



## **PARK STREET COF E PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**



### **Requirements**

The main requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act in relation to collective worship are that all pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship, but not necessarily altogether nor at the same time of day. In an aided school, arrangements for collective worship are the responsibility of the Governors in consultation with the Headteacher, although the whole staff is involved in the formulation, planning and delivery of the policy. As a Church school our worship reflects the requirements of the Trust Deed, that it be conducted in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England.

### **Right of Parents to Withdraw Children**

Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship. Those wishing to do so are invited to discuss this with the Headteacher, who makes it clear that assemblies are central to the life of the school.

### **Aims**

We believe collective worship to be central and meaningful in the life and work of our school and in the development of our pupils. Christian values are at the heart of everything we do and these predominantly form the focus for our collective worship.

Within our worship we seek:

- to provide opportunities for the children to worship God
- to develop understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith
- to develop an appreciation of Christian values and how to live by these
- to celebrate Christian festivals and special occasions together
- to provide opportunities for reflection and prayer
- to foster a sense of school identity
- to show interest in and concern for members of the school community and tolerance and respect for each other
- to share interest in the daily happenings in school life, the local community and the wider world
- to share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by individuals and groups within the school and to celebrate achievement

- to encourage children to live out the Christian values of: thankfulness, friendship, trust, forgiveness, perseverance and teamwork.
- to foster the child’s spiritual growth, developing a sense of awe and wonder
- to foster respect for religious and moral values and tolerance of other religions and ways of life.

**Important Principles**

1. We believe that our assemblies should be inclusive: all should contribute to and gain from them. This means that those leading assembly need to consider:
  - the age, aptitude and abilities of the children.
  - the range of the children’s backgrounds: regular churchgoers, those from other faiths, those from a secular background.
2. We believe that our assemblies should be intentional learning experiences, with careful planning and preparation, whole-hearted delivery, evaluation and adequate resourcing.
3. We believe that our assemblies should not be discrete learning experiences, but that they should have strong links with the curriculum and extend into the life and work of everybody in the school.

**Planning**

The organisation of our assemblies is as follows:

Monday	Years 1 - 6	Worship - Head’s
Tuesday	Years 1 – 6	Worship - class
Wednesday	Years 1 – 2 Years 3 - 6	Worship –class/clergy Worship Bible - clergy
Thursday	Years 1 – 6	Worship – singing focus
Friday	Whole School	Celebration Assembly

On Mondays the Head teacher usually bases her assemblies upon the Christian value that is the focus for that half term. She may also cover religious festivals or national and international events.

One purpose of our Tuesday assemblies is to learn and practise songs, some of which take our Christian value as their theme. A ‘budding musician’ performs during this assembly.

The Vicar of Holy Trinity, David Heath-Whyte, leads assembly each Wednesday with KS2 and on the first Thursday of each month with KS1. These are Bible-focused. As they enter KS2 all children are presented with a Good News Bible by the Vicar on behalf of Holy Trinity Church. These are used in Wednesday assemblies and in class. Chris Short, the Park Street Baptist Minister leads the KS1 Assemblies on the second Thursday of

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each month. These are Bible based. Each of the clergy has a copy of our coverage of Christian values and will try to encompass these where they are able.

Our Celebration Assemblies are an opportunity for the whole school to come together to celebrate some of our achievements during the week. Behaviour awards are given out, applauded and the children's photograph taken for the newsletter. One of our 'budding musicians' plays for us and one class shares with us some of the work that they have been doing.

During every assembly there is always a prayer time and this usually includes either The Lord's Prayer or our own School Prayer. The leader may also leave a time amongst prayers for private prayer and reflection

Visitors are invited to school to lead assemblies as appropriate to the theme being covered.

Our Harvest Festival and Easter services are held in Holy Trinity Church, led by the Vicar with each class contributing to the service.

### **Preparing for Worship**

1. Some points to bear in mind when planning:

- Have you allowed adequate time?
- Create a time / sense of occasion for worship
- Does the worship have a clear beginning and ending?
- Ensure the act of worship is separated from administration
- Link worship to the life of the school
- Using the right language is important
  - for the age group
  - recognising the 'theology' (what is being said about God, His people and His world).

2. Using different approaches - involving people and providing a variety of worship experience. Consider:

- Telling a story
- Describing a situation / event
- Drama
- 'Part' speaking  
*all of which need to be presented in an appealing way, with voices which are loud enough and 'listenable'*
- Using visual aids / artefacts  
*can provide powerful illustrations, but shouldn't be so powerful that they are remembered at the expense of the message*
- Music

*can be used to listen to - as well as for singing. A well-chosen piece of music can help create an atmosphere for worship and reflection*

- Silence  
*is important in allowing time for thought and reflection*
- Involving pupils
- Using visitors

A classroom act of worship may lead children into a quiet, creative activity such as writing or painting.

### **Class Prayer and Reflection**

This is led by class teachers, usually at the end of the morning and afternoon, in a way suitable for the age of the children - prayers written by the children, reflection, responsive prayer.

### **Evaluation and Review**

Our collective worship is evaluated in different ways including 'pupil voice', observations by staff, colleagues and by the Governor with responsibility for collective worship.

Reviewed by T Facer March 2014

Reviewed by O Bullock April 2014

Amended by T Facer May 2014

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