

ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL



ENGAGE - INSPIRE - ACHIEVE

**The Christian family of St Paul's... moving forward together.
A caring, exciting and happy school where everyone
succeeds!**

Worship Policy
January 2017

POLICY STATEMENT

1. St Pauls, Constable Lee is a Church of England, Voluntary Controlled Primary School, acting in accordance with the trust deed, which sets the school up to provide education within the framework of 'the principles and practices of the Established Church'. This policy outlines the aims of worship within our school.

Links To Other Policies: RE policy and Manchester Diocesan Policy.

2. The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy:
- Visiting Protocol

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

3. As a Church of England school, we recognise that worship is an important part of the school day, as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to pray together. Parents should be made aware that the school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. At St Paul's we seek to be an inclusive community, however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship (please see point 8).

4. Worship is attended by all students (unless withdrawn), and by members of staff. We recognise that school worship is not the same as worship within a faith setting, therefore we do not aim to 'convert' children. Worship therefore, will be appropriate to the age and attitude of our children, and aims to maintain the ethos and values of our mission statement 'The Christian family of St Paul's, moving forward together. A caring, exciting and happy school where everyone succeeds!'

5. It is our aim at St Paul's, Constable Lee that worship should:

a. **contribute to pupils' spiritual development** by enabling them to:

- i. Experience what worship is and what people do when they worship.
- ii. Develop the ability to meditate, reflect and use silence creatively.
- iii. Reflect on and think more deeply about important issues.
- iv. Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation.
- v. Celebrate all that is of value in life - truth, love, goodness, beauty etc.

b. **Introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England through:**

- i. Learning appropriate responses and forms of prayer
- ii. Giving pupils a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life
- iii. Allowing pupils to experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material

c. Enable pupils to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith as they:

- i. Explore Christian beliefs about God
- ii. Learn about the place and significance of the Bible
- iii. Learn about the significance of Jesus
- iv. Explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus
- v. Share in Church life and Christian practice
- vi. Experience different forms of worship
- vii. Celebrate the festivals and Saints days of the church year

d. Contribute to pupils' moral development, helping them to:

- i. Develop an ability to reflect on moral and social issues
- ii. Appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by
- iii. Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others

e. Contribute to the general development of pupils by providing them with opportunities for:

- i. leadership and developing presentation and performance skills
- ii. Learning the skill of choral speaking
- iii. Developing pupils' singing ability
- iv. Participating in group planning, preparation and presentation through leadership assemblies.

f. Celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God as we:

- i. Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum
- ii. Build up sense of community of the school
- iii. Develop and reflect on the values of the school
- iv. Share achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community

g. Look out to the wider world as pupils learn:

- i. To take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate
- ii. To celebrate and give thanks for God's world

EXPECTATIONS

6. Collective worship makes a major contribution to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. At St Paul's School, we enjoy close with St Paul's church, we aim to visit church at Harvest, Christingle, Christmas and Easter as we celebrate key Christian festivals.

ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

7. The governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met. The RE/worship Leader, Miss Fielding, takes on the responsibility for organising and planning the worship. Reverend Chris Casey and Reverend Julie Barratt are involved in the planning and preparation of school worship, along with the RE Governor Denise Crawforth, a parent and children where appropriate. It must however, be made clear to all staff and clergy who lead collective worship that they should do so in a way that ensures that all present can take part with integrity.

8. Collective Worship will take place each day (please see attached planning documents).

9. Each week children will have time in class to reflect upon the theme for worship and respond to an activity in the 'reflection area' of each classroom as well as on 'Reflection Friday'. This will be shared where possible to ensure children are actively involved in weekly worship.

10. A worship-planning group meets once a term led by the RE/worship Leader. These meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluate the last terms acts of Collective Worship and to plan themes for the next term.

11. We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

12. If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor into the school for worship, they must first discuss this with their Unit Head and the Head teacher. Only after agreement from the Head Teacher can the visitor enter school. Children are NEVER left unsupervised with external visitors, regardless of safeguarding check outcomes.

Upon arriving at the school, all visitors to lead worship will be escorted by the worship leader, R. Fielding or by the school staff who invited them.

MONITORING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

13. The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. It is recommended that the RE/worship Leader will use documentation from the Manchester Diocese in self evaluating worship and share findings with the Head Teacher and Reverend Chris Casey and the nominated governor Denise Crawforth. Children are also encouraged to contribute their evaluations of collective worship. Records are held

in the Office and with the Head teacher and RE/worship Leader. They are available to parents on request.

PARENTAL RIGHTS TO WITHDRAWAL

14. At St Paul's, we expect that withdrawal from worship, will only be made following parental discussion with the Head teacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal. The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

BRITISH VALUES

15. At St Paul's CE Primary School, Constable Lee we uphold and teach pupils about British Values which are defined as:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

16. The school uses daily opportunities to actively promote British Values, including during our daily acts of Collective Worship, this includes the following:

- a. **Democracy:** Collective Worship is respectful and inclusive of all pupils, regardless of their religion or belief, or non-belief. Student Leadership Groups plan and lead a worship every Thursday. Children are voted into groups democratically and given an opportunity to evaluate Collective Worship and to voice their opinions and views.
- b. **Liberty:** We actively encourage pupils to make choices and help in planning and delivering child led Collective Worship including choosing songs and prayers.

Pupils are given the freedom to make choices when signing up for Student Leadership groups.

Each term, children evaluate Collective worship. This informs staff of the level of children's understanding and supports the planning and delivery of Collective Worship in the future.

Once a year, children will perform in a class worship and parents are invited to attend. Children work with their class teacher to present a story, song, and prayer.

- c. **The Rule of Law:** The importance of laws and rules both in and out of school are reinforced daily. There are clear expectations of behaviour in Collective Worship. Children are asked to reflect on the importance of 'Golden Rules' especially when they are not followed.

Every Friday we have a 'Celebration' Assembly. Children who have made the 'Golden book' for outstanding behaviour are celebrated.

- d. **Tolerance and Respect:** Children learn about the different major faiths, beliefs and festivals in RE and also visit various places of worship. Collective Worship promotes tolerance and respect of all people regardless of their background and belief and children are encouraged to pray for others.

POLICY REVIEW

The Worship policy will be reviewed annually.

This policy will be ratified by the Governing Body in January 2017

Signed by Mr W Aitkin (Chair of Governors)

Date January 2017

This policy will be reviewed on or before the following date: January 2018