

Collective Worship Policy



This Policy was reviewed on	July 2020
Signed Chair of Governors	Julia Anderson
Signed Head Teacher	M Battersby
Next Review Date	July 2023

Fundamentals

St Silas Primary School is an academy in the Cidari Multi Academy Trust. Collective Worship reflects our vision statement and values as well as the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England. Collective Worship is at the heart of our school life and Governors see it as an essential part of the pupils' education. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer and meditation throughout the school day and our curriculum.

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 God, 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 St Silas our worship strengthens our school's four main Christian values which are:

- Service
- Love
- Thankfulness
- Belonging

They underpin our aims to:

- Provide an inclusive education of the highest quality for each and every child.
- Foster a life-long love of learning by providing a stimulating, rich, exciting and engaging curriculum tailored to meet individual needs.
- Provide a caring and welcoming school based on Christian morals and values that safeguards and promotes the welfare for all.
- Foster each child's unique talents and widen each child's horizons, enabling each child to flourish.
- Provide opportunities for children to develop their spirituality.
- Help children become self-confident and self-reliant, knowing they are loved by God.
- Help children develop socially, have a sense of moral values and to have regard for other people's feelings and situations, knowing all people are created in the image of God.
- Value and respect all members of the school and wider community and celebrate their efforts and achievements.
- Foster a successful partnership with parents, carers, the church and community.
- Help children understand the world in which they live and to challenge injustice and inequality.

Therefore a St Silas child will be:

- Compassionate-committed to service and charity
- Life Long Learner –curious with a wide range of interests
- Loving and respectful-loving God and each other
- Thankful for what God has provided
- Striving to be the best that they can be
- Socially aware-ready to challenge injustice locally, nationally and globally
- Confident with a sense of belonging-knowing they are a precious child of God unique, special and precious

Responsibility for the Policy

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.

Statement of Broad Aims

Collective Worship in St Silas aims to enable the whole school community to:

- **Explore** those questions which are important to everyone.
- **Encounter** a faith which is alive
- **Experience** the joy of celebrating God's Love.

St Silas welcomes children from all faiths and children with no faith. Our worship is open and accessible to all pupils and no pupil will be coerced into anything that would be against their faith.

Therefore our Collective Worship offers a space to all:

- to think about God
- to listen to God
- to praise God
- to have a relationship with God
- to experience awe and 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
- to experience being part of the school family
- to participate in and lead worship
- to know what it means to put God at the heart of the school life

Organisation and Delivery

Collective Worship usually takes place in the school hall at 8.50 am or in a child's classroom. All teachers in St Silas lead worship. It follows the pattern here:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.50-9.05	Class Worship	Whole School Worship	EYFS/KS1 Worship/Value Family Worship	KS2 Worship/Value Family Worship	Whole School Worship
Leader	Class teacher or teaching assistant	Senior leaders on a rota	EYFS/KS1 class teachers on a rota	KS2 class teachers on a rota	Senior leaders on a rota

Parents are invited to attend Friday worship if their child has been awarded a Silas and Me (S.A.M.) Award. Parents are also invited to attend the year group worship in St Silas Church and other special services.

Children enter the hall for worship in silence listening to music. Sometimes an appropriate video may be playing.

Worship usually starts with the lighting of three candles saying:

Loving Creator
Holy Redeemer
Ever Present Sustainer
We welcome you

Peace be with you
And also with you

Class Worship may start with the lighting of one candle or using a different focal point which complements the worship.

The candle is blown out at the end of worship and to distinguish between notices and 'assembly' activities.

As worship is an important part of our school life children will not be withdrawn for other activities.

Content and Approaches

The daily act of worship is organised in a variety of ways and includes worship in the hall, classroom, outside and in church. It includes:

- Half termly worship in St Silas Church led by a Year Group
- Half termly Worship led by our vicar
- Termly Value Family Worship led by our value ambassadors
- Termly Creative Worship led by our Worship team

The school uses a variety of approaches in worship including:

- music
- drama
- questioning
- show and tell
- dance
- story
- reflection
- multimedia

The planning of worship ensures that children encounter over a period of four years all the main Christian values and celebrations, God's Big Story, a variety of charities, important events and inspirational people.

Resources

Physical Resources for Worship are kept in the PPA room.
EYFS have their own Imaginor resources and puppets.
Online resources are kept in the Staff Google Drive-Worship folder.

They include:

A selection of Bibles including:

- StoryTeller Bible
- Rhyming Bible-Bob Hartman
- The Biggest Story -Kevin DeYoung
- Play Along Bible Bob Hartman
- The Barnabas Family Bible
- The Jesus Storybook Bible

Imaginor Resources:

- Roots and Fruits
- Roots and Fruits 2 with a Bob puppet
- Jack in the box and a Jack puppet
- Oscar out of the box and a Oscar puppet
- Values Reflection Journal

Diocesan resources including:

- WOW
- God's Big Story
- Christmas Angels
- Exploring the nativity Story through paintings

Other resources:

- Big, Big questions -Fischy music
- 21st century school assembly
- Worship cloth for the worship table in the hall
- Prayer trees in each classroom

Fischy music Online Subscription

Consultation, management, Recording and Review

The headteacher is responsible for Collective Worship and creates the Long Term and Yearly Worship Plan. This is discussed with senior leaders, staff and pupils and is shared with the vicar of St Silas.

All staff follow this long term plan to plan the Collective Worship sessions they are leading.

The vicar follows this long term plan in the Collective Worship sessions she leads.

EYFS staff use Imaginor resources for younger children for class worship.

Pupils also follow this plan to plan worship they are leading. Sometimes year group worship may reflect work done in the curriculum. Value family worship may reflect our school values or an item of local or national importance.

All planning is kept on Staff Google Drive in the worship folder.

The headteacher and senior leaders have CPD in leading worship through diocesan courses and network meetings. Members of the Diocese are invited to lead worship, on occasion, and this forms part of the CPD in worship for all staff. There is also CPD provided for staff by senior leaders in staff meetings. Worship is regularly on the School Improvement Plan.

The pupil creative worship team evaluates whole school worship.

The headteacher and senior leaders evaluate worship across the school.

Each class has its own Collective Worship scrapbook.

The legal requirements for Collective Worship in our school

Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Daily Worship

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups, family groups or classes, but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

Worship in Church

Worship should normally take place on the school premises, but may take place in Church on special occasions.

Parental rights of withdrawal

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this provision. If a parent wishes to consider this option, the Head Teacher should be approached.

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

(e) Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the *Governors* and *Cidari*, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

