

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
Spetember 2019

POLICY STATEMENT

St Pauls, Rawtenstall 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

The following national guidelines should also be read when working with this policy: -

- Visiting Protocol

1. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

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 and worship 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. This is best done through the school prospectus or on the school website. 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).

Worship is attended by all students (unless withdrawn), and by members of staff.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!'

It is our aim at St Paul's, Rawtenstall that worship should:

Contribute to pupils' spiritual development

Experience what worship is and what people do when they worship.

Develop the ability to meditate, reflect and use silence creatively.

Reflect on and think more deeply about important issues.

Foster a sense of awe and wonder at creation.

Celebrate all that is of value in life - truth, love, goodness, beauty etc.

Introduce pupils to the worship of the Church of England

Learn appropriate responses and forms of prayer

Give pupils a repertoire of prayers to take into adult life

Experience different forms of Christian worship and worship material

Gain in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith

Explore Christian beliefs about God

Learn about the place and significance of the Bible

Learn about the significance of Jesus

Explore the nature of God as revealed in Jesus

Share in Church life and Christian practice

Experience different forms of worship

Celebrate the festivals and Saints days of the church year

Contribute to pupils' moral development

Develop ability to reflect on moral and social issues

Appreciate the values and beliefs that people live by

Acknowledge and become more aware of the needs of others

Contribute to the general development of pupils

Provide them with opportunities for leadership and developing presentation and performance skills

Learn the skill of choral speaking

Develop pupils' singing ability

Participate in group planning, preparation and presentation through leadership assemblies.

Celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of God.

Celebrate work undertaken by pupils in all areas of the curriculum

Build up sense of community of the school

Develop and reflect on the values of the school

Share achievements, joys and difficulties of all members of the school community

Look out to the wider world

To take note of events in the world and express joy or sorrow as appropriate

To celebrate and give thanks for God's world

2. Expectations

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

3. Organisation and Delivery

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, planning and evaluating the worship alongside the worship committee and children's worship group.

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.

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

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

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.

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

4. VISITORS AND THE USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES

If any member of staff wishes to invite a visitor in the school for worship, they must first discuss this with their Unit Head and the Headteacher. 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.

5. Monitoring of Collective Worship

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 Headteacher and Reverend Chris Casey and the nominated Governor. Children are also encouraged to contribute their evaluations of collective worship. Records are held with the RE Leader and with the Headteacher. They are available to parents on request.

6. Parental rights to withdrawal

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.

7. BRITISH VALUES

At St Paul's CE Primary School Rawtenstall, we uphold and teach pupils about the British Values through which are defined as:

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

The school uses daily opportunities to actively promote British Values including our daily acts of Collective Worship.

Democracy

Collective Worship is respectful and inclusive of all pupils, regardless of their religion or belief, including non-belief. Student Leadership Groups plan and lead a worship every Thursday. Children are voted into groups democratically. Pupils are given an opportunity to evaluate Collective Worship to voice their opinions and views.

Liberty

We actively encourage pupils to make choices. Pupils 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 deliver 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.

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 these 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.

Tolerance and Respect

At St Paul's we celebrate all major festivals in the Christian Calendar.

Children learn about the different major faiths, beliefs and festivals in RE and also visit different 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 2020

Signed by Mr W Aitkin (Chair of Governors)

Date: January 2020

This policy will be reviewed on or before the following date: September 2021



Children's Rights - Article 14

Every child has the right
to think and believe what
they want and to
practise their religion.

www.OutsideClassroomBoards.co.uk