



## Collective Worship Policy

Required Review Frequency	FGB to determine – every 3 years
Next Review Due:	September 2023
Committee Responsible:	Curriculum & Standards Committee
Document Location	School

Version	Approved By	Date of Approval	Key Changes
2.1	FGB	17/05/2017	Policy updated in line with a modern model policy
	FGB	May 2020	No changes made

### Philosophy of collective worship at St Helen's:

"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God". William Temple (1881-1894)

St Helen's C of E School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community. It is attended by all students, staff and any visitors in school are very welcome to join in.

### Collective Worship and the Law

At St Helen's Church of England Primary School our daily act of worship is in accordance with our school trust deed. The trust deed states that worship should be in 'accordance with the principles and practices of the Church of England'.

In accordance with legal requirements (School Standards and Framework Act 1998) an act of collective worship, taking into account of the age, aptitude and background of the pupils, is provided daily for all pupils except those withdrawn by parents. The school expects that withdrawal will be only made following discussions with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. Special arrangements will be made by governors to supervise

children withdrawn from acts of worship. Staff have the right to withdraw from the act of collective worship.

“The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups.”

#### The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

### **Rationale**

At school we promote high achievement and learning for life by working with children to ensure the integrity and delivery of our ethos statement as set out in our instrument of governance. This document is held by the Diocese Resource centre at All Saints in Bristol.

Inclusion is important to our vision and aims for our pupils we aim for acts of worship to be inclusive of all pupils. There is an expectation that all pupils will be present. Careful planning and preparation ensure that there are clear learning intentions for all pupils at different levels of understanding. Collective worship is first and foremost for the educational benefit of all pupils. It is a shared activity that allows for a variety of responses and provides an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity. The school is committed to respect the integrity of the religious communities from which pupils come.

The school will also offer the opportunity to explore, reflect upon and respond to the mystery and meaning of the Christian faith.

At St Helen’s Church of England primary School Collective Worship we aim to:

- Lead pupils to a deeper knowledge and understanding of Christianity
- Strengthen and support the school community and celebrate each unique individual member made in the image of God
- Give expression to reaffirm and practise the values of the school community
- Allow reflection and response to fundamental questions of life and those things that are of eternal concern and value to human beings
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
- Contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others – recognition of the vulnerability of self and others
- Provide members of the school community with the opportunity to;
- Praise and reach out to God
- Experience stillness and quiet
- Respond to Christian language and symbolism
- Experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include; praise, seeking forgiveness, asking on behalf of others and quiet reflection
- Help pupils to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future

***At St Helen’s we arrange Acts of Collective Worship in the following ways;***

Day	Time	Grouping	Place	Leadership	Theme / pupil's role
Monday	3:00 – 3:20	Whole school	Hall	Head teacher	<i>Value of the term</i>
Tuesday	9:10 – 9:30	Whole school	Hall	St Helen's Church	<i>Open the Book</i>
Wednesday	10:15 – 10:30	Whole school	hall	Head teacher Music teacher	<u>Hymn Practice</u> performing
Thursday	3:10 – 3:30	Whole school	Classrooms	Class Teacher	<i>Value of the term</i>
Friday	3:00 – 3:30	Whole school	hall	Deputy Head teachers	<i>Celebration Together</i>

### Leadership, Planning and Evaluation of Collective Worship

There is a Collective Worship planning group led by the Headteacher as Worship Coordinator and including representatives of the children, parents, teachers, clergy and governors. Julia Macgregor is the link governor for Collective Worship. This group meets regularly to plan, monitor and evaluate Collective Worship. The calendar for Collective Worship draws on the Church year and the school values.

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation. All those leading collective worship are asked to plan their act of worship in as much detail as they would any other learning activity. Resources for collective worship are kept by the worship coordinator. The school allocates a budget for development of these resources. Staff are given appropriate training and mentoring to equip them in their roles as worship leaders.

All pupils attend an Act of Collective Worship each day. These are organised on a rota and include whole school, phase-based and class-based worship.

A record is kept of all Acts of Collective Worship. The Worship Coordinator is responsible for keeping this record and will require all staff leading Collective Worship to complete records for monitoring and evaluation.

The Collective Worship Planning Group is responsible for monitoring and evaluating Collective Worship. Children, parents, teachers, clergy and governors are all involved in evaluation of Collective Worship. The group reports to the Headteacher and the Governing Body.

### Worship reflects the Anglican heritage for example;

- We use the Bible as a source book for inspiration and learning
- We reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in worship (for example, bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection);

- Observing the cycle of the Church's year: Advent Christmas, lent, Easter, Pentecost
- Participating in the regularity and set order of Anglican worship. This recognises the central significance of the Eucharist while acknowledging the variety of other forms of worship, which may be decided locally in order to match, as far as possible pupils' experience in school and church

### **Special services**

We join together as a community at special times, e.g. Leavers' service, special times of celebration such as Red Nose Day – thinking of others, September 11<sup>th</sup> act of remembrance and also Poppy Day of Remembrance linked to uniformed groups as appropriate, welcoming new members of our school and visitors from the community.

In addition we;

- Identify a collection of prayers, hymns and psalms which create a framework for worship in the school
- learn a variety of traditional responses and prayers which express the essential beliefs of Christians throughout the ages e.g. Celtic blessing, prayer of Richard of Chichester
- provide opportunities to discover the value of meditation and silence within the context of Christian worship
- recognise that the Anglican church has a strong commitment to ecumenism which may be expressed through the range of visitors who are invited to lead or attend collective worship
- experience the bond of community which encompasses gender, age, race and religious opinions
- link to the broad dimensions of the curriculum;
- create an atmosphere for worship by the use of appropriate music, visual foci and symbols
- Use the whole range of creative arts to appeal to the pupils' imagination.

### **Music and art as part of our act of worship**

Music is played before and after our assemblies to highlight that this is a special time for us to be together. We use music as part of our act of worship where appropriate to the theme as we see music as a medium able to evoke deep, intense feelings that are a part of an individual and theirs alone; memories, emotions of visual images.

The music, instrumental or vocal may be selected to enhance the atmosphere for worship, stillness and reflection or to inspire thought and talking points in the areas of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

This listening time is also used to introduce children to;

1. Music of a variety of styles, cultures and traditions
2. A range of composers and famous works
3. Recognition and appraisal of a range of musical elements

### **Monitoring**

The collective worship programme has been monitored over the past terms and class monitoring will be recorded as minutes of discussions with individual teachers or in staff meetings.

This discussion will include;

- Review of content and methodology
- Suitability for age, aptitude and ability, variety of styles, groupings, leadership;

- Links to the classroom experience and the curriculum
- Resources and budget
- INSET
- Review of job description and role of the collective worship co-ordinator
- Attendance at worship by foundation governors for monitoring purposes
- Checking against this document that all the requirements of the law are being met

### **Visitors to school**

Visitors leading collective worship must be given clear instructions concerning age and ability of the pupils, purpose of occasion and appropriate delivery (content and material used).

The school will ensure that checks are made about connections with the school e.g. parent, charity representative, clergy from another denomination, adviser, colleague before the day. We share meet different aspects of the curriculum or social opportunities as appropriate to the needs of the children.

There will be a sharing of the aims and objectives of the visits and links made to the overall scheme for Collective worship.

The visitor's method will be reviewed before another invitation is extended

A follow up session will be linked where considered appropriate to the developing theme.

Visitors should report to the office to announce their arrival. All visitors must sign the visitor's book and may not be left with the children unless member of the school staff is present. They will be thanked as they leave the building.

The equalities impact in relation to this policy has been assessed.

## **Appendix: Resources**

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Questions about Collective Worship for the Staff and Governing Body**

- Is there a clear policy document for Collective Worship?
- Does the school policy relate to the school's Ethos and/or Mission Statement?
- Is the policy for Collective Worship being followed?
- How is the worship organised?
- Does the school have a named person responsible for Collective Worship alongside the Head Teacher?
- Is there a governor with responsibility for Collective Worship?
- Does the school prospectus clearly reflect the legal position of Collective Worship?
- Does the school prospectus refer to the school's Trust Deed?
- Does the prospectus and other school documentation reflect the value that the school and the governing body place on Collective Worship?
- Is the Collective Worship clearly planned?
- Is there a budget set aside for Collective Worship?
- Is the worship professionally resourced?
- Have staff received in-service training on Collective Worship?
- Does the Collective Worship offered in the school underpin the school's Christian ethos?
- Is the Collective Worship provided underpinned by Christian values?
- Is the Collective Worship regularly monitored and evaluated?
- Does the worship take place in a variety of groupings?
- Are staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are support staff present for Collective Worship?
- Are there opportunities for governors and parents to be present for worship?
- Are there opportunities for individual class worship within the classrooms?
- Does the pattern of worship reflect the broad spectrum of the Anglican tradition and Christian heritage?
- Does the worship allow the pupils to encounter some of the wide range of art, music and artefacts within the Christian tradition?
- Does the quality and provision of Collective Worship offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual development?
- Does the worship offer opportunities for pupils' cultural and multi-cultural development?
- Does the worship give opportunities for the pupils to explore the worldwide Christian Church?
- Does the worship provide pupils with an opportunity to worship God?
- Does the worship take place in an environment conducive to worship?
- Does the worship offer pupils opportunities to encounter the more challenging experiences of life and death?
- Does the worship provide opportunities for the pupils to share and reflect upon things that are significant and meaningful to them?
- Does the worship provide experiences that are relevant to the pupils' ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds?
- Does the worship give time for silent reflection and an exploration of inner space?
- Does the worship link into other areas of the school curriculum e.g. PSHE and circle time?
- Do the classrooms have a 'sacred space' or a table set aside with a cloth and a candle as a vehicle for prayer and reflection?
- Have the school considered other vehicles for prayer and reflection e.g. an anonymous prayer box?
- Are pupils, governors, clergy or other visitors involved in leading Collective Worship?
- Does the governing body provide guidance for visitors who lead worship?
- Does the school celebrate the Eucharist?

- Has the governing body discussed the possibility of a school Eucharist?
- Are there regular acts of worship for staff, including a Eucharist?
- Does the school have any links with other Christian denominations?
- Does the worship celebrate all that is good and express thankfulness and joy at simply being alive?

## Appendix 2

### Example of a School Acts of Worship Record Suitable for sample monitoring by Governors

Theme: Praising God! Times to Celebrate God's Love!



#### Hymns & Music

Praise Him On The Trumpet,  
Recorder & Harp!

Thank you Lord for All Your  
Love.

Readings – these were read by children

Prayers – children were encouraged to pray spontaneously

The service, led by the Headteacher, began with pupils reflecting on times when they wanted to say “thank you.”

The concept of Christians wanting to thank God for his love and care was introduced together with ways of expressing thanks and joy through music.

A “band” of pupils was formed to accompany the 2 hymns chosen – with an emphasis on volume and enjoyment!

A quiet prayer time focused upon repentance for not saying thank you to God, requests for help in being positive and thankful in our lives and thanks to God for the happiness Praise brings.

#### Evaluation – Adults & Children

A very joyful (if not completely tuneful) noise was made by the accompanying band and the rest of the school sang with substantial vigour (not to be outdone)! The concept of thanks and praise was enjoyably demonstrated as witnessed by the band who asked, “Can we do that again?”



### **Appendix 3**

#### **Example of a Pupil Questionnaire for the Evaluation of Collective Worship**

**Is the length of our worship:** About right/ Too long/ Too short

**Which things do you like best in worship?**

Stories/Drama/Dance/Poems/Prayers written by pupils/Prayers written by adults/Opportunities for spontaneous prayer/Music/Singing/Quiet time/Don't mind

**Why?**

**Which type of worship do you like best?**

Whole school/Key Stage/Year Group/Class worship/Having a visitor/Going to church

**Why?**

**Do you like it best when?**

Adults lead worship/Children lead worship/A visitor leads worship/The priest/vicar leads worship/There is a mixture of leaders (pupils and adults)

**If you were able to change our worship what would you do?**

**What time of day should we have worship?**

First thing in the morning/Later in the morning/Early in the afternoon/Last thing in the afternoon/Different times on different days

**Is there anything else you would like to say?**

## Appendix 4

### Sample Collective Worship Survey



The school is interested in your views and will use them to improve and develop the quality of collective worship. We thank you for the time and thought you give when answering our questions. This survey will be completed by parents, staff, governors and the wider community that the school serves.

1.

Collective Worship is a special part of the day. Any comments	Strongly Agree	Agree	Mostly Agree	Disagree

2. Children should plan and lead Collective Worship. Any comments	Strongly Agree	Agree	Mostly Agree	Disagree

3. Collective Worship should always have prayers. Say Why	Strongly Agree	Agree	Mostly Agree	Disagree

4. Collective Worship should always have a Bible story. Say why	Strongly Agree	Agree	Mostly Agree	Disagree

5. Collective worship should always have music and/or song. Say why	Strongly Agree	Agree	Mostly Agree	Disagree

6. What is the best time of day for Collective Worship?

7. What is special about worship in a Church School?

8. Do you think Collective Worship always has to be in the same place, if not, have you any suggestions about other places where Collective Worship could be held?

If you have anything else you would like to say about Collective Worship please write your thoughts, ideas and reflections in this space.

Please circle the description that fits you best:-

Parent

Member of school staff

Governor

Member of village community

Other

*Thank you so much for completing this survey, we really appreciate the time and thought you have given*