



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

Adopted by: Curriculum & Achievement Committee

On: 1st November 2023

Review: Autumn 2026

School Aims:

Rooted and Growing in 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.

We strive to celebrate all cultures and differences within our school community and to provide opportunities for pupils to share and explore their own identity.

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. This programme is developed by the Clergy, Headteacher and Religious Education Subjects Leaders.

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 and ask questions.
- 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 church to support the act of worship and to make links with the local 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 Lord's Prayer together and recite the School Prayer.

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.

We also explore the key Christian values and how we can apply them in our daily lives. We share the Bible, stories, scenarios and music to help children understand what these values mean.

Collective Worship is planned within a 4-year cycle where themes link throughout the years and build upon each other. Much of the programme also links back to the school's theologically rooted Christian vision and biblical base, 'Rooted and Growing in God'.

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).

For the academic year 2023-24 class led worship will change as part of the school's 150th anniversary celebrations. Events will be as follows:

Year 5/6 Remembrance Service
Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carol Service
Nursery Nativity
Year 1 and 2 Easter Service
Reception Easter Service
Year 6 Leavers' Service

From the academic year 2024-25 onwards, class led worship returns to 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)
Reception Spring/ Easter (March)
Year 4 Pentecost (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 leaders 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.

Within this planning, consideration is also given to the songs used within collective worship, and readings are assigned for each week, relating to theme of the assembly.

Organisation:

Our collective worship is currently organised as follows:

Monday	Whole school worship in the hall led by the Head Teacher.
Tuesday	Singing (Led by SLT/Music Subject Leader)
Wednesday	Celebration (Led by SLT)
Thursday	Clergy led worship in church (KS2) and school hall (KS1)
Friday	Phase worship led by class teachers.

The Nursery and Reception children have their own worship on Friday mornings in the school hall and later join whole school worship as the year progresses.

Clergy Led Worship:

A member of the Clergy Team or a School Governor leads worship every Thursday. Reception and Key Stage One worship in the school hall and Key Stage Two worship in the Church. As the parish has two churches, we aim to 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** liturgy at this point with which the children become familiar. In addition, a pupil of the school will come forward and read from the Bible. Again, there is a shared call and response at the end of the reading. A group of pupils also help lead singing in Church assemblies.

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.

In clergy led worship children from each class are invited to write intercessional prayers to bring and share. Each class is provided with two prayer outlines: a heart for prayers of thanks and a dove for prayers of intercession (help). Children write their own prayers and are called up to the front of the Church towards the end of the assembly to read them out.

Phase Worship:

On Friday mornings, phases (Nursery and Reception; Years 1 and 2; Years 3 and 4; Years 5 and 6) come together for class teacher led worship. The programme for each half term is devised by the Subject Leader with key themes, bible passages and messages shared across the school. Teachers are expected to share the theme in an age-appropriate way and lead assembly based on a rota system. In some phases, pupils and the Junior Chaplaincy Team support with running these assemblies.

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 collective worship arrangements. Such requests would need to be sent to the Headteacher in writing.