

St John & St James Church of England Primary School



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

POLICY FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Introduction

At St John & St James Church of England Primary School worship is a central part of each school day. Acts of worship are Christian in nature with opportunity for reflection on a variety of aspects of life for all children.

Aims

Our aims for ship are:

- To challenge pupils to think about Bible stories.
- To provide pupils with an opportunity to reflect on Christian values and beliefs.
- To enable pupils to pray and reflect.
- To define and reinforce the shared values and ethos of the school community.
- To mark and celebrate occasions of importance to the school and wider community.
- To develop an understanding of different acts of formal worship in the Christian Church
- To respectfully acknowledge variations in the Christian Faith and festivals, traditions and beliefs of other faiths.
- To encourage participation of all pupils in assemblies and acts of worship
- To ensure acts of worship are meaningful and relevant to pupils
- To deepen and extend contracts with the parish church of St John the Baptist with St James.

Objectives

Our objectives for worship are:

- To have an assembly each day of approximately 15 minutes.
- To pray each day in assembly, on occasion child led
- For each class to pray at the end of the day
- For assembly leaders to plan carefully and creatively, ensuring the above aims are met.
- For each assembly to offer opportunity for some pupils to participate
- For each assembly to include some time for thinking, for sharing, for listening and for stillness and silence.

- For pupils to be involved in and attend special services in school e.g. Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Year 6 leavers services and Junior Eucharist to which parents and Governors are invited.
- For a variety of adults to lead acts of worship.
- To use music within the assembly.

Planning Assemblies

Assemblies are organised on a weekly basis as follows:

Monday	9.05 – 9.20	Reception and Key Stage One Assembly	Led by Headteacher
	10.15 – 10.30	Key Stage Two Assembly	Led by Headteacher
Tuesday	9.05 – 9.20	Reception and Key Stage One Assembly	Led by Deputy Head/Key Stage co-ordinator
	10.15 – 10.30	Key Stage Two Assembly	Led by Deputy Head/Key Stage co-ordinator
Wednesday	9.05 – 9.25	Class Assembly Each class leads one assembly each term sharing some of the work learned in class. If a class is not scheduled to lead an assembly, a Singing Assembly will be led by the Headteacher. (10.15 – 10.30)	Led by designated class Or Whole school singing
Thursday	10.15 – 10.30	Whole School	Led by Parish priest or a member of the clergy from other local churches.
Friday	9.05 – 9.20	Reception and Key Stage One Assembly ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY	Led by all teaching staff in rotation. This is a good work, achievement assembly.
	10.15 – 10.30	Key Stage Two Assembly ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY	

When planning an assembly, please remember the following points:

- Use resources available in resources room or personal artifacts.
- Ensure that the above aims and objectives are met.
- The whole school should participate by singing a song
- A prayer should conclude the assembly.

As the admissions criteria for St John & St James C of E Primary School state that all parents should be practicing Christians and regularly attend church along with the members of their family, we would expect all pupils to take an active part in collective acts of worship. However, parents still have the legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of the collective act of worship. We invite parents with a concern in this area to discuss the matter with the Headteacher. It is our aim that all children in our care will take part in the worship we provide.

As a Church School we expect all staff to attend assemblies unless their break duty follows assembly. Further guidance on this is given in the Staff Handbook.

Celebrations and festivals.

The following Christian festivals are celebrated each school year:

- Harvest

- Christmas Service

- Easter Service

- Eucharist service led by the Parish priest at the end of each term. (Autumn, Spring and Summer term.)

In addition to the above festivals the children will learn and celebrate the following Saints days through assemblies and class sessions.

- St Christopher -
- St Mary -
- St Francis of Assisi
- St James -
- St George – April
- St Theresa -
- St John the Baptist -

Drafted for and on behalf of the
Governing Body of St John & St James C of E Primary School

Reviewed and redrafted by Heather Knightley
HEADTEACHER

Review Date