



Introduction

At St Peter's, Cowfold, Collective Worship strengthens and supports the Christian ethos and identity of our school and reaffirms our vision and Christian values (see section below). Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found within the Church of England and our parish and follows the Christian liturgical year. The daily act of Worship is at the heart of our school and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our school and celebrates the central role that each person has to play within our school community.

School Christian Vision:

We are St Peter's, a Christian village school rooted in our community.

We strive to create an inclusive, caring environment where our learners grow to enjoy life in all its fullness.

Just as St Peter himself was entrusted to be the rock on which Jesus founded his church, we develop firm foundations for life within our pupils based on Jesus' teachings.

Our pupils are nurtured to develop their self-confidence, spirituality, personal well-being, respect for others, respect for the environment and their own unique talents in a broad curriculum.

When our pupils move on to the next stage of their education, our aspiration is that we have developed 'Life-Long Learners' who have a strong appreciation of their role in; and responsibilities towards; the local community, our country and the changing world.

School Aims:

Our school aims to enable children to love, learn and aim high.

- To **Love** one another in the way God loves us
- To inspire children to love to **Learn**, underpinned by our core Christian values.
- To **Aim High** so every child can fulfil their full potential

Aims for Worship

Our Collective Worship is planned:

- to be inspiring, inclusive, invitational* and engaging, so that all participants are able to talk about the difference worship makes to their relationships and the life of the school
- around Biblical texts and Christian teaching
- to deepen understanding of our Christian values
- with a strong focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, enabling each one of us to embark on an understanding of the Trinity
- to deepen our understanding of Anglican and other Christian traditions found in the UK and worldwide
- to challenge everyone, regardless of background to understand and embark on their own spiritual journey
- to develop an appreciation and understanding of the value of prayer, reflection and stillness

- to develop a sense of the spiritual, creating opportunities to wonder and respond to something beyond the everyday
- to praise, celebrate and give thanks
- to acknowledge significant achievements and mark significant occasions within the school, local and international community

Legal Requirements

We meet legal requirements by providing a daily act of Collective Worship which is in line with our Trust Deed and Anglican foundation. The governing Body holds responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met and that all pupils engage each day in a meaningful act of Christian worship. Our daily worship can be whole school worship, key stage, class or group worship.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of Worship. We comply with any request from a parent to withdraw their child. However, in view of the Christian ethos and distinctive Christian character of our school, we hope that all children admitted will participate in collective worship, and that anyone wishing to withdraw their child will discuss this with the headteacher before making their decision.* Any queries about withdrawal from collective worship should be directed to the collective worship co-ordinator in the first instance and thereafter to the Headteacher. Following a conversation with the Headteacher parents should confirm this request in writing.

In a VA school with a National Society Contract, such as St Peter's Cowfold, it is a condition of staff employment that they attend and play a full part in the daily act of collective worship. Worship is an important part of the ethos of the school. Teachers are asked at recruitment to support the ethos of the school. Collective worship cannot be used as part of a teacher's planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

*Collective worship at St Peter's is invitational and an experience that does not offend the integrity of the non-religious or those of different faiths. It does not pre-suppose shared beliefs.

Worship will be tailored to meet the needs of those attending. Arrangements will be made to ensure pupils and staff with SEND or EAL needs are fully included.

Pattern of Worship

Our pattern of worship is as follows:

Monday – Whole School with Mr Kolter (Headteacher)

Tuesday – Whole School with teachers on a rota basis

Wednesday – Songs of Praise with Mrs Finch

Thursday – Open The Book with Rev Sue Wharton or Father Martin Mills

Friday – Hall of Fame – Christian Learning Friends

Structure of Collective Worship

Specific time is set aside for Worship, and we differentiate acts of collective worship from other assembly activities. We mark this special time by starting Worship with 'The Greeting' and by lighting the candle. Children from our 'Worship Team' support teachers leading worship by lighting the candle, with the greeting and dismissal. They are actively involved in planning and leading worship as mentioned below. Staff expose the children to the key practices, and structure, of Worship in a C of E Church as it is an important part of the school's foundation to pass this

liturgical practice on to the next generation, so they are familiar with the significance and meaning of the different parts of Worship.

General Planning Structure

Staff leading worship are expected to plan the act of Worship with the same degree of thoroughness as other planning. We base our acts of worship around a structure of gathering, engaging, responding and sending.

Worship leaders reflect upon Christian symbols and their use in Worship (for example, bread, wine, chalice, cross and crucifix are symbols which lead to an understanding of the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection);

Children are timetabled in to participate in worship as part of their chosen Worship Team roles.

Basic Format of Worship at is:

The children walk in to music, and listen reflectively.

A child to light the candle when all the children have sat down in the hall, then Worship begins.

Greeting

"(+ In the name of the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen." (+ is an invitation – if you wish – to make the sign of the cross)

Children repeat **"Amen"**.

"The Lord be with you" and children repeat **"and also with you"**

Short Bible story-read, enacted, read together etc

Song of Praise (one song to be sung for the whole week)

Prayer or Lord's Prayer

A child to blow out the candle.

Final blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

The children say - **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Children finally walk out of Worship to music.

Our worship themes follow the liturgical calendar and are planned by Katie Finch. We use the Roots and Fruits resources (Published by Imaginor) to support our worship planning. A carefully planned cycle focusses on the different Christian Values from Roots and Fruits Book 1, or The Bible Themes / Liturgical Calendar based themes / from Roots and Fruits 2.

Occasionally, on the dates of other World Religions' major celebrations, we will hold an assembly to learn more about that religion. Whenever possible we relate it to how British citizens of that other faith are celebrating to build an understanding in our pupils of the multicultural, and multifaith, diversity there is in Britain. We aim to build tolerance and respect within our pupils; as well as build their awareness of what Britain is like beyond the realm of Cowfold. On days we hold these types of assembly as a whole school, we have Class Worship so that the children still partake in a daily act of Christian Worship.

Staff and Community Involvement in Worship

Reverend Sue, Father Martin and Geoff Peckham (Lay Minister) are involved in our worship on a regular basis and enrich our worship through Open the Book worships.

Worship Team



Any pupil can become a worship leader and our aim will be to have worship leaders in all classes across the school. Children do not have to be worship leaders to take on a role in worship – that is something that we expect of all children.

All children have the opportunity to join the Worship Team at St. Peter's. They are invited to put forward their names as members of the team each half term.

They understand that the roles and responsibilities of the worship team are:

1. Take an active part in Collective Acts of Worship:

- Support the teacher running worship, meeting each week to plan the coming week in advance.
- Take an active or supportive role in Open The Book worships
- Lead the gathering, lighting of the candle, read a bible story, prayer and sending
- Choose appropriate songs of praise for the week.

2. To lead by example, demonstrating our Christian Values at all times; demonstrating love and respect to all members of our community and being ambitious in all areas of our daily lives.

3. Evaluate acts of worship delivered by staff and each other, providing feedback to Mrs. Finch and Mrs. Earnshaw

4. Write a monthly prayer for the Short and Sweet Family service at St. Peters Church, Cowfold

Collective Worship Co-ordinator

Collective worship is coordinated by Katie Finch (Senior Teacher). The collective worship co-ordinator is responsible for long term planning of worship, leading acts of worship, supporting staff and pupils who are planning and leading worship, monitoring the quality of worship and evaluating its impact across the school community.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Worship

We regularly evaluate our acts of collective worship and the impact they have on the school and our wider community. This involves monitoring by the collective worship co-ordinator, Our Parish Clergy, staff, pupils and governors and takes place both informally and formally. Everyone who leads worship is asked to evaluate continuously, reflecting on how they can improve and develop their practice. We welcome the views of all those who participate in our worship, and encourage their feedback to the Worship Co-ordinator or SLT. These suggestions and views are shared with staff or Worship Team as appropriate and play an integral part in developing the spiritual growth of our school community.

Formal monitoring and evaluation of collective acts of worship (including our church services) is undertaken by The Worship Co-ordinator, Giles Kiolter or our Parish Clergy on a termly basis. Foundation governors and the worship coordinator observe and evaluate worship once every Term. It is the specific responsibility of the foundation governors and this evaluation is reported to the whole governing body. Pupils are involved in evaluating collective worship as a part of the Worship Team roles, and at the end of each Half Term with Katie Finch. The impact of our collective worship is independently inspected by law under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

This policy has been adopted by the Governors in consultation with the senior leaders, the CW leader and teaching staff.

St. Peter's – Policy Summary

Policy Title: Collective Worship Policy

Scope: Pupils

Links:

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Reviewed by: Full Governing Body

Last Approved: September 2025

Ratified by FGB: n/a

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Next Review: September 2028