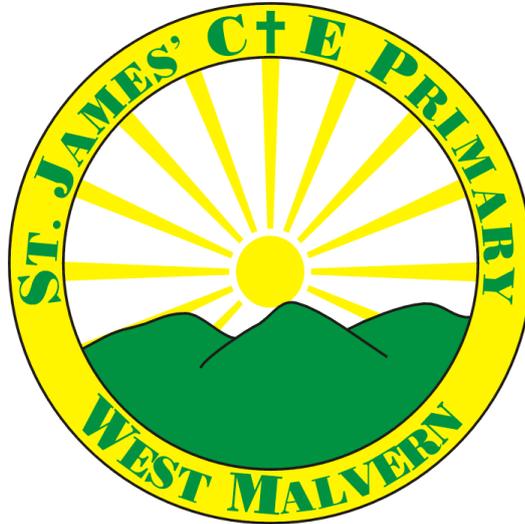


St. James' CE Primary School



Learning Together: Caring Together

Collective Worship Policy

Policy Reviewed: April 2016

Date Approved by Governing Body: April 2016

Review Date: April 2019

ST. JAMES' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Collective Worship

Our Mission Statement

We are a safe and happy school, where we are encouraged to make responsible choices for our learning and our community; now and in our later lives.

We achieve this by:

- Providing a lively and challenging environment
- Allowing everyone to be adventurous in their learning
- Putting the needs of every learner at the heart of our curriculum
- Encouraging independence and respect for others
- Expecting everyone to develop an understanding of Christian values.

St. James' CE Primary School's motto is 'Learning Together: Caring Together.'

The School's Christian (Caring) Values are based on Galatians 5:21-22:

'For the Fruit of the Spirit is: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness and Self Control.'

St. James' CE (VA) Primary School

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Introduction

Collective worship is central to the life and purposes of St. James' CE Primary School and is fundamental to the development of its Christian character, vision, values and ethos.

Collective worship provides a space and a place for the telling of the Christian story, the mutual giving and receiving of worth, as well as times of reflection and prayer. At its best, collective worship is inspirational and transformational. It is generally biblically based and the person of Jesus Christ is central to this time.

The Church school is a community which is inspired by the Christian understanding of God as the Trinity. God the Father, the source of all being and life; God the Son, who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection; and God the Holy Spirit, who makes Christ known in the world. The fundamental part that worship plays in the life of the school requires that it is given the highest priority and there is an expectation that *all* members of the community (children and staff) will be present at assemblies (other than in the most exceptional circumstances).

Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils that takes into account their age and aptitude.

The 1988 Education Reform Act states parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. However, as collective worship occupies such a central place in the life of the Church school, there is an expectation that parents wishing to request a withdrawal will meet with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

The governors in a Church of England school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school meets the requirements for worship detailed in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Evaluation Document. They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating the impact that worship has on the school community in consultation with the Headteacher.

Aims

Collective Worship at St. James' CE Primary School aims to:

- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to respond to the presence, power and peace of God.
- Evoke a sense of beauty, awe and wonder.
- Enable children to become familiar with the Bible and grow in their appreciation that, for Christians, it is God's word.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, participation, challenge and enjoyment where all present can be actively involved and develop their own spirituality.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language and symbolism and the cycle of the Church year so that they are offered a pattern of meanings and a framework into which they can begin to integrate experience.
- Explore a variety of ways of praying, giving children the opportunity to form their own prayers using multi-sensory approaches and introduce them to some well-known Christian prayers, as well as a variety of prayers of thanksgiving.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship.
- Strengthen and support the school community, giving expression to, and reaffirming, the core Christian values which underpin the school's vision, policies, curriculum and moral code.
- Develop a sense of self-worth and celebrate the gifts that each child and adult brings to the school community, thus recognising the uniqueness of each individual made in the image of God.
- Reflect on the puzzling questions that life poses and learn to appreciate the significance of mystery i.e. that we can't understand and explain everything.
- Foster a concern for others within the school community and wider world.
- Deepen appreciation of the gift of the natural world and the importance of acting responsibly toward the environment.
- Encourage respect of other people's religious beliefs and practices.

Organisation

- Daily Collective Worship is led by the Headteacher, members of staff and clergy from our St. James' Church.

- Worship is planned on a monthly basis and is based on the Christian (Caring) Value for each month. This is an opportunity to root the value in the Christian ethos of the school.
- St. James' has a Worship Committee which consists of around 5 children from Key Stage Two. They consult with the Headteacher, giving ideas about how Collective Worship can be improved, as well as working on specific projects. The Committee leads worship as part of a rota, usually around twice every half-term.
- Classes are encouraged to lead worship at least once each year; this is often focused around festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- The children are expected to enter the worship place in a quiet and orderly way.
- At the beginning of whole school worship a few words of welcome are made. The school community then says together, during the lighting of three candles:
'God is Love: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; Light of the World'.
- The Worship Table is laid with a cloth reflecting the liturgical calendar, together with other objects such as a cross, copies of the Bible and the candles.
- Children are invited to lead prayer using the 'TSP' framework (teaspoon prayers). Children volunteer for this at the beginning of worship, typically three children being asked to think of something for each element of thank you, sorry and please.
- Children should be invited into a time of prayer and reflection rather than instructed.
- At the end of worship, a child should be invited to blow out the candles and the worship draws to a close with the following words:
'In God's family, please go in (insert current Caring Value here).' The children respond with:
'In God's family, we go in (insert current Caring Value here).'
- Worship is held at 1.15pm, directly after lunch Monday-Thursday. Celebration Worship is held on a Friday in St. James' Church at 9.15am and parents are invited to share in this time.