

ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL



ENCOURAGE
one another
AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP
↑ THESSALONIANS 5:11

Worship Policy
September 2021

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

- RE policy

1. AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

At St Paul's Church of England Primary school, we recognise and value collective worship as central to fostering a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian Vision. At St Paul's we seek to be an *inclusive* community allowing those experiencing worship to think, ask questions, be curious, participate or stand back. Inclusion requires pupil involvement in planning, leading and the evaluation of worship. At St Paul's we enjoy close links with St Paul's church. We enjoy visiting church at Harvest, Christingle, Christmas and Easter to celebrate key Christian celebrations.

We recognise that worship is *invitational*- engaging whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect.

Worship will be *Inspiring*: music should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship and reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community. Worship at St Paul's should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. Through inspirational worship we aim to explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values through:

Reflecting on and think more deeply about important issues.

Fostering a sense of awe and wonder at creation.

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

Building up sense of community of the school

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

Looking out to the wider world, taking note of events in the world and expressing joy or sorrow as appropriate

2. ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

The Governors hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met (please refer to Collective Worship Guidance version 18.5.21). The worship Leader, Miss Fielding, takes on the responsibility for organising, planning and evaluating the worship alongside the worship committee and children's worship group.

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 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.

We seek to equip those undertaking worship with the necessary skills and training:

- Worship leaders, including clergy, should have access to regular training and high quality resources.
- Pupil worship leaders should be supported, encouraged and resourced to contribute meaningful acts of worship.
- The governing body should have robust systems in place to monitor the impact of worship effectively; this monitoring will include and meaningfully involve pupil voice.
- Those from outside agencies and church groups invited into the school to facilitate worship should be supported and monitored as part of the school's evaluation process.

3. 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 the worship leader, Miss Fielding. 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.

4. 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 worship Leader will use documentation from the Manchester Diocese in self evaluating worship and share findings with the Headteacher and Reverend 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.

5. PARENTAL RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

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.

POLICY REVIEW

The Worship policy will be reviewed annually.

This policy will be ratified by the Governing Body in September 2021

Signed by Mr W Aitken (Chair of Governors)

Date

This policy will be reviewed on or before the following date: September 2023



Children's Rights - Article 14

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

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