



Collective Worship Policy

**"All of us together are Christ's body, each of us is a part of it."
 1 Corinthians 12.27**

Rooted in the certain love of God, we are each and all an integral part of St Paul's CofE Junior School and our school family teaches us that great things are possible – fulfilling our potential, relishing our time together and learning to become and be the people God made and is making us through love.

St Paul's is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Junior School and has a Christian tradition and ethos. Worship plays an important part in the life of the school. It is an affirmation and celebration of our Christian vision and values, where children and adults have the opportunity to learn, worship and grow in their understanding of God and of themselves. It is the 'heartbeat' of all that we do.

'One body, every person, growing together'

Aims

We recognise that we each bring to worship our own unique being, personality and background. Our aim is for worship to provide opportunities for all:

- To celebrate and affirm our vision and values and appreciate what it means to be a member of our school family;
- For spiritual growth through prayer, quiet reflection and stillness;
- To encounter and reflect upon Biblical teachings;
- To explore who God is and express praise and thanksgiving;
- To share each other's joys and challenges;
- To learn new and amazing things about the world around us and be challenged in our thinking;
- To pause, reflect and appreciate aspects within ourselves, our school family, our wider community and the world;
- To celebrate special times in the Christian Calendar.

The staff members responsible for the planning of worship are Julieanne Taylor, Headteacher, and Hannah Plumley, RE Subject Lead.

Collective Worship is inclusive, invitational and incorporates the principles of equality and promotes positive attitudes to difference and diversity. The intended pattern for collective worship is as follows:

Day	Content	Led by
Monday	<p>Whole school</p> <p>Theme links to our vision and values and follows our planned theme linked to Christian teachings.</p> <p>Reflection, talk time and prayer are included and the session ends with a take away thought, often posed in the form of a question as to how each person present will live out the value.</p> <p>Any intentions requested by the children via the Prayer Box are offered up before the invitation to pray.</p>	HT/the Rector alternately
Tuesday	<p>Whole school</p> <p>Builds on the theme for the week and includes discussion and prayer. The session ends with a take away thought, often posed as a question about how each pupil will live out the value.</p>	When Worship Leads complete their training, the headteacher will hand over responsibility for planning and leading this session.

Wednesday	Whole school – all pupils. Praising God through hymns, songs and music.	HT & RE Subject Leader
Thursday	Class worship linked to the planned theme for the week or Year Group Worship led by Team Leader.	Class teacher/Team Leader
Friday	Celebration assembly – all pupils and staff. Celebration of learning, individual achievements and whole school successes. A prayer will always be included.	Pupils

Additional Collective Worship

Collective Worship also takes place at St. Paul’s Church to celebrate events in the Church calendar and other special events. These include Christmas, Harvest, Easter and our Year 6 Leavers’ Service. Our Year 3 pupils participate in a Christingle Service each year and Year 6 attend the Easter Experience run by Churches Together in Wokingham.

Our Prayer Garden is a beautiful reflection space at the heart of the school and is available to our school community throughout the year.

Collective Worship Themes

Each week, collective worship sessions are linked to the theme introduced on Monday. A half termly rota will be available on the school website.

Class worship, led by the class teacher, is linked to the theme for the week and provides opportunities to respond to and celebrate other events and includes Bible stories based on our values.

Our School Prayer

Our School Prayer grew from discussion with pupils. The School Councillors, supported by Father Richard, based the words on our school logo of a fishing boat in which Jesus and his disciples sailed. Everyone is invited to learn our prayer and share it during worship and at the end of each day.

Lord God,
 We thank you that our school is a place of welcome, safety and fun.
 Teach us all to listen and learn, to care and be kind.
 As many hands sail a boat, so many hearts make a school.
 Help us to journey together, through storms and sunshine, with you as our guide.
 Amen

We also say a simple Grace each day before eating lunch.

For food and for friendship, we thank you Heavenly Father.

Legal Requirements

The Trust Deed of the school is unavailable, but the legal requirement in Anglican schools is for worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England and will, therefore, be Christian, in character in keeping with the traditional and character of our local parish, the parish of St Paul with Saint Nicholas, Emmbrook and Woosehill Community Church. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that Collective Worship should be part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and society. All maintained schools – including church schools – must provide a daily act of Collective Worship for all registered pupils.

Right of Withdrawal

We hope that all our children will participate in our collective worship. However, participation in worship is not obligatory and parents or guardians who wish to withdraw their children are asked to discuss their decision with the Headteacher. Worship is not delivered with the assumption that everyone is a Christian. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Should such a situation arise, appropriate arrangements would be made.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We monitor and evaluate the impact of our Collective Worship through discussion with pupils and staff and through written feedback. From time to time, a cross section of pupils is asked to complete a short survey which includes a range of aspects of school life, including Collective Worship. This is to ensure that we understand the views of stakeholders as to its impact and expression of the school's Christian Vision. The governors participate in a collective worship session each term as part of Governor Day and are encouraged to provide written feedback on this aspect as part of their monitoring.

Implementation of Policy

The Collective Worship Coordinator is responsible for this policy which will be reviewed by the Governing Body. Its implementation is the responsibility of all those planning and leading Collective Worship.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Links to Other Policies:

- Religious Education Policy
- PSRHE Policy
- School vision statement & values

HISTORY

Date	Reference	Amendments
July 2014	Version 1	Rewriting of 'Themes' for Collective Worship, inclusion of the School Prayer,
July 2017	Version 2	Addition of comments regarding school identity and Grace.
July 2021	Version 2	No amendments made
Sept 2024	Version 3	A number of changes to reflect the development of our new vision and associated documentation.