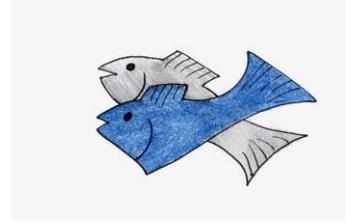


**WHITFIELD ST JAMES CE © PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Policy for COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**  
**Autumn 2014.**  
Revised Autumn 2015



*Involvement, Enjoyment, Achievement*

### **Introduction**

- ❖ This document is a statement of the aims, principals and strategies Collective Worship
- ❖ It was developed during Spring 2013 through a process of consultation with teaching staff and governors, and built on previous accepted practice.
- ❖ This policy was reviewed in Autumn 2014 and presented to Governors at the Staff Governpr Conference in September.
- ❖ It will be reviewed in 2016

### **Legal Requirements**

- ❖ Circular 3/89 ERA (1988) Religious Education and Collective Worship requires schools to hold a **daily** act of worship.
- ❖ These may be organised for separate groups, KSF, KS1 & KS2, at any time during the school day.
- ❖ They must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian Character, whilst representing the rights of children to their own religious customs and beliefs.
- ❖ Parents may request that a child is withdrawn from attendance at acts of collective worship (under the 1944 act) and teachers may reserve the right not to attend that part of a school assembly when collective worship is taking place.

### **As a Church of England School**

- ❖ As a Church of England school, we are committed to upholding the Trust Deed of our founders with respect to the Christian Faith, through the medium of the Anglican Communion.
- ❖ We provide Collective Worship within the framework of the Church's year.
- ❖ We help children understand the presence of Christian beliefs and values in our society and in the world and something of their biblical and historical significance.
- ❖ We encourage the development of strong and harmonious links between school and church for the benefit of the community of St. James.
- ❖ Collective Worship at St. James' is seen as a part of the whole curriculum which promotes "the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our children and

community”, and to “ prepare our children for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life”.

### **Aims of Collective Worship.**

- ❖ To develop knowledge about, and an understanding of, the mission and teachings of Jesus Christ, where He is the focus of Christianity, and where He, in the foundation of a Church of England school, is at the centre of our journey to faith. This journey is to be travelled through the teachings of the Bible in RE lessons, Christian Assemblies, and in the way we conduct ourselves within the moral framework of our community at St. James’.
- ❖ To provide an opportunity for the gathering of the school community, which naturally provides a focus for reflection on the ethos of our school.
- ❖ To help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around us, leading to a desire to penetrate more deeply into those areas with which religion is concerned.
- ❖ To provide an opportunity to, and an atmosphere in which, to worship and communicate with God.
- ❖ To provide the opportunity to search for meaning, heighten sensitivity, explore the concepts of right and wrong
- ❖ To affirm positive values, value things of worth, celebrate the beauty of life and living
- ❖ To share love, friendship, joy, fears, anger and sadness
- ❖ To provide all children with the opportunity to participate and respond in a variety of ways.

Collective Worship at St. James’ is essential to the life of our school community. It is exciting, enjoyable, and a life giving activity. It is an opportunity to give worth to God, to learn about him, and reflect. It is a time to enjoy being together, celebrate, share in, and value, the skills, talents, and abilities, which all members of our school possess. It is also a time to bring to God the problems and difficulties of the school, community, and the wider world. It is a time to pray. It is a time to listen.

### **Planning**

- ❖ The planning for Collective Worship is undertaken by all teachers throughout the school. However, Key Stage or whole school worship is co-ordinated by Mrs. A. Roberts, who identifies themes and produces timetables. It is then the responsibility of each teacher to develop this theme in class, and, when taking their “turn” on the rota, to lead a Key Stage or Whole school assembly.
- ❖ Assemblies led by the local clergy and/or the Head teacher, follow seasonal planning connected with the school and church year.

### **Delivery & Accommodation**

- ❖ Collective Worship takes place at various times during the school day, but mostly at the very start of each day (unless timetabled otherwise).

- ❖ Due to the nature of our school buildings, it is necessary for Worship to be undertaken in a variety of venues, and with a variety of other children. This will include:
  - Class Worship within the classroom
  - Key Stage Worship in the hall or in the “Pond”
  - Whole school worship usually once a week
  - Daily prayers at home time
- ❖ All teachers lead Collective Worship
- ❖ The Head teacher or Deputy Head teacher leads weekly worship weekly
- ❖ Rev. Andrew Hargreaves, incumbent at St. James’ Parish Church, and his team leads Collective Worship on a weekly basis for the whole school.
- ❖ Occasionally other members of the local and wider Christian Community lead our worship, including the PAIS team.
- ❖ Music is an important element of our Collective Worship. Songs are accompanied by CD and tapes, on the Piano, or Guitar. Mrs. Roberts and Miss Thomas, music co-ordinator, organise the music for worship.

### **Style and Content**

When meeting in the hall, Collective Worship will always have the following elements:

- ❖ Introductory music either from a CD or tape, or performed by a child or children, on which to reflect and draw our children into the atmosphere of worship.
- ❖ The lighting of a candle, a signal that worship is starting
- ❖ A welcome
- ❖ A song or hymn
- ❖ A story, either from a text with a moral meaning, or from the Bible, or preferably both, which may be dramatised or otherwise illustrated in a variety of ways, with the involvement of the children
- ❖ A time of quiet reflection using music, the candle, or a picture to reflect upon, or using techniques such as “stilling”, to reinforce the lesson.
- ❖ A Prayer
- ❖ A final song or hymn
- ❖ The blowing out of a candle, the signal that worship is ended.

Notices, awards, talks/instruction etc may be relayed and discussed during the time that the children are in the hall, but should not be part of Collective Worship; i.e. worship and notices should be distinct. Such notices etc are often relayed after the candle is blown out.

- ❖ Retiring music either from a CD or tape, or performed by a child or children, on which to reflect and remind our children of the atmosphere of worship.

When worship takes place in the classroom, all of these elements may be used. However, class based worship is more usually centred around;

- ❖ a story and/or Bible reading
- ❖ reflection
- ❖ a prayer

### **Outreach**

The school has developed close and coordinated links with St. James' church, and many of our children and families are regular members of its worshipping community. Our joint mission is to promote this relationship through;

- ❖ IGNITE Club, a lunchtime club, held in school, but run by members of the church
- ❖ Special events organised by school, but hosted by, and in, St. James' church which include;
  - Harvest Festival
  - Christmas Carol Service
  - Music concerts
  - End of Year (Leavers) Service at which the church presents leavers with a parting gift
- ❖ School served by Services at St. James' church including;
  - Education Sunday
  - Lent service
  - Easter service
  - Pentecost Service

During these services the church members lead prayers, take a short presentation around which a "talk" is arranged, read from scripture, and organise music.

### **Role of the Co-ordinator & Records**

Records of Collective Worship, observations and evidence are kept by Mrs. A. Roberts in her role as RE and Collective Worship Co-ordinator. She produces timetables, a programme of themes, and guidance where appropriate. She also observes Whole School, Key Stage, and class Collective Worship, keeps records, and liaises with Rev. Hargreaves about both RE and Collective Worship.

### **Role of Head teacher and Governors**

It is the Head teacher's duty to ensure that a daily act of Collective Worship is available to all children. The Governing Body must also exercise their functions with a view to securing this

provision. The Head teacher and Governing Body must ensure that sufficient time and resources are given to Collective Worship in school to meet the statutory requirements.

## Resources

We have built up a wide selection of children's books, which are kept in the school library. Teacher's resource material, books, videos, cassette tapes, posters, photographs and artefacts are stored on the R. E. shelf in the Teacher's Resources room, or in the library.

Autumn 2015

**Mrs. A. Roberts RE Coordinator**

Mr. C. D. Jones Head teacher

**Rev. A Hargreaves Vicar**



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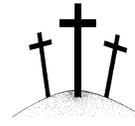
Basic Skills 3



DCC ABC E +



Health Promoting School



Derby Diocesan School