

"Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 13 v 34-35)



St. John's C.E. (VA) School Cliviger

'Learn, Pray, Care & Play'

Our church school through its Christian values and caring community seeks to inspire each individual to achieve and grow.

Collective Worship Policy

Collective Worship in a Church School should be of the highest quality, strongly reflect the school's distinctive Christian character and permeate throughout the whole life of the school.

Collective Worship Mission Statement

Within the context of this Church School, Collective Worship will have a distinctive Christian nature and will contribute to the ethos and spiritual dimensions of school life. Through doing this children will develop their creative thinking and will have the opportunity to grow as a spiritual human being.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150v6

Responsibility

In Voluntary Aided Schools the management of Collective Worship is a distinctive role of the governors and headteacher. Collective Worship has to be in accordance with the Trust Deed and in accordance with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England and/or Methodist Church. The Governing Body as a whole is responsible for determining the nature of Collective Worship provided in its school. At St John's we have a varied range of approaches to worship whilst we remain true to our Trust Deeds and as well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Although Collective Worship and RE naturally compliment each other and enrich one another they should be managed separately and Collective Worship does not form any part of the time allocation for RE. It is also important to highlight that though worship is not designated as a curriculum time under current DfES regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school.

Content

St John's Collective Worship uses distinctively Christian foundations as content for our Collective Worship, for example:

Compassion, trust, forgiveness, respect, concern, tolerance, self-sacrifice, co-operation, integrity, conviction, humility, mercy, self-knowledge, responsibility, self-reliance, perseverance and consideration. The varied range of approaches used to worship includes: Stories, readings, drama, music, poetry, art, dance, artefacts, reflective silence and prayer. Which ever approaches are used it is important to introduce children to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and them to explore these.

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and forever forgiving
- 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 values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity
- The importance of prayer
- The central symbols of Christianity
- The cycle of the Church year.

Organisation

Acts of Worship will be based upon chosen themes using the suggestions from the 'WOW Worship' support information and the 'Values for Life' support information. These will be used together with chosen school themes. This mixture of programmes provides the children with a varied content which we feel our children need together with the freedom to express our Christian belief. We have decided to follow a 4 year programme of worship (see attached programme sheet). Within the programme staff are allocated times for their Act of Whole School Worship, they are given a specific theme within that e.g. Fruits of the Spirit will include specific topics of love, joy, peace etc. the Holy Lands will include Gallilee, Jerusalem, Cana etc. Special Saint days will also be observed within the programme. This allocation is made by the head teacher. Picture News is a resource used within the termly plans and is often planned and lead by worship club to the whole school along with the use of videos on 'God's Big Story' created by Blackburn Diocese. The use of 'Big Start Assemblies' is used to reflect multi cultural Christianity and young males and females who are followers of God. The approximate length of Collective Worship will last between 15-20 minutes. We aim to create a worshipful atmosphere by playing music on entry and exit to Church House and sustain this atmosphere by lighting a candle while the school experience a few seconds of creative silence. Collective worship will also take place around the use of Christian symbols e.g. cross and Christian school values.

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It is expected that every class teacher will lead at least one Whole School Act of Collective Worship each term; these will take place in Church House. When not in an incumbent, Collective Worship will also take place in church usually on the first Wednesday of every month and parents are welcome to attend.

As a school we welcome input from outside agencies where appropriate. This has included Bethany Choir and Rev Munawar Din.

Each class will lead the school in a special class assembly where they celebrate and show the work they have been doing to which parents are welcome to attend each academic year. A Golden Book assembly will also take place where 5 children from R-Yr6 are chosen for awards and these include hard working, being kind, thinking outside the box, friendship and being respectful. Children are chosen for their attitude towards work and for displaying any of the school Christian value words. These children are displayed in the Golden Book which can be seen in the entrance area to school. Parents and other family members are informed of these celebrations through the weekly school news letter.

In addition to the above, class worship will also take place where class teachers can lead worship around a school value, Picture News using current world issues/events or theme appropriate to their class at that time. There is a worship corner available for the children to use in every class. Each class will also lead an act of worship linked to their class charity. Worship Club, School Council and Reading Ambassadors also plan, and lead worship linked to school themes throughout the year. This will be increased to other groups within school as the year progresses.

It is important to point out at this stage that St John's meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes e.g. class assemblies and Golden Book. Elements of these assemblies will be aimed towards praise and worship.

Links with our local Church

St John's has a close link with, and use of, the local Church and relationship with the clergy. We will meet in Church at least once a month for Collective Worship and any additional time depending on the Church calendar e.g. Harvest. An offering, to which all pupils are asked to contribute, is taken at the start of each Wednesday service. The money is collected and is donated to the Church. At the moment we are currently in an incumbent so try to invite other Christian leaders to lead us in acts of worship e.g. Lisa Fenton and Munawar Din.

The aims of Collective Worship at St John's are:

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- To *explore* and question a relationship with God, explore and question the teachings of the Bible, prayer and the school Christian Values. *Explore* what and how people worship and what it means to have faith.
- To *encounter* Christianity in action, the nature of God as revealed in Jesus, creative silence, the awe and wonder of God's creation and a relationship with God.
- To *experience* the joy and celebration of God's love. Encourage and develop children in leading worship.

Consultation, Management, Recording and Review

It is the role of Collective Worship co-ordinator in managing Collective Worship. Each term the head teacher will give staff a time table showing a plan of Worship sessions, the themes they will be covering and who will be leading them e.g. clergy, senior staff, staff, visitors and pupils. Planning formats and evaluation sheets for both adults and children, are used after some acts of worship, especially those planned and lead by groups of children. Provision will be given for staff development for the co-ordinator and other staff members for Collective Worship. A record of Acts of Worship will be kept and there is provision for monitoring and evaluating the quality and content of Collective Worship by teachers and pupils. This policy will be reviewed each year and altered accordingly.

Resources

The Collective Worship resources have been developed and are continually monitored to reflect the importance worship in the school. Resources can be found in the Year 2 classroom or large cupboards in Church House, all are clearly labelled. Resources, such as Picture News, are electronic and stored in staff shared area.

Withdrawal

Children – parents do have a legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship in our school. However, as this is in accordance with our Church of England Foundation and this in turn is reflected in our curriculum and whole life of the school community, removal from Collective Worship will not insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

Staff – if staff wishes to be excused from attending Collective Worship on the grounds of their religious opinion or practice they should inform governors, in writing, as to their reasons.

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"You are the light of the World. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven. " Matthew 5v14-16