



# **St Peter's Methodist Primary School**

## Collective Worship Policy

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Agreed at Pupil and Curriculum Committee:  
February 2013

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March 2017

Next Review Date: February 2019

## **Context and Principles**

The daily Act of Collective Worship at St Peter's plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos, strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. More information about our Christian Values can be found [here](#).

Through Collective Worship we reinforce our Christian ethos and values and help pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith as well as making a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children to 'enjoy and achieve' and Collective Worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

## **Aims and Objectives**

- ◆ provide pupils with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood)
- ◆ give pupils opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian, including Methodist, (and other faith traditions) stories, events and festivals and how these might effect their lives
- ◆ offer experiences and opportunities for pupils to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of Collective Worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs
- ◆ promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual, school and wider community achievement, within the context of Collective Worship.
- ◆ provide opportunities to involve our Methodist church community and the local community of churches and church leaders

## **Collective worship and the law**

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily Act of Collective Worship for all pupils on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an Act of Collective Worship 'on grounds of conscience'. The majority of our Acts of Collective Worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Kent and in Great Britain.

## **Collective worship and parents**

Parents are invited to all Services and some Acts of Collective Worship, in particular when a class or year group is involved in leading Collective Worship.

We emphasise the importance of our Collective Worship programme in developing our school's ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children to consider important issues for life and living. Parents do, however, have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from the daily Act of Collective Worship. This is made clear through the information contained in our prospectus. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Head teacher.

If a child is withdrawn from Collective Worship they are supervised by an adult outside of the hall/room and are reintegrated for any notices or presentations.

## **Collective worship and staff**

Teachers (and sometimes support staff) attend Collective Worship with their class. Each class prepares and leads an Act of Collective Worship once in term 5 or 6. Classes may lead Collective Worship on other occasions as appropriate.

If an individual member of staff feels their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of Collective Worship they can discuss this with the Head teacher, since they do have the legal right not to attend Collective Worship 'on grounds of conscience'. Currently none of our staff withdraws.

## Collective worship planning

The Senior Leadership team, consisting of the Head, Assistant Head, KS1/FS leader and Assistant Headteacher / KS2 leader discuss Collective Worship regularly.

Notebook or Power Point slides outlining the structure of the assembly are saved on our intranet to enable cross referencing and monitoring. The SLT plans, oversees and monitors the programme and considers how to continue to improve the learning experiences and opportunities we provide for our pupils through Collective Worship.

## Collective worship organisation

We hold daily Acts of Collective Worship, at the beginning of the day. Each Friday, it is held in our Methodist church which we are co-located with, when the theme for the week is introduced. On Monday-Thursday, Worship, following this theme is held in school:

Monday - Key Stage (led by each KS teacher in turn)

Tuesday – Class Worship

Wednesday – Choral Worship

Thursday – Whole School Worship

Our Harvest, Christmas, Easter and End of Year services are held in the Methodist Church in addition to other celebrations throughout the year.

Suggested materials are provided to support staff who lead Class worship. It is the responsibility of staff leading the Act of Collective Worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present. Collective Worship leaders need to ensure that over time the following opportunities are provided:

- Use of the Bible as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate.
- Time for our children to learn about the Methodist church, the life of John Wesley and the Wesley rule of life.
- Time for Christian children to pray the 'Lord's prayer', a school prayer, John Wesley Rule of Life and other prayers and for others to listen respectfully.
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days.

### Acts of collective worship:

- ◆ We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall.
- ◆ Our usual format consists of a 'thinking question' related to the theme and displayed at the front of the hall for the children to reflect on once they are seated. This is followed by:

**Gather** – Leader '**The Lord be with you**' and the children reply '**And also with you**'.

**Engage** - input from the leader, an appropriate hymn or song. Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils/students throughout for example questioning or drama

**Respond** – Prayer and time for quiet reflection.

**Send** – Leader '**The peace of the Lord be always with you**' and the children reply '**And also with you**'. Children may also be sent with a Challenge e.g. Worship Warrior Challenge for the week displayed in a central location in the school.

- ◆ The Act of Worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time.
- ◆ The time assembled, including the Act of Collective Worship, usually takes 20 – 30 minutes daily.

## Use of Visitors

Visitors, including our Church Minister lead our worship most Fridays during terms 1, 2, 3 and 4. Reverend Boxer (our Minister) also supports curriculum work, particularly RE, through input to lessons both in school and during class visits to the church. Other church leaders and workers are invited in as appropriate to support units of work.

The Head teacher is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead Collective Worship. By drawing on people from the local community to lead Acts of Collective Worship we enhance community cohesion.

### **Health, Safety and Well-being**

In Collective Worship we follow the school's health, safety and well-being policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line with our 'internet-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in an Act of Worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where Worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children.

### **Equal Opportunities and Inclusion**

Collective Worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion and gender. During Collective Worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity and equality will be affirmed.

### **Resources**

A range of resources, including CDs is available to support teachers and pupils with Collective Worship and is situated in the wall and floor cupboards in the hall. An annual allocation, managed by the Head teacher is available to purchase resources and for training purposes.

### **In-Service Training**

Members of the Senior Leadership Team attend training as appropriate and available and share the outcomes with the Senior Leadership Team and staff who lead Collective Worship. External support from the Methodist Church, our Foundation Governors and the Diocesan is drawn on as appropriate.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

A programme of monitoring is carried out across the year. Governors, staff, parents and children monitor the whole range of Acts of Worship and comments and suggestions are gathered and considered by the Worship Co-ordinators and Senior Leadership Team.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the Co-ordinators in consultation with our Senior Leadership team and Governing Body Curriculum and Pupils Committee every three years.