St Peter's
CE Primary & Nursery School
Dream • Believe • Achieve • Flourish

Reflecting God's love for us all, we strive to shine like a light in the world;
empowering each and every unique person to
dream, believe, achieve and flourish.

'In the same way you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do.' (Matthew 5:16)

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Autumn 2025

Reviewed by: E Smith

Date of next review: Autumn 2026

School Vision
At St Peter's CE Primary and Nursery School children and their learning are central to everything we do. As a church school we aim to serve our community by providing an education of the highest quality within a framework of Christian belief and values. We encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promote Christian values through the experiences we offer to all of our children.

Worship is…

Giving honour and reverence to a supreme being.
Christian worship is concerned with bringing praise, prayer, thanksgiving and adoration to God.

It is an activity of response: in words, actions and thoughts.

Collective worship plays a central part in the life of St Peter's Primary School. Collective worship is a means by which the school's Christian vision is expressed. As an expression of the Christian vision, ethos and spiritual life of the school/trust it offers the whole school community opportunities to experience/participate in/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 and its historic partnership with St Peter's Church, Wem. We affirm every individual's unique contribution, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, background or religion.

Legal requirement

Trust Deed
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.
DfES guidance
We also take into account DfES legislation. The following link will take you to the current legislation.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/collective-worship-in-schools

1988 Education Act
We also take into account the 1988 Education that states,

'…..all pupils in attendance at a maintained school shall in each school day take part in an act of collective worship',

And, that this should be,

'…..mainly of a broadly Christian character'

Section 48 Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS)
All church schools, whether they are Voluntary Aided (VA), Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Foundation (F) will be inspected on collective worship and the impact this has on the whole school community (Strand 6 of the SIAMS 2018 schedule). The core question of this strand is the ways in which collective worship is an expression of the school's Christian vision. Here at St Peter's this inspection will evaluate the school's/academies collective worship on the following:

- That it is inclusive, invitational and inspiring.
- Offers the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- enables all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican/Methodist worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Helps pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- Enables pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- Encourages local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

The right of withdrawal

We recognise the right of withdrawal from worship for pupils at the request of parents and for staff, but encourage discussion with the relevant individuals to ensure that there is understanding of the aims and objectives of worship, and strategies for minimising the disruption caused by any withdrawals. We currently enjoy the full support of the whole community.

Aims of collective worship

Collective worship at St Peter's CE Primary School plays an important part in the life of our school. It offers the whole school community opportunities to experience and reflect on the work, worth and worship of our school. Our collective worship also fosters an environment where children can experience feelings of Awe and Wonder and explore their own spirituality.

Worship and/or Assemblies

St Peter's hold a celebration assembly in order to celebrate pupil's achievements. At St Peter's care will be taken that this is still regarded as an act of worship through saying prayer at the end of the celebration to thank God for pupil's achievements and successes.

At our school, worship will:

- Be appropriate to the age, aptitude and family backgrounds of pupils.
- Be provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders.
- Incorporate other cultures and religions, allowing children to reflect on their own beliefs and practices, in light of other people's.

Worship should provide opportunities to:

- Foster a thought-provoking atmosphere allowing for spiritual reflection and response and contributing to the spiritual development of pupils.
- Provide opportunities for reflection, meditation, prayer and silence.
- Create an atmosphere in which God is both normal and natural.
- Foster a reverential attitude to God.
- Develop empathy and imagination, enabling pupils to participate in a variety of ways.

actively involve pupils in the delivery of worship in creative and imaginative ways (reading, poetry, drama, dance, quiet / silent reflection, prayer, singing).

- Explore and enjoy praise, prayer and the rituals of Christianity (the Anglican tradition in particular).
- Affirm the Christian faith and the central Christian status of Jesus as the Son of God

affirm the Christian belief in the Trinity and explore the meaning of each person of the Trinity
explore Eucharistic worship (where appropriate) within the Anglican tradition (you need to explain how this is achieved e.g. taught Eucharist, observation of it, taking part but receiving a blessing, taught in RE lessons etc).

- Enable pupils to reflect on the experiences of a range of Christians.
- Foster and value a search for a faith to live by.
- Explore the school's Christian values to deepen pupils understanding of them and how they relate to the school, local community and wider world.
- 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.
- Worship together rather than apart.
- Experience a broad spectrum of Christian tradition (various expressions of worship).
- Inspire pupils to explore further their own faith and tradition.
- Encourage pupils and staff to plan, participate and lead in worship.
- Develop a sense of community and shared values.
- Consider the needs of others and to inspire charitable works.
- Celebrate achievements of members of the school in every aspect of school life, academic and pastoral.
- Make regular use of local church buildings for worship.
- Draws together our school community to a 'Church', where we can worship and learn about God together.

Other opportunities that worship can offer are:

- Celebrate the beliefs and cultures of others particularly those represented in our school/academy.
- Celebrate of achievements of members of the school/academies community.
- Reinforce school expectations, good behaviour and school/academies routines.
- Share local school/academies and community information.
- Enhances the spiritual development and response of pupils.

Management of Collective Worship

Ultimately the responsibility for collective worship lies with the Headteacher/Principal and the Chair of Governors. However, the role of planning, resourcing, managing and evaluating worship has been delegated to Kay Grove and Emma Smith. In addition, all teachers in a church school are 'spiritual leaders' and have a responsibility to help pupils develop spiritual awareness.

Resourcing worship

Worship should be adequately resourced to ensure that it is regarded as an important part of school life. Pupils are encouraged and provided opportunities to plan acts of worship (whole school, year group, key stage or class / form), so that they have ownership of it.

Monitoring, evaluating & action planning worship
Worship is monitored and evaluated frequently, in order to ensure that it meets the needs of all who take part. Pupils, teachers, governors and parents opinions are sought. A yearly action plan which feeds into the school development plan is written and revised to ensure that worship remains relevant and up to date.

Worship themes and current practice
All children have the opportunity for an act of worship on a daily basis.
These take different forms, including:
- Whole school worship led by staff and pupils.
- Classroom based worship.
- Weekly Worship with Reverend John Jukes.
- Other acts of worship led by visitors.

In addition, the school also worships in St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Wem on the following occasions:
Harvest
Christmas
Easter
Moving On Service in the summer term

On these occasions a special service is led by Reverend John Jukes. Parents and members of the congregation are invited to these celebrations and children share the work they have been doing in school.

The worship themes for each week are based around and number of resources:
e.g. Anglican Lectionary, themes based on the schools Christian values, internet resources – including Youtube videos from churches, LDBE resources etc.