

# St. Paul's Church of England

## Aided Primary School

### Collective Worship Policy Document

- This is the Policy Document of St. Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School.
  - It is based around the Resource Handbook for Church Schools in the Lichfield Diocese
  - It covers:

Foundation Stage:	Reception.
Key Stage 1:	Year 1 and 2.
Key Stage 2:	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6.
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## St. Paul's Mission Statement / General Principles

*"Collective worship at St. Paul's plays an important part in the life of our school. As the 'living centre' of the work, worship and worth of the school, it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience, participate in, and take responsibility for the living expression of Christian worship, valued and honoured through the school's Anglican foundation. This is set within the context of the corporate community of our school which values and affirms every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, sex, ability, background or religion."*

## Legal Requirements

- Our daily act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the faith, principles and practices of the Church of England.
- We also take into account DfEE legislation and the 'Collective Worship in Wolverhampton Schools Document' produced by SACRE (2005)
- Worship will be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils  
Worship will be provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders  
Worship will be in sympathy with cultures and beliefs represented in the school community
- We recognise the right of withdrawal from Worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff but currently enjoy the full support of the whole community.

## Aims of Collective Worship

The general aims of Collective worship are as follows: -

- To enhance the spiritual development and response of pupils
- To foster reflection, meditation, prayer and silence
- To create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural
- To foster a reverential attitude to God, the Divine, the transcendent
- To foster empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways

- To explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular)
- To affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God
- To enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of Christian adherents
- To foster and value a search for faith to live by
- To learn about and reflect upon Christian Teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals, in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in community
- To worship together rather than apart
- To provide an evocative setting for worship, with comfort for pupils and staff and appropriate resources, including a spiritual focus.

The general aims for Assembly are as follows: -

- To recognise the beliefs and culture of others, particularly those represented in the school community
- To develop a sense of community and shared values
- To consider the needs of others and to foster charitable works
- To be challenging and inspiring
- To celebrate the highest achievements of the human spirit
- To celebrate achievements of members of the school that are held to be of worth
- To foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response

## **Management of Collective Worship**

- The Governing Body have responsibility to ensure the Trust Deed of the School is honoured in conjunction with the Headteacher, staff, and school community. The worship policy created articulates the management and delivery of this area of the curriculum. Parents are also kept informed through the school brochure.
- The worship co-ordinator has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and such breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community.

Records of content are kept for whole school worship and it is the responsibility of the key stage co-ordinators to liaise with the worship co-ordinator, so that full records and knowledge of the actual implementation of the worship programme are ensured.

The worship co-ordinator also has the responsibility for auditing and keeping records of resources and ensuring they are accessible to pupils and staff as appropriate. An equitable budget needs to be negotiated to ensure the worship programme can be carried out effectively.

The worship co-ordinator also keeps in touch with development in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that worship is prioritised on the School Improvement Plan, to allow training and resource development.

Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an on-going process. This needs to be managed on a termly basis to ensure that effective review can take place.

## **Development plan for Collective Worship**

- To meet with the new Vicar termly, in order to formulate weekly themes.
- To implement the use of SEAL resources in worship.
- Resources will be reviewed and where necessary purchases made to enable the delivery of the weekly themes more effectively
- To continue the involvement of pupils through weekly Family Services and at special celebrations through out the year.
- To encourage more active participation of children in adult led worship, particularly in prayer
- To develop the use of artefacts on the Worship Table and to ensure there is a focal point in the hall
- To attended training on 'The Eucharist'

## **Current Practice**

The pattern of worship each week at the present is as follows: -

Day	Grouping	Leader	Time	Place	Assembly / Worship
Monday	KS 1 & 2	Head / Deputy	3.00 pm	Hall	Awards Assembly
Tuesday	Whole school	All teachers on rota basis	9.00 am	Hall	Worship (SEAL)
Wednesday	Whole school	Clergy	9.15 am	Hall	Act of Worship
Thursday	Infant/ Junior	Deputy Teacher / Pupil	9.00am	Hall Classroom	Praise & Worship Worship
Friday	Whole school	Class on rota basis	9.00 am	Hall	Family Service

- Parents are invited to join pupils and staff for the weekly Awards Assembly and Family Service
- Content for assemblies / worship is based on the suggested weekly themes found in the Resource Handbook for Church Schools in the Lichfield Diocese, celebrations in the churches year and resources produced for SEAL.
- In addition the Eucharist is celebrated in St. Paul's Chapel once a term. Parents and members of the congregation are invited on these occasions
- Acts of worship are also held on special occasions e.g. Remembrance Day, Harvest, St. Paul's Day
- Visitors and outside speakers are invited are invited to lead worship on a regular basis.
- **NB** No worship programme can ever be entirely pre-planned. There will always be spontaneous moment or occasion where it is important spiritually to focus on the immediate, so that pupils become aware of how the spiritual dimension transcends all our experiences and in turn can be relevant to our interpretation of that experience.

## **Suggested Content**

In Worship: -

- The Christian Year of Festivals
- The Christian Rites of Passage - Anglican and other Christian traditions
- Biblical teachings from the Old and New Testament that are relevant to the pupils' experience and behaviour and is consistent with the ethos and values of the school
- The Life of Christ
- Faith in Action – relevant examples to the school community from the past and present
- Parables and saying of Jesus
- The spiritual search – with examples of journeys e.g. missionaries past and present
- Values and morals affirmed in school
- People who have challenged and inspired
- Topics related to the curriculum of the school, which have a religious / spiritual focus
- Everyday experiences which have a spiritual focus

In Assembly: -

- Secular matters relevant to the school community can be explored; festivals and traditions of members of the school community who do not own the Christian faith may be acknowledged.
- Morals and values consistent with and supported from within the Christian context of the school can be affirmed – particularly through the SEAL program