

St James' CE (Aided) Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Rationale

Just as family members share the experiences of daily life so the 'school family' meets together on a daily basis to:

- Worship
- Develop an understanding of Spirituality and the Christian faith
- Provide opportunities to pray, to be thankful, to be sorry
- Nurture a feeling of belonging
- Encourage moral development, care and concern for others
- Share common experiences of awe, wonder, happiness, sadness
- Share in cultural development
- Give time for quiet reflection
- Promote the values of the school
- Celebrate events/activities which children participate in, both inside and outside school
-

Our school takes inspiration from the wisdom of The Bible. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119 v105.

The symbol of St James is the pilgrim's shell which represents the journey that our children make through this school. The Bible shines a light on our Christian values and on the teachings of Jesus to support and guide us as we follow this path together, laying firm foundations, growing and learning together.

We have adopted the following values to serve and supplement the vision, our core value being Christian love.

Love

Trust

Kindness

Forgiveness

Growing, caring and learning together

Leaders

Kate Jones, John Tutt, Lucy Hayward, and Judi Hammill

Staff involvement

This policy document and guidance were arrived at after discussion with the staff and governors. It was prepared after due consideration for the age range contained within the school.

Staff attendance

The expectation is that all teaching staff will attend collective worship where possible. Class based support staff will also attend when they are available. All teaching and support staff who are available should attend on a when their class teacher is on playground duty, and any other day they wish to.

Prayers

Staff are encouraged to provide opportunities for prayer during the school day. Resources are available to assist with this. Every collective worship is started and ended with a prayer. Grace is said before lunchtime in each class. All governor meetings will begin with prayer where appropriate.

Organisation

Collective worship takes place at 10am in EY/KS1 and 10:25am in KS2, although this can be changed by common consent when necessary. All Collective Worship begins with the opening of the Collective Worship box, led by children from Year 2, 5 or 6. All Collective Worship ends with the children reading the closing prayer with response from the whole school.

The current pattern is as follows: (but may change due to timetable changes, e.g. swimming/ teacher availability)

Monday: Cross phase led by Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

Monday's act of worship is led by John Tutt or Lucy Hayward to develop the week's theme. This collective worship includes prayer, a worship song and teaching.

Tuesday: St James' Church Clergy Act of Worship

Tuesday's act of worship is led by the vicar or curate of St James' church. Collective worship starts with an opening prayer, followed by the teaching, which is presented in a variety of ways using a range of media and a closing prayer. The structure includes gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

Wednesday: Class Led Act of Worship is Singing or a visitor or other staff member

Wednesday's act of worship is a Praise assembly with the opportunity taken to learn new songs which link to the teaching or the Christian festivals.

Thursday: Class Led Act of Worship is Singing or a visitor or other staff member

Thursday's act of worship is led by Kate Jones (or another teacher or visitor) and builds on the week's theme.

Friday: Celebration Worship or Invited Guest

Opportunities are taken to give thanks for our achievements, for prayer and worship songs. This is a celebration of learning and God's blessings on us as a school. Recognition of children's birthdays also takes place at the end in KS1.

Worship in Church

Services at St James' Church will take place 6 times per year with an option to do more. These services include Harvest, Christmas, Easter and our Year 6 Leavers at the end of the school year. Each year group will lead an act of worship at the church to which parents are invited to attend; this replaces class assemblies in school.

Content

We follow the Rochester scheme for our collective worship, adapting to suit our school context.

Collective worship is Christian (Anglican) in content in accordance with the School’s Trust Deeds. Stories with language and style particularly relevant to Key Stage One children are used as well as related stories depicting Christian values in real life situations. Methods of delivery may include simple story telling or use of poetry, music, games and drama. Other organisations may be asked to lead collective worship such as Life and Soul etc.

Fixed points for collective worship are; the start of term, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and end of school year. In addition to this, there are RE Days during which the children and adults are able to learn, reflect and respond to major Christian Festivals. Where possible, links are made between the curriculum and Collective Worship themes.

Reception Children

Attendance by Reception pupils will build up gradually to 5 days per week by the end of their second term in school. This will ensure that they are able to participate appropriately. Collective Worship takes place in the classroom if the children are not yet ready for whole school Collective Worship. Children in Reception will follow the Diocesan guidelines for Collective Worship: A structure for class worship in the Foundation Stage (15 minutes)

Gather	Engage	Respond	Send
Make a set of picture cards from which the pupils can choose how they mark their gathering which might include: ‘Light a candle’ ‘Play some music’ ‘Ring bells gently’ ‘Sing a worship song’ ‘Put a special worship picture on our whiteboard’	Choose appropriate story material A story from a Children’s Bible A story with a Christian message Apply the Christian message to the pupils’ own lives and experiences Make sure you engage pupils in Looking (V) Listening (A) Doing (K)	Provide some time for prayer and/or reflection Use a book of simple prayers for young pupils or use a prayer cube You may want pupils to recite a simple prayer with or after you Encourage pupils to look at visual focus (an object or a picture) to help them to think about how they could respond to what they have heard today There may be people or situations for which the pupils want to pray Pupils could make a prayer wall of their prayer pictures or use an interactive prayer station within the classroom	Sending cards might include ‘Give someone a hug’ ‘Smile at someone’ ‘Help someone today’ ‘Play with someone you do not normally play with’ ‘Try something new today’ ‘Say something nice about someone’

Worship Record

The planning of, and record of all collective worship is kept in a shared folder on the school network. Kate Jones works with classes to enable pupil and staff evaluation of collective worship. These are collected in and available to read in folders for each key stage.

Creating the right environment

Displays in different parts of the school reflect our Christian ethos. These change often. We try to create the setting for worship through the use of music, stillness, display, symbols and candles. Images may be used in computer presentations. Pupils are encouraged to participate for example, through questioning, games and acting.

Equal Opportunities

We endeavour to ensure that collective worship offers equal opportunities to all. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any act of worship within the school and are able to do so in writing to the headteacher. We would however aim to discourage such action given the Christian foundation of our school.

Date 14.12.2025 Signed_Judith Hammill
Chair of the Governors

Date of review_14.12.2026 Signed_Kate Jones