



## **St Peter's Church of England Academy**

### **Policy for Collective Worship**

#### **Introduction**

This policy sets out how the school will meet its legal obligation to provide a daily act of collective worship. It has been approved by the Governing Body and will be reviewed again in line with the School Development Plan.

#### **Aims and purpose**

Through our collective worship, we seek to:

- provide an opportunity for the school community to worship God;
- enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- enable children to explore own beliefs and those of others;
- encourage participation and reflection;
- develop in children a sense of unity and community for the school as a whole;
- promote a common ethos that has shared values and reinforces positive attitudes;
- increase our children's understanding of how and why people worship;
- broaden children's understanding of the multi faith society that we live in.

#### **Collective Worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our assemblies on the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our assemblies in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also hold assemblies that reflect other religious traditions that are represented in the school and the wider community.

## **Organisation**

Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in a daily assembly. Assembly time is a period of calm reflection, conducted in a dignified and respectful way. We expect children to behave in an appropriate manner as we regard this as a special time. We ask them to be quiet and listen carefully to the teachings, participating fully in prayer and hymn. We create a suitable atmosphere by using music, candles and other objects that act as a focal point for attention.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally conduct the assemblies, with one assembly taken at least each half term by the incumbent of the town. Sometimes visitors from charities, educational groups or representatives from local religious groups conduct them instead.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We mark major Christian Festivals and plan church services to support our worship at these times. We celebrate the 12 Values of St Peter's over a period of two years.

We consider assemblies to reflect the understanding, achievements and learning of the children and encourage them to participate in weekly class assemblies by showing and discussing their work with other children. Assemblies provide opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their social and academic achievements both at the weekly achievement assembly and termly 'Celebration' assembly.

We invite parents to the Celebration assemblies as well as our celebrations in church at other times of the year. This promotes the community spirit and reinforces the home school partnership, working together to support the achievements of our children.

We welcome governors' attendance at any of our assemblies.

## **Right of withdrawal**

Any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship by writing to the Governors of the School, and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during that period. Parents do not have to explain or justify this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act. A record of all children who withdraw from collective worship will be kept by the head teacher.

Teaching staff can also submit a written request to the Governors for exemption from taking acts of worship.

## **Monitoring and review**

The Subject Leader of collective worship will regularly monitor assemblies by evaluating content and children's understanding and enjoyment. This will be either by observation or collecting opinions from the children. It is also the role of a named governor with responsibility for collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship.

Key Manager	<b>Vice Principal</b>
Key Governor Committee	<b>Board of Directors</b>
Ratified by Governors	<b>September 2015</b>
Review Dates:	<b>January 2018</b>
Location of Policy:	<b>P:\STAFF\Policy Documents</b>
Access to Policy:	<b>Open</b>
Policy Context:	<b>This Policy applies to all staff and students of the Academy and to those others offered access to such Academy resources</b>

We comply with the Church of England education entitlement