

St Paul's CE (VC) First School

Coven



Collective Worship Policy

Updated June 2025

At St Paul's, our welcoming Christian community, accepts and enables all to flourish to achieve their God-given potential. We develop independent and resilient learners, who lovingly respect each other with care and kindness. All are invited to make a difference in the world in which they live following in the footsteps and teachings of Jesus Christ.

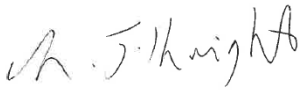
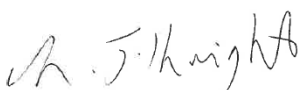


"Love your neighbour as yourself." - Luke 10:27



St Paul's First School, Coven

Collective Worship Policy

Comments:	Written by K. Roberts in September 2016 Adopted by Governors on 11 th October 2016
Signed: 11/10/2016	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>L. E. Jones</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vice Chair of Governors</p>
Reviewed: 13/11/2017	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>L. E. Jones</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chair of Governors</p>
Reviewed: 19/11/2018	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>L. E. Jones</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chair of Governors</p>
Reviewed: 27/1/2020	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>J. Hyatt</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chair of Governors</p>
Reviewed: 22/3/2021	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>A. J. Knight</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chair of Governors</p>

Reviewed: 14/3/2022	 Chair of Governors
Reviewed: 21/3/2023	 Chair of Governors
Reviewed: 22/05/2024	 Jo Sawyer, Chair of Governors 22 nd May 2024
Reviewed: 2 nd July 2025	 Jo Sawyer, Chair of Governors

Introduction

Collective worship will take place daily and will be appropriate to all pupils of any religion or none, to enable them to be present and take part as appropriate.

Collective worship is an opportunity for pupils to celebrate their own achievements, those of the school and the community. All children should feel valued regardless of their faith or religious beliefs.

The aim and objectives of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community;
- to promote a common ethos, with shared values, and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship and reflect

Through collective worship and everyday school life, we implement our four main values: community, aspire, respect and endurance (CARE).

Collective worship

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be "wholly or mainly of broadly Christian character", we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the faiths and beliefs of all members of the school.

While most acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect the traditions of other religions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

Collective worship also includes a weekly hymn practice where all children come together to sing and learn new songs. Hymns are often linked to specific times of the year.

Class Worship - British Values/Reflection on Values

Each week, children will be actively involved in class worship. This happens in each year group and is a time where children can discuss key issues and be part of a discussion. Democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs are all considered during class worship sessions as well as further reflection on one of the school's shared values.

Ideas and thoughts from the children are recorded in a scrap book. This often includes hand-written notes from the class teacher, pictures or short explanations written by each individual child.

The sessions are often ended with a prayer ensuring children can reflect on what has been discussed.

Implementation

We hold a daily act of collective worship. This forms part of each assembly, which is usually a whole-school assembly (although sometimes we also hold separate key stage act of worship depending on the nature of the assembly).

We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that worship time is a period of calm reflection and that we expect their behaviour to reflect this. We ask them to be quiet, reflective and thoughtful, to listen carefully to the teachings and Bible stories, and to participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, and sometimes candles or other objects, to focus the attention of the children.

Worship is conducted by the head teacher, assistant head teacher and other members of staff and pupils on some occasions. Alternatively, a representative from St Paul's Church may lead an act of worship.

We take the themes of our worship from the traditions of the Christian faith, and we observe the festivals and mark the events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes of our worship are related to topics that we teach as part of the school curriculum. We plan our worship well in advance of the day they take place. This information is passed on to staff half termly so they are aware of the nature of the act of worship.

Worship time is also used to reflect the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in the worship by showing their work and personal achievements to the other children, and by raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. This is called 'Celebrate and Praise' and happens every Friday.

Worship provides an opportunity to reward children for their achievements both in and out of school. They also play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued, and all achievements are recognised. St Paul's C of E First School is a successful school, and we shall continue to celebrate the successes of all our children at our worship.

Each classroom has its own worship table which will consist of; the whole school focused value, a variation of Bibles, a cross, a candle, a worry box for children to use if they are feeling anxious and the class worship scrapbook. Staff may add items to their worship table depending on the RE topic they are working on (Judaism, for example).

Governors' attendance at our worship is always welcome.

Health and Safety

All children are made aware of any relevant health and safety issues relating to activities carried out in collective worship. Any school activities connected with collective worship are carried out in accordance with the guidelines in the agreed school Health and Safety Policy.

Equal Opportunities

Collective worship sessions are planned out in accordance with the agreed school Equal Opportunities Policy and in such a way as to encourage the full and active participation by all pupils.

All pupils should be able to feel secure during collective worship whatever the religious or non-religious tradition of their home.

All children have the opportunity to share their own personal religious views. This is carried out in the safety of the school hall or classrooms enabling all children to feel secure and listened to by a member of staff.

Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. St. Paul's First School is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.

Special Educational Needs Statement

The Collective Worship curriculum should fulfil the needs of all pupils. When planning work for children with special educational needs, due regard is given to the information and targets contained in the children's Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We have high expectations of all of our children, and ensure that learners have high expectations of themselves.

Reporting to Parents

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from religious worship, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that part of the assembly. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for their request. This right of withdrawal complies with the 1944 Education Act, and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.


The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who have been withdrawn from collective worship.

Monitoring - Subject Leadership

Collective worship will be monitored regularly by the designated subject lead. This will involve observing whole school worship, monitoring class worship by looking at books and conducting pupil voice and discussing the content of worship with the head teacher and deputy head teacher. This monitoring will happen each term.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Signed: 

30th April 2024