



St James CE Academy



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Unlocking potential and flourishing

"I can do all things through Christ; who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

Joy in Lifelong learning

"Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress."
Timothy 4:15

Everyone is Loved

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you"
John 15:12

Presented to staff: **February 2020**

Approved by Governing Body: **March 2020**

Date of Review: **February 2023**

Worship at our Academy

As well as it being a legal requirement that all registered Academy age pupils take part in an act of worship each day, St James Academy views Collective Worship as an essential tool to develop both children and staff's spirituality. These acts of worship must be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" for the majority of the time. They must also be "appropriate, having regard to the ages, aptitudes and family backgrounds of the pupils".

Our worship is in accordance with our Diocese Multi-Academy Trust Deed and therefore reflects the tradition of the Church of England. Worship is at the heart of our Academy and reflects some of the features of Christian prayer and worship. Whole school worship follows the following format:

Monday	10:20am	Teaching on Value/Global event	SLT led
Tuesday	10:20am	Values Worship/ Singing	Teaching Staff
Wednesday	10:20am	Global theme/ Other Faith	Teaching Staff
Thursday	In class (Planned as a longer reflection on the topic from the previous day)		
Friday	2:30pm	Celebration Assembly	SLT led
The Worship Council and other groups deliver worship at different times and at their request			

Once a week collective worship happens in class and this provides reflective opportunities for the children based on the content of the previous days collective worship; these reflections are added to the class reflection book which is displayed on the reflection table within each classroom. Over each half term the Vicar from St James and the Pastor from the local Methodist Church lead worship. Occasionally we are also fortunate to be able to welcome guests from different charities and local and global companies that lead worship.

Values and Aims

We believe that worship both supports and strengthens our Christian Culture and Curriculum drivers of joy, love and the unlocking of potential. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, socially, culturally, morally and intellectually is reflected in our worship. We value this special time in the school day for the space it gives children to develop a reflective approach to life and the ability to express their reflections in traditionally religious ways or any other appropriate manner.

Through our worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for children to:

- learn how our Christian Culture and values are rooted in the teachings of the bible.
- become increasingly aware of themselves as individuals and as members of groups within the school and the wider community.
- grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in everyday situations.
- explore the language which people use to express their feelings and beliefs.
- deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them.
- grow in confidence when making a presentation to the group or whole school.

- respond freely to religious and / or spiritual stimulus.
- acknowledge diversity and affirm each person's life stance, whether it be religious or not.

Objectives

We see Collective Worship as an educational opportunity with clear objectives. We use this time to encourage our pupils to:

- learn stories from the bible.
- show interest in, and a concern for, members of the school community.
- celebrate special occasions together.
- show concern for the daily happenings in school life, the local community, the wider world.
- learn about some of the elements of our Anglican heritage.
- share appreciation of worthwhile projects undertaken by groups within the school.
- explore and review the variety of values, attitudes, standards, manifested in religions and society.
- reflect upon dimensions of human life – the wonderful, beautiful, joyful, heroic, humorous, tragic, sorrowful, solemn.

Current organisation of Collective Worship

In accordance with statutory requirements, Collective Worship is placed at the centre of the school's daily life and is mainly organised on a whole school basis. Teaching staff, the local Vicar, visitors from organisations or other faiths and the children, lead worship to varying degrees throughout the term.

We fulfil the school's commitment to the status of Church of England controlled by participating in church services and by welcoming the Vicar into school on a regular basis. The vicar also participates in the children's religious education lessons.

We also re-assure parents, where necessary, that our school exerts no pressure on children to become worshipping Christians or to take part in any activity which compromises their family faith or lack of faith.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural welfare of our children, whatever their background, is of prime concern to us as a school, therefore, Christian values taken from the 'Values for Life' scheme are built into our ethos and teaching, and are reflected in the half termly themes, on which daily acts of worship are based.

All staff and children currently take part in Collective Worship, although the right to withdraw exists. If parents or staff wish to withdraw from Collective Worship then they should meet with the Headteacher first.

Collective Worship takes place mid-morning, at a time when we feel the children are most receptive. Stories, poems, songs, music, drama and prayers form part of our collective worship and use is made of reflection techniques, which reflect the Anglican nature of worship.

Children are also encouraged to say Grace at the beginning of their lunch session. At the end of the school day each class takes a moment to silently reflect on the day and to say a prayer. This may be the Lord's Prayer, School Prayer or a prayer written by a member of the class.

The nature of Collective Worship

When the whole school comes together for an act of worship, we learn about praising God. It therefore involves us gathering together to express feelings of respect and worth for ourselves, others, for our local community and our world as gifts from God; this is distinct from meeting together to exchange information or dealing with organisational issues, although these can be dealt with separately as part of an assembly time. In addition, due regard is paid to social differences and family backgrounds when we are considering suitable stories and messages for collective worship.

Celebration, praise and education are essential features of worship. Every Friday we hold a collective worship in which parents are invited to join in with the celebration and share their child's success.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this will be achieved over time by asking all stakeholders to reflect on school worship.

Useful strategies for collecting evidence will include:

- Observation of children's attentiveness and level of interest
- Worship councillors to reflect
- Collective Worship leader to meet half termly with the worship councillors
- Classroom feedback through the Collective Worship Journal which reflects the overarching themes of Collective Worship for the half term
- Parents comments
- Observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with staff

Collective Worship Values

There are 18 values taught throughout a three-year cycle. Each half term the children and staff focus on a value and reflect upon that value in their collective worship journals.

Year One 19/20	Year Two 20/21	Year Three 21/22
Truthfulness Hope Respect Generosity Compassion Gratitude	Wisdom Forgiveness Friendship Peace Perseverance Creativity	Courage Responsibility Trust Justice Service Humility

Song / Music

Song / music is a very powerful means of creating a worshipful atmosphere and unifies and uplifts the Academy community. We aim to create a balance of music, speech and silence. We aim to choose songs or hymns with a particular focus on the Christian faith that are appropriate for the pupils and the theme.

Pupils regularly choose the hymns for worship times. Songs learnt in Collective Worship will also be sung in church.

Prayer

We feel prayer is a good way of enabling children to focus their thoughts. Nevertheless, pupils should not be required to say or affirm prayers in which they do not believe. We have developed various forms of introductions to our prayers which provide children with the opportunity to participate if / when they so desire. The use of regular moments of silence provides opportunities for some pupils to respond in a personal way if they so wish. We do ask that all children are respectful during prayers. Our school prayer helps children define the positive aspects of our school as well as giving them a clear frame to follow.

Diversity

All staff members are expected to participate in and, on occasions, lead worship. We understand that some children who attend St James C of E Academy come from a different religious background. We respect the traditions of other faiths and those who lead worship do so in such a way as to allow all children to take part with integrity.

The staff and governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will derive maximum benefit from collective worship, whatever their academic ability.

This policy will be reviewed no less than every three years.

