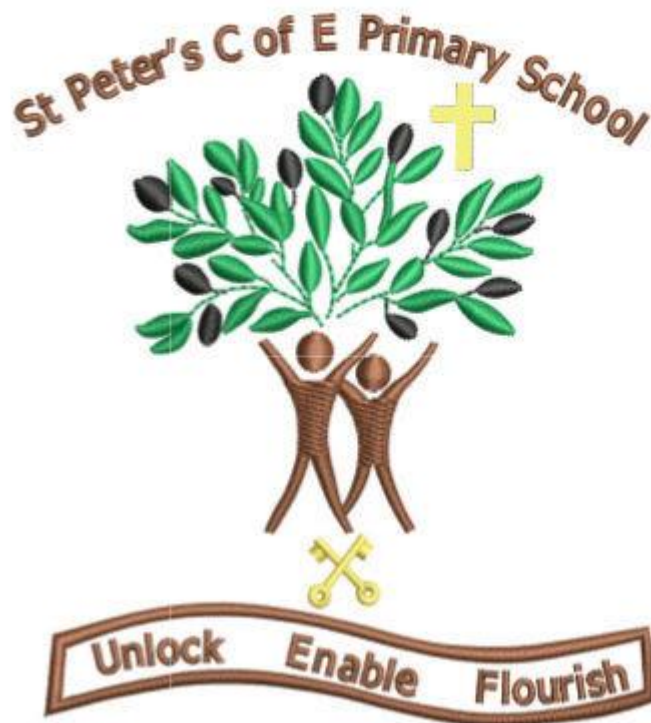


Unlocking the Potential for Everyone to Flourish in the love of Christ.

‘But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God.’ Psalm 52:8



St Peter's Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

September 2019

This policy has been drawn up by the governors of the school in consultation with the head teacher, collective worship co-ordinator, incumbent and other members of staff.

St Peter's Church of England is a Controlled Church of England Primary School. Collective Worship takes place every day for all pupils. As this is a Church school, members of staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship.

For our church school, collective worship is a highly valued part of the school day as it is the time when we gather together to affirm what is important to us, to our school and to our world. It provides an opportunity for pupils to worship God, whilst seeking to be relevant to, and inclusive, of all.

In acts of collective worship in our school it is recognised that in our school community, some members will come from families with a commitment to the Christian faith, others from families with a commitment to another faith and yet others will have no particular commitment to any tradition. Therefore the content and language of collective worship allows for different levels of response. It invites rather than coerces.

Acts of worship in our school will be predominantly and overtly Christian. However, as there are children from a variety of faiths and none, in addition to children from Christian homes, we do, from time to time, draw upon religious material from a variety of traditions when preparing collective worship. For example, in discussing the Muslim celebration of Eid ul fitr, it would be important to point out that this was a Muslim festival at the end of Ramadan and that Muslims would be celebrating the conclusion to the time of fasting. It would then be appropriate to make links with the feelings of thankfulness and to move onto the idea of Christian thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts.

At St Peter's Church of England Primary School Collective Worship offer a space to all:

- to think about God
- to listen to God
- to praise God
- to wonder
- to reflect upon ourselves and our lives as seen as part of a bigger picture
- to receive a challenge to live differently

- to celebrate gifts and talents
- to rejoice in being unique and precious
- to explore personal belief
- to consider spiritual questions raised in the rest of the curriculum
- to learn about how values and how to apply them in our lives

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school hall at 9am or in your child's classroom. Once every half term worship Year Groups take it in turn to lead worship. The Headteacher and senior leaders usually lead worship. Every half term, the priest of St Peter's Church, and occasionally other visitors, lead worship. There are long and medium term plans in place.

The worship plan follows 'God's Big Story', and explores the Bible stories in order that are in the Bible. Links are made to the seven concepts taught in RE. In addition to this, each half-term there is a theme for Collective Worship based on our school values. Those leading worship follow these themes. On occasions it is recognised that those leading worship may feel they need to respond to local, national or international events. Collective Worship should be planned carefully.

Within our collective worship we provide a wide variety of stimuli to help pupils to reflect upon and respond to the central theme. These include: story, PowerPoint, drama, poetry, puppets, music and praying. The children use response prayers such as: 'The Lord be with you, And also with you or 'Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord. In the name of Christ Amen.' The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met, but the head teacher has the statutory accountability for ensuring collective worship takes place and is responsible for collective worship in our school.

There is an active School Worship team made up of pupils and led by the Headteacher. This team evaluate worship on a regular basis and make suggestions to improve worship from the pupils' perspective. Governors ensure that collective worship is evaluated on a regular basis.

Parents have the right to withdraw from collective worship. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Headteacher should be approached.

