St Paul's
C of E Primary School

A place to belong

Collective Worship Policy

Acting Headteacher:	**Charlotte Hughes**
Member of Staff Responsible:	**Sarah Hann**
Reviewing Committee:	**Curriculum**
Effective Date of Use:	**10th March 2026**
Term of Next Review:	**Spring 2027**
Non Statutory Policy	

St Paul's C of E Primary School

A Place to Belong

Our Christian Vision

Our school is a family where everyone feels safe, happy and valued, and is supported to achieve their full potential.

We will develop compassionate and caring individuals who depend on one another, are highly motivated, and have a life-long love of learning in preparation for the future.

Our Core Values

All that we do is underpinned by the core Christian values of *Family (Koinonia), Compassion, Perseverance and Forgiveness*

"Though we are many, we form one body, all joined together as members of the whole. We each have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. We must use them wisely."
Romans 12:5-8

Collective Worship Policy

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and enter his gates with praise! Give thanks to him and bless his name!" Psalms 100:4

The act of collective worship can, and should be the best part of any school day. The joys and concerns of the school, and the world, should be allowed to permeate the worship, and this in turn should infect the whole of school life. An ideal, perhaps, but one worth trying to achieve."

Sharon Swain: Christian Assemblies for Primary Schools

Introduction

Collective Worship at St Paul's CE Primary School is an important and valued part of the school day, with all staff being encouraged to attend along with the pupils. It provides both children and staff with a sense of belonging, and reinforces our strong emphasis on mutual care and respect for everyone in the school community. Our Collective Worship Programme develops this approach by encouraging the children to become aware of, and engage in, discussion about important moral, social and religious issues as well as reaching out to the wider community around our school. Collective Worship at St Paul's CE School aims to promote **koinonia (family)**, **compassion, forgiveness** and **perseverance**, as well as allowing children space and time to develop their own response to the Christian message.

Aims

We seek always to reflect in our worship the Christian foundation of the school and its **compassion** for all who work and learn here. Children are helped to understand the meaning of Christian worship and we hope that believers will be aware of what it means to be a community committed to serving and caring for each other, God and our world

To further this aim we strive:

- For worship to inspire the thinking and day to day action of the whole school community, especially in relation to the school's values.
- To help children to develop **family, compassion, forgiveness and perseverance** through Christ's example
- To provide our pupils and staff with regular opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer.
- To celebrate all aspects of school life and Christian community including the sharing of the gifts and talents of all our pupils.
- To help children develop respect and understanding both of the nature and language of Christian worship through a range of Anglican tradition and practices.
- To promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- To help children develop respect and sensitivity to the beliefs and values of others.
- To involve children and a wide range of stakeholders in creative and thorough planning of creative worship.
- To include children in regular evaluation of creative worship.
- St Paul's CE Primary School is a school for everyone, regardless of beliefs. Therefore, during Collective Worship, we aim that all members of the school community, regardless of background be included in and affirmed by worship. This range will include:

    - those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief
    - parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
    - members of other faith communities
    - those who may not share in any particular religious belief

Under law, parents have a right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending Collective Worship, the school must comply. School remains responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn from Collective Worship unless the child is lawfully taking part in Collective Worship elsewhere. Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. However, to avoid misunderstanding, school will seek to clarify the following issues with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- **the religious issue about which the parent would object to their child being exposed to**
- **the practical implications of withdrawal**
- **the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parental wishes**
- **if a parent will require any advanced notice of specific issues being raised in the future and if so, how much.**

<u>Practicalities</u>

Children have opportunities throughout the week to plan, lead and participate in Collective Worship with different groups – some whole school and some in Phases. Children and staff have the opportunity for prayer and reflection every day and the opportunity for sung worship when Key Stages or the whole school meet together.

At present the pattern is:

Day	**What**	**Responsible for organising**
Monday	Whole School Worship	Teacher / Headteacher
Tuesday	Phase Worship (Classroom based)	Teacher Presentation using Picture News Resources
Wednesday	Whole School Worship	Video presented by Teacher (Hall unavailable as in use for PE)
Thursday	Whole School Worship	Church Team
Friday	Whole School Worship Celebration Assembly	Teacher / Headteacher Headteacher / SLT

General Format of Worship throughout the week (these can be subject to change)

Whole School Worship	● Call & Response led by Worship Squad (Y5) ● Song ● Introduce theme for ½ term & develop ● Time of Reflection ● Prayer & response led by Teacher	15-20 minutes
Phase Worship	● Call & Response led by Worship Squad for KS2 (Y5) ● Call & Response led by Teacher for EYFS and KS1 ● Song ● Continue theme for ½ term & develop ● Time of Reflection ● Prayer & response led by Teacher	15-20 minutes

Content and Approach

We have developed a range of themes and topics through which Collective Worship takes place. Themes for each half term are chosen and presented in a variety of ways. Key themes include compassion, perseverance, trust, forgiveness, joy, justice and peace. Contents include:

- Celebration of the major festivals of Christianity.
- Presentation of Bible stories.
- Topical matters from the news or the locality.
- Literature with implicit or explicit religious teaching.
- Appreciation of the natural world and human activity.
- Appreciation of the talents, achievements and work of ourselves and others.
- Visitors who represent organisations who have a brief acceptable to the school.
- Prayer in different forms - formal, pupils' own, silence and extempore.
- Use of music (this will include music as an introduction and conclusion, singing and instrumental playing by members of the school) drama and other.
- Appropriate artefacts and focal points (candle, cross, flowers etc.).

Resources

The school budgets money specifically for collective worship to be used annually for resourcing collective worship.

Evaluation and Review

Collective Worship and Assemblies are regularly reviewed by staff.

Those outside the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.

Table of Changes

Review Date	Reason for Change
Jan 2026	Changed staff responsible for daily Collective Worship. The Church Team now lead Collective Worship on Thursday.