



St Paul's Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Adopted by: Curriculum and Achievement Committee

On: Wednesday 21st October 2015

Review: Autumn 2018

School Aims:

Caring for all; Growing with God.

The central Christian Ethos of the whole school community promotes a reflective, caring and respectful attitude towards others and the environment.

- There are high expectations of all members of our school community and success in all areas is celebrated.
- We strive to use our resources effectively and support our staff in their professional development, thus enabling all our children to become successful, happy and confident.
- We foster a proactive attitude towards the new technologies, thus providing further opportunities to support learning throughout the school.
- We encourage the children to be involved in their own learning and to have positive self-esteem, enabling them to take a full and valuable part as citizens in the wider community.
- Our school values each child. We encourage all children to maximise their potential in all areas of the curriculum and their personal development.
- We are committed to the idea of equal opportunity regardless of gender, race, colour or creed.

Diversity statement:

A whole-school approach is used to promote racial equality and eliminate racial discrimination. St. Paul's Primary School publicly supports ethnic, cultural, religious, linguistic and social diversity and actively fosters good personal, community and race relations. Diversity is recognised as having a positive role to play within the school and the school recognises the importance of language to a person's sense of identity and belonging. **Racial discrimination will not be tolerated in St. Paul's Primary School.**

Children are prepared for life in a multicultural society. They are taught that, nowadays, people in Britain come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and ethnic groups and, as such, might have their own distinct language, religion, and culture- including such aspects as dress, food, music, literature and customs. We aim to help children to develop the necessary knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and tolerance with which to play a full and active part in our multicultural society.

Equal Opportunity Statement:

Every member of the school is regarded as of equal worth and importance, irrespective of his/ her creed, class, race, gender and disability. A good education for all our pupils is possible only if equal opportunities practices are an integral feature of all aspects of the life of the school.

Statement of purpose:

Collective worship is a daily event at St. Paul's School. As a church school we view this time as an integral part of our ethos. We seek to develop the children's appreciation of the society in which they live and to foster an awareness of Christianity and an awareness of other faiths and festivals.

Our school has a long and established relationship with the clergy of the Parish of Brentford. Together we provide a wide and varied Collective Worship programme in which we encourage the children to be actively involved.

At St. Paul's we believe that Collective Worship should be inclusive, educational and spiritual.

Our Aims:

- To provide an opportunity for pupils to worship God.
- To give pupils experience of broadly Christian acts of worship.
- Create an experience which promotes thought and reflection, giving children the opportunity to explore their own beliefs.
- To give the children the opportunity to consider spiritual and moral issues.
- To provide time to reflect in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.
- To develop a sense of community within and beyond the school.
- To promote shared values and a common ethos.
- To celebrate achievements, in relation to individual pupils, the school and our community.
- To make use of our parish churches to support the act of worship and to make links with the parish community.

Themes:

The assemblies reflect the major festivals of the Christian Calendar and explore social, moral and cultural issues. The children are also introduced to significant people who have shaped the world we live in today both from sacred and secular sources.

Our assemblies provide an opportunity for listening and responding to music and a time for stillness and reflection. We also pray in every act of worship. The prayer reflects the theme of worship and/or contemporary events. We also pray The Lords Prayer together.

We select themes that will stimulate the imagination of the children and engage their interest and commitment. By such active involvement we hope that the

children will take on board the issues raised and reflect upon their lives and distinctive contribution they make to our society.

Class Led Worship

Over the academic year, classes plan and lead an act of collective worship in the church. These acts of collective worship reflect significant Christian events or events within the school year. They are open to the whole school and to all parents and friends of the school (with the exception of the Nursery nativity). They have a fixed plan to ensure that as pupils move through the school, they address each of the key themes in the plan. The plan is as follows:

Nursery Nativity (December)
Year 1 Nativity (December)
Year 2 St Paul's Day (January)
Year 3 Easter (March)
Year 4 A Christian Life (May)
Year 5 Harvest (October)
Year 6 Leavers' Service (July)

Parents and Governors are very welcome to attend any of the class led worship.

Planning

The headteacher, subject leader and clergy meet on a termly basis to plan worship themes for the term ahead. Significant events in the Christian calendar and key Christian values underpin the collective worship plan. During the meeting links are identified between the worship led by the senior leadership in school and the worship lead in church by the clergy on a Thursday.

Organisation:

Our collective worship is currently organised as follows:

Monday Whole school worship in the hall led by the Head Teacher.
Tuesday Singing / Celebration
Wednesday Celebration / Singing

Thursday Clergy led worship in church
Friday Phase worship led by class teachers.

The Nursery and Reception children have their own worship in the FS unit and later join whole school worship as the year progresses.

Worship in Church

The worship in church is held every Thursday, led by a member of the clergy team. As the parish has two churches, we hold one of the services at St Faith's each term. All other services are held at St Paul's church.

We have a number of elements in church worship, which are unique. These reflect elements of the Christian tradition of the church. A pupil from Year 4 comes forward to light the candle, signalling the start of worship. There is a shared **call and response** at this point with which the children become familiar. In addition, a pupil of the school will come forward and read from the Bible at each church worship. Again, there is a shared **call and response** at the end of the reading.

The children in Year 4 have a workshop each year, led by the clergy, on the significance of light and the candle in Christian Worship.

St Paul's Day

We hold a special act of worship on or near to St Paul's day, in recognition of our patronal saint. This forms part of a week of study on St Paul in January, involving every class in the school.

*Under the current education acts, parents have the right to withdraw pupils from these arrangements.