St Paul's Church of England Primary School



Collective Act of Worship Policy

Date adopted:	01.06.21		Last reviewed:	13.05.26
Review cycle:	Yearly		Is this policy statutory?	No
Approval:			Author:	Rebecca Jackson & Lee-Anne McCallum
Local approval*:			Local author*:	
Next review Date	13.05.27			

* only for policy/procedures that are templates and require local adaptation.

Revision record

Minor revisions should be recorded here when the policy is amended in light of changes to legislation or to correct errors. Significant changes or at the point of review should be recorded below and approved at the level indicated above.

Revision No.	Date	Revised by	Approved date	Comments
1	13.05.25	Rebecca Jackson & Lee-Anne McCallum		Collective acts of worship to include exposure to world news (global citizenship).
2	13.05.25	Rebecca Jackson & Lee-Anne McCallum		Inclusion of class assemblies in Collective act of worship timetable.

Collective Act of Worship

The Legal Position

The 1988 Education Act stipulates that there must be a **daily** act of collective worship for all children in school. It should take place on the school premises, at any time of the day and in whatever grouping the school wishes. As a church school, our worship will be "consistent with the faith and practice of the Anglican Church" (Collective Worship Guidelines for Church Schools) and always of a broadly Christian character. It will usually take place as part of our daily Collective Act of Worship programme.

Our Collective Acts of Worship will always be conducted in a manner that is sensitive and inclusive, however, parents/carers do have the right to withdraw their child from acts of Collective Worship. Those wishing to make such a request are encouraged to discuss with the headteacher or senior leader: (a) any particular concerns they may have and (b) practical arrangements for the withdrawal.

Our daily acts will, therefore, incorporate a collective act of worship. They also provide valuable opportunities to:

- foster in the children a sense of belonging to a school community or part of the school
- work towards our aims in religious education
- contribute to the children's social, moral, spiritual and cultural development
- impart information
- promote our school Christian values: FAITH (Friendship and co-operation, Achievement of excellence, Integrity, Trust & respect, Health and wellbeing)
- expose children to a range of global/world news events, leading to valuable discussion points and a sense of being a global citizen.

We will plan Collective Acts of Worship that can appeal to all children whatever their background or personal beliefs, through careful choice of themes expressed in stories, songs and prayers.

Timetable of Collective Acts of Worship

The day, time and type of Collective Act of Worship are set out below. On certain occasions Collective Acts of Worship may vary in length, for example, the final Collective Act of Worship of a term, or in the event of visitor / a visiting group presenting a Collective Act of Worship.

Monday	Whole school Collective Act of Worship 10.10 – 10.30	Usual Focus: RE theme - led by clergy or representative from St. Paul's Church
Tuesday	Infant Collective Act of Worship in hall 10.10 – 10.30 Junior Collective Act of Worship in classrooms	Usual Focus: Christian values / PHSE /SMSC - led by member of Infant team Or Led by class – celebration of learning Led by class teacher or pupils
Wednesday	Junior Collective Act of Worship in hall 10.10 – 10.30 Infant Collective Act of Worship in classrooms	Usual Focus: Current half-term's Value or PHSE theme - led by member of Junior team Led by class teacher or pupils
Thursday	Whole school Collective Act of Worship 10.10 – 10.30	Usual Focus – singing & hymn practice Led by member of teaching staff / LT

Friday	Whole school celebration Collective Act of Worship 10.10 – 10.30	Celebration Collective Act of Worship led by member of SLT
Yearly	Class assemblies	Each class gets the opportunity to present their learning experiences to the school and to their parents through an engaging assembly led by the children in that class.

Leading Collective Acts of Worship

When leading a collective act of worship, thought should be given to:

1. playing suitable music at the beginning and end (if appropriate)
2. separating notices, general information etc. from the act of worship
3. using a focus of worship e.g. candle or cross
4. allowing time for reflection
5. using prayers with a simple response for children to make
6. involving children in choosing prayers, hymns or readings (Worship Council)

Acts of worship will be recorded by the leader in the Collective Act of Worship log.

School Prayer
Our current school prayer was developed from ideas submitted by all children in the school in April 2007 and finalised by the School Council with the vicar of St. Paul's Church in July 2007.

Dear Father
Thank you for our school, for friends, for teachers and for all its people and for the many good things we have here.
Thank you too that each of us is special, that you care for all.
Bless our school, help us to respect, listen and learn and support each other when worries come.
Lead us to develop our gifts and make this school a special place.
We ask in Jesus' name.
Amen

Behaviour
For all Collective Acts of Worship, the member of staff with the class should ensure that the children are quiet and calm before leaving the classroom. As far as practical, the children should walk along the corridors or down the stairs quietly and without talking and take their place in the hall again without talking and in a sensible manner.

In the hall, the staff responsible for a class, year group or a base (depending on type of Collective Act of Worship) will actively supervise the behaviour of their children. It is important to remember, however, that all staff have a responsibility to deal with inappropriate behaviour if they see it.

When dealing with inappropriate behaviour during Collective Act of Worship the aim must be to keep any intervention low key and as unobtrusive as possible and to avoid unnecessary fuss or confrontation. We always aim to foster a calm, positive atmosphere. Also important is the example set by staff who should, whenever possible, model the behaviour expected of the children.

Minor misdemeanours, including talking and fidgeting, are best dealt with by catching the child's eye or by approaching the child and having a quiet word with them. Measures to deal with more serious or continuing misbehaviour could include removing the child to sit beside a member of staff during the Collective Act of Worship. After Collective Act of Worship a further reprimand, loss of golden time or referral to either the Infant or Junior Lead, Assistant Headteacher or Headteacher may be appropriate.