

St James' C.E. Primary School

Part of the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust



Collective Worship Policy

	Date	Review frequency/comments
This issue	October 2017	
Approved by	Governing Body	
Ratified by Governing Body	November 2017	
Author	Mrs Gina Bailey	
Next review date	November 2018	Annually (and any changes to the information occurring during the year should be updated as soon as possible).

St James CE Primary School

Collective worship Policy

St James' School is a positive, secure, enjoyable and challenging learning environment, based on Christian value, where high standards of teaching and learning ensure that every individual feels respected and valued, and strives to reach their full potential.

Introduction

St James is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School. At St James' we welcome all children into our inclusive family, where we believe, love and learn together.

Daily Collective Worship is at the heart of school life, we aim to nurture positive relationships based on our Christian values, which will impact on all areas of school life and the wider community.

The Aims of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the gathering together of the whole school community to include pupils, staff, parents and visitors, where we aim to:

- Contemplate the Christian God in three persons, God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit
- Create an atmosphere in which God is part of our everyday lives
- Reflect on the teachings of Jesus as told in the New Testament
- Affirm and strengthen our Christian values
- Celebrate all that is good in the school community
- Offer comfort and support in difficult circumstances
- Celebrate special times in the Church of England calendar
- Foster respect for each other and those in our community
- Foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- Deepen spiritual awareness

Delivering Collective Worship at our School

Adults and children are involved in leading worship which may take place either as a whole school gathering or in a class setting.

Worship takes place through a variety of media, song, story, drama, music, poetry, prayer, and can be sometimes be led by classes or groups of children. When celebrating children's work and achievements, time is always given to worship and directing children's thoughts beyond the immediate to God.

All staff whatever their role, are encouraged to attend Worship and special events as they are an important aspect of our school.

In accordance with our Trust Deed and with statutory requirements, Collective Worship is placed at the centre of school's daily life. Termly services are held in St James' church, and clergy are invited into school to lead worship and to help

deliver our RE scheme of work. There is a cycle of themes for each week of the year, based on the Christian Year and which take account of Christian values, practices, major festivals and events on an annual basis.

Management and co-ordination of Worship.

The Lead for Collective Worship has a responsibility to co-ordinate it by:-

- Leading the development and review of the Collective Worship policy
- Gathering evidence of the impact of Collective Worship on the wider community
- Liaison with the School Clergy and organising special events and visitors.
- Compiling the annual programme for Collective Worship to include main Christian festivals and recognise other faiths have special days

Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of Collective Worship will be measured through formal evaluation by members of the school community, to identify where improvement has been made, and where it is needed to inform future development.

Equal Opportunities

Our school worship is about sharing what is meaningful and significant in our lives. It is about sharing our common concerns and responsibilities and developing positive attitudes and values. It is about affirming the equality of each individual in God's sight, whatever a child's gender, ethnicity, physical or mental ability.

Inclusion

The staff and governors of St James School are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive some benefit from collective worship whatever their academic ability. Every attempt is made, therefore to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities aptitudes and interests.

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. St James' Primary is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum and the experience of daily worship by the whole school community is an important part of the school. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in the religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Chair of governors and the Headteacher.

Appendix A

CURRENT PRACTICE - September 2015

Day	Grouping	Place	Leader	Time
Monday	EYFS - Y6	Hall	H of S	10.15am
Tuesday	Y1 - Y6 (+ EYFS Summer Term)	Hall	Worship through singing	10.15am
Wednesday	Y1 - Y6 (+ EYFS Summer Term)	Hall	Class teachers or visitors	10.15am
Thursday	Y1 - Y6 (+ EYFS Summer Term)	Hall	H of S	10.15am
Friday	EYFS - Y6 Parents invited	Hall	H of S	10.10am

NB. If worship is taking place in the classroom, it will be performed at an appropriate time, decided by the class teacher, during the day.

In addition, the school worships in church by arrangement between the school and Parish Church. This usually happens during key events in the Christian calendar including Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Parents are welcome to all acts of worship. Visitors and outside speakers are invited into school to lead worship.