



Collective Worship Policy

Key Manager:	Principal
Ratified by CEO:	Autumn 2021
Review Dates:	2 years
Location of Policy:	School website
Access to Policy:	Open
Policy context:	This policy applies to all staff and students of the academy and to those others offered access to such academy resources.

Revision History:

Revision Date	Description	Sections Affected	Revised By	Approved By
Autumn 2021	New policy		J Casswell	LAB

School vision for Collective Worship

“First of all, my child, worship and adore God, think of Him magnificently.”

- William Law

1. Introduction

St. Peter's CE Academy understands worship to be a special act or occasion, the purpose of which is to show reverence to God. It involves pupils and staff coming together and participating in a daily gathering.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be “wholly or broadly of a Christian character”, collective worship at St. Peter's CE Academy is based on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we aim to conduct our collective worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school community.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the school and it is our aim that it is a time when the community can:

- Share common aims and values;
- Celebrate achievement and special times;
- Explore together the world in which we live;
- Develop a community spirit.

2. Aims

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- To provide an opportunity for the pupils and the school community to worship God;

- To enable the pupils and school community to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- To enable the pupils and adults to explore their own beliefs;
- To encourage participation and response;
- To develop in pupils a sense of community spirit;
- To promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- To introduce different ways of worshipping.

3. Legal Requirements

All schools must take note of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (Section 70 and Schedule 20) which requires that:

- All registered pupils (apart from those whose parents exercise the right to withdrawal) must on each school day take part in an act of Collective Worship.
- The daily act of Collective Worship should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deeds of the school and the ethos statement in the Instrument of Government, and should be consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Church of England.
- All acts of Collective Worship in Church schools must be Christian in character. Pupils can be grouped in various ways for worship such as the whole school, year groups, classes, or other combinations.
- Acts of worship must be appropriate for the pupils in that they should take account of the pupils' age, aptitude and family backgrounds.
- The daily act of Collective Worship will normally take place on the school premises but all schools may hold their Act of Collective Worship elsewhere (e.g. the local Parish Church) on special occasions.
- Responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship in a Church of England school rests with the Local Advisory Board in consultation with the Principal. Foundation Governors have a special role in ensuring the Collective Worship is linked to the Trust Deeds.
- The Principal has a responsibility to ensure all arrangements for CW are secured.

3. Collective Worship Organisation

Our daily act of collective worship takes place during the morning which is conducted in a dignified and respectful way. We inform pupils that worship time is special thinking time for calm reflection and expect them to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teaching.

Collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspiring. We invite all children to participate in prayer and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music, a cross and three candles that acts as a focal point for the attention of the pupils.

The Principal and other members of staff conduct collective worship daily. On Thursdays, Rev Jon Aldwinckle from St. Peter's Church lead worship. This brings greater variety to our worship times and strengthens links between the St. Peter's CE Academy and the local church. Parents / carers are invited to Friday collective worship at the end of each term and other special services, e.g. at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the academy year. This promotes the community spirit of the school.

We welcome governors' attendance at our collective worship at any time. Other opportunities for prayer and reflection are given at lunchtimes and in classes at the end of each school day.

4. Content

The key Christian values we have chosen as a school community are Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Forgiveness, Compassion and Hope. A daily record is kept of all acts of worship, recording themes covered and songs / music used.

On Fridays, we also hold collective worship that reflects the achievements and learning of the pupils. We encourage the pupils to participate in collective worship by showing their work to others and sharing issues that they have discussed in their classes. Collective worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward pupils for their achievements both in and out of the school. They play an important part in promoting our ethos, which is that all pupils are valued and all achievements recognised.

5. Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

It is the role of St. Peter's CE Academy's Local Advisory Board (LAB) to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. Formal observations are carried out at least twice a year. As part of this, pupil interviews are carried out / pupil evaluation forms are reviewed.

6. Right to Withdraw

As a church school, we expect all pupils to attend collective worship, and we discuss this with parents / carers at the time of admission. However, any parent / carer can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the pupil during the period concerned.

Parents / carers do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with current legislation. The Principal keeps a record of any pupils who are withdrawn from collective worship.

7. Related Policies

This policy relates to:

- Religious Education Policy
- Spirituality Policy