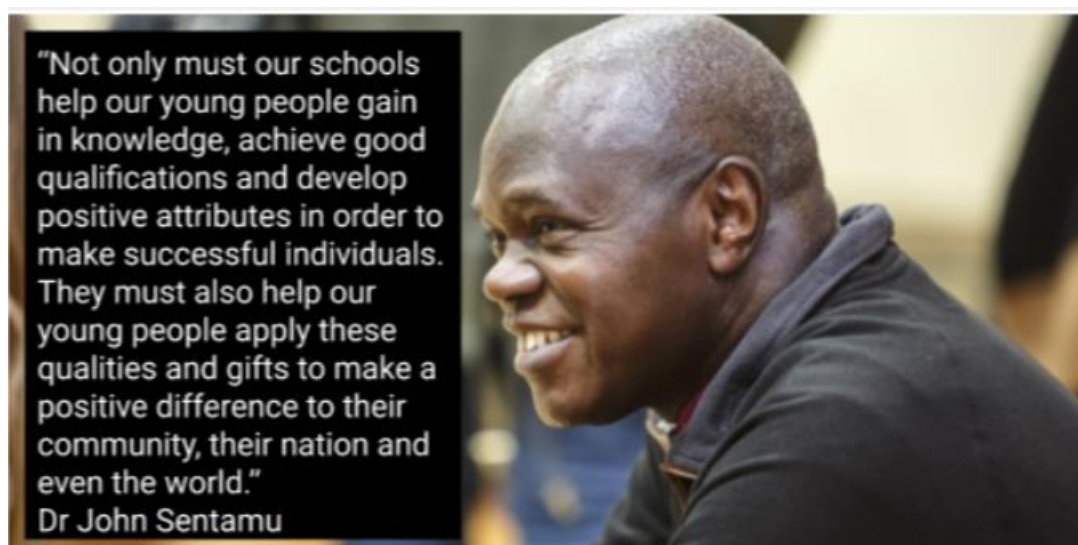


St Peter's CofE Junior School



Collective Worship Policy



Our vision: A place for all to flourish

Our mission: To empower and inspire a community of lifelong learners by providing an education of the head, heart and hands in order to change our world for the better.

Our values:

	Value	Definition	Link to Christian teaching
	Aspiration	We have the highest of expectations and believe everyone can succeed.	To aim high and to do the very best that you can echoes the Apostle Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian church to 'Run in such a way as to get the prize' (1 Cor 9:24).
	Kindness	We care and look after everyone in our school community.	Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) and evidence of God at work. The Apostle Paul described kindness as an intrinsically Christian attitude of heart (Col 3:12).
	Contribution	We strive to make a positive contribution in making our community and world a better place.	Our need to work together, with an understanding that everyone's contribution is essential, is rooted in the Apostle Paul's vision of the church (Rom 12:4-5) where we are 'one body but with many members'.
	Enjoyment	We want everyone in our school to be happy, healthy and develop a love of learning.	Joy is another fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). The truth is that God wants us to enjoy life, but enjoyment is always a choice to be chosen and learnt (1 Tim 6:17).
	Resilience	We believe that by nurturing the skills and mindset needed to confidently tackle challenges and changes, with perseverance and optimism anything is possible.	'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.' (James 1:2-4)
	Growth	We aim for all individuals to flourish and develop fully the skills and interests that they possess.	It was the Apostle John who declared that each one of us is bursting with potential and the capacity for growth and fruitfulness (John 15:1-4).

Introduction

The Church of England's vision for education is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. Similarly, our own school offers a vision of human flourishing for all; one that embraces academic excellence alongside character and spiritual development and an emphasis on making a positive contribution to our community and the world.

In achieving this vision, collective worship has a very important role to play. Our daily act of worship, as part of our strong and positive partnership with St. Peter's Church, is a very important part of not only fostering a sense of community but also expressing our vision and making it a effective reality. It is mainly of a Christian character and helps to communicate and develop our School Ethos where we describe ourselves as aiming to develop our Head, Heart and Hands. This is an ethos and approach that we feel we can make real and understandable to our whole school community and it is a guiding principle that defines St Peter's Junior School.

Collective Worship, therefore, is not a standalone event, but one part of achieving this mission: what we might call developing the 'Heart' (wellbeing, character and spiritual development) at St Peter's. Our Collective Worship plays a very important part in this and is the unique heartbeat of the school. It is a key time when we can link who we are and our knowledge of our world to both our values and provide the opportunity to reflect on larger questions of meaning and purpose. This we, believe, is fundamental to our children growing into active citizens, shaped through Christian values.

Our collective worship does provide a significant time when this can be felt, acted upon and recognised - by involving children directly in collective worship, by valuing positive actions of some children in front of everyone else, such as through our Head, Heart and Hands Awards or through the valuing the actions of children who have contributed through our Pupil Leadership awards.

The fact that this sense of value attaches itself to the way we work as well, which can also be recognised within collective worship, makes the meaning even more powerful.

It is, therefore, a time when we can celebrate not only what this means, but how it can affect us all in a positive way, making the impact of our Christian heritage, beliefs and practices meaningful, both collectively and individually, and a power for good not simply in our school, but in the wider community too. Thus pupils are helped to learn and grow in an environment which is safe and caring and, in being so, allows and encourages them to think for themselves and take responsibility for their own life and the lives of those around them.

In this way, collective worship genuinely and positively helps shape individual lives and the 'heart' of the school as a whole. It is a significant contributor to who we are and very much asks us to consider 'who we might be?'

Our aims

Collective Worship at St Peter's aims:

- To be an enjoyable, child friendly, engaging and rewarding experience planned specially for all our children and their needs.
- To be relevant and provide a positive and meaningful time together.
- To explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues
- To lead children to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith
- To encourage respect for other belief and other faiths.
- To consider spiritual and moral issues. To relate current issues to our own lives, increasing our understanding of people and the world (i.e. 'Take care of each other and the world').
- To encourage participation and response: encouraging children to think about themselves and their response to issues raised together with deeper questions about faith and God.
- To offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness and reflection.
- To provide opportunity to explore further our R.E. themes.
- To encourage personal development by encouraging children to consider who they are and the kind of person they might become.
- To encourage positive action to make our world a better place
- To bring the whole school together helping create a sense of belonging and school spirit, promoting a common ethos and shared values, recognising who we are.
- Celebrate achievement, who we are and the life of the school as a whole.
- To provide performance opportunities to help build confidence and encourage the development of talent.
- To allow the older children to positively influence the younger ones.

Distinguishing Worship

At St Peter's we are genuinely committed to achieving the above, seeing collective worship as an integral part to who we are and who we want to be as a school. Collective worship and assembly are distinct activities and so that we do not confuse children or affect their positive view of worship, by muddling it with information giving activities such as handing out lost property, simple story telling assemblies or just any arranged gathering in the hall. We demonstrate the transition between collective worship and assembly by lighting our candle then extinguishing it when the act of worship has finished.

Structure of Collective Worship	
	Welcome

	Lighting of Candle
	Main Message (The Window)
	Time for Reflection (The Mirror)
	What's the impact? (The Door)
	School Prayer

Planning and Organisation

Whilst the Head Teacher maintains an advisory role and participates in leading collective worship every week, other staff also lead worship and are helped to broaden their expertise and leadership capabilities through this.

Our 'Collective Worship Plan' is carefully planned and organised, and :

- Links to our vision, mission and values
- Always contains reference to the main Christian Festivals.
- Contains themes which can also be picked up in R.E. teaching and which the children can reflect upon once back in their classrooms.
- Plans in some linked opportunities for children to lead
- Incorporates music for the children to listen to as they enter and leave the hall to encourage an atmosphere of reflection
- Uses a Worship area to be prominent at the front of the school hall.

- Recognises and values the privilege of seniority for our Year 6 children who are allowed to sit on benches.
- Our school prayer is recited at the end of every Collective Worship.
- Shares real life experiences/relating to the children's lives and their world
- Enables our Leadership Groups, Pupil Parliament or older pupils to lead worship/assembly
- Acknowledges achievement through our school values and our ethos of developing the Hands (making a difference).

The format is usually as follows (normally between 15 to 20 minutes or sometimes longer depending on content):

Collective Worship Rota		
Day	Lead	Theme
Mon	Michael	HT Collective Worship
Tue	Ali/ Caroline	Singing Practise
Wed	Rev Andrew	St Peter's Church Collective Worship
Thu	Hannah	Picture News Collective Worship
Fri	Caroline	Celebration of Values

Leadership

The Head Teacher and R.E. lead provide in-school guidance, where appropriate and monitoring. Different staff often lead collective worship so they are not only attending worship, they are actively involved in thinking what is involved and shaping it.

Pupils constantly tell us how much they enjoy participating in Collective Worship or watching their friends. Pupils are also encouraged and supported to take a more direct leadership role. Our pupils take an active role in collective worship and/or assembly through:

- Running the sound and visuals.
- Talking with partners to discuss questions asked.
- Taking part in drama or other performance opportunities.
- Singing together.
- Presenting on issues they are passionate about

- Giving the older children opportunity to positively influence the younger ones.

SEN and Equality of Opportunity

Special arrangements are made for children with special needs that may include, ear-defenders, alternate seating or support for those who find the 'large group' experience of assembly disturbing. This is in line with the positive commitment to ensure Collective Worship is as inclusive as possible.

Consideration of Pupils with other Faiths

This is always within our thinking and we liaise with our parents of other faiths to ensure we are getting the balance and sense of respect right.

The Right to Withdraw

We acknowledge a parent's right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

Impact and Review

Pupils are asked their views of worship to ensure we are keeping worship fresh and relevant and to gain an insight into the impact of worship.