

Stories, poetry, drama, readings, music, artefacts, and pictures will all be used on occasions to evoke a response. There is a selection of books available for staff use kept in the Headteacher's office. The internet (including the SDBE website) is a useful resource for worship ideas. Useful websites and ideas for worship will be kept in Collective Worship files and updated regularly by the Headteacher or other members of staff as appropriate.

## **Prayer**

Prayer will be used in worship and children will be encouraged to join in. Children and adults will be invited to pray if they wish to do so, and will be invited to pray in their own way. Sometimes pupils will write a prayer as part of collective worship or a special assembly. Prayer requires time to be quiet and still, and to concentrate thoughts and not to be disturbed by others. Therefore there will be opportunities to reflect at this time.

The Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer:

*Bless our school  
That working together and playing together  
We may learn to serve you  
And serve one another.*

will be learnt and the children invited to join in when they can.

Prayers will involve thanksgiving, praise, asking for help and a concern for others at home and abroad. Prayer will be used at the end of the day or any other time that the staff feel is appropriate.

The school creed will be used on occasions:

*This is our School.  
Let peace live here.  
Let the rooms be filled with happiness.  
Let love be all around,  
Love of one another,  
Love of all people  
And love of life and living.  
Let us remember  
That as many hands build a house  
So many hearts make a school.*

Children are also encouraged to write prayers and place these on our Prayer Tree. These may be read out during Collective Worship times.

### **Place of Worship and Mode**

The worship will usually be held in the hall with a focal point such as a cross, Bible, candles or arrangement of flowers to give the children something to reflect upon. The atmosphere should be calm and relaxed. Music is playing when the children come in. The children will come in quietly and sit still listening to the music and reflecting on why they are there.

Children from class 2 will be designated monitors and will have the opportunity to help set up the hall on a rota basis.

Weather permitting, Collective Worship will be held on occasions in the school's Peace Garden or other areas within the school environment.

### **Visits from Clergy and Other Caring Agencies**

The Team Minister (of Tandridge, Crowhurst, Hurst Green and Oxted) makes regular visits to the school. Other people and/or organisations are invited into school to talk to the children when appropriate. These may include representatives from other churches or charities.

### **Church Services**

Services are usually held at St Peter's Church for the children, staff, parents, governors and friends on a termly basis to celebrate Harvest, Christmas, Easter, St Peter's Day and a final end of year celebratory service, or in Strawson's field to celebrate Harvest. There are occasions when the children can share the ideas which they have developed at school. Special events will be celebrated in school such as Mothering Sunday.

The children have opportunities within the planned RE curriculum to visit the church with their teacher, the clergy or a member of the church community.

### **Withdrawal**

Parents or carers may request in writing that their child does not attend the act of worship.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Worship is monitored and evaluated by the Headteacher and the Foundation Governors monitor Collective Worship in the school. There is a nominated Governor for Collective Worship and RE. The monitoring process is very well developed and actions are

communicated to the whole Governing body. Monitoring of this area and other related areas are shared in these meetings and are dovetailed in to wider school development documents. Pupils are highly involved in the monitoring process through Pupil Voice. Their comments and ideas are shared with the staff and incorporated throughout the year. Monitoring of this area and other related areas are shared in meetings to the whole Governing body. Worship plans are looked at termly to ensure that they are appropriate, shared with the Rector, and pupils and parents are also invited to comment on Collective Worship through annual questionnaires.

### **Parent/Carer involvement**

The Collective Worship planner is held in the Headteachers office and on the school's in-house sharing platform. Questions relating to collective worship are included in the annual SIAMS questionnaire, any comments noted and, if appropriate, acted upon. Parents/carers can also comment on Collective Worship through Class Reps meetings or by contacting the Headteacher or Rector of St Peter's directly, in person or through the email system. (The Rector's email address is available from the school office or from St Peter's Church website.)

### **St Peter's C of E Infant School's Christian Values**

Our school is built upon our four core values which are founded in our Christian ethos and reflect who we are as a community. These four pillars lie at the heart of all that we do and underpin our work and how we go about achieving our vision.

### **Respect – Resolve – Aspiration – Well-being**

Within these core values we have 9 values that we focus on in depth over a three year rolling programme so staff, children, governors, and parents can identify with them in their everyday lives and practises.

|           | <b>Autumn</b>                     | <b>Spring</b>  | <b>Summer</b>              |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 2025-2026 | Love, friendship and thankfulness | Perseverance   | Acceptance                 |
| 2026-2027 | Hope                              | Awe and wonder | Responsibility and service |
| 2027-2028 | Faith                             | Forgiveness    | Trust                      |