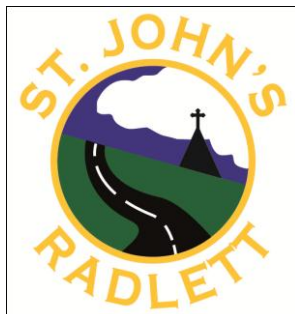


St. John's Church of England Infant and Nursery School



Collective Worship Policy

Statement of Intent

As a church school everything we do is rooted in our Christian values. At St. John's we teach the children about these core values: Love, respect, honesty, forgiveness, friendship, courage, cooperation, peace, perseverance, trust, patience and understanding.

This is reflected in all our relationships between staff, children, parents, governors and the local community. It is reflected in how we teach, what and how our pupils learn within and beyond the classroom.

These values are fundamental in the implementation of this policy to ensure that we maintain our distinctive Christian character of which we are proud.

Collective Worship Policy	
Written by:	Deborah Ramsbottom
Date:	June 2015
Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Date:	03.12.15
Review frequency:	Every two years
Target Audience:	All Stakeholders

The governing body shall conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. St John's CE Nursery and Infant School is committed to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between different groups. These factors were considered in the formation and review of this policy and will be adhered to in its implementation and application across the whole school community.

Aim

The aim of Collective Worship at St John's is to introduce pupils to worship in a manner appropriate to their age, aptitude and family background, drawing primarily upon the riches of Christian traditions.

St John's respects the individuality and uniqueness of every pupil. It is not the school's purpose to actively evangelise, but we aim to encourage those participating in any act of worship to feel part of the Christian faith community, and to feel valued and included. Collective Worship is something we do together whilst embracing a great variety of faith commitment.

Collective Worship should also:

- be daily for all children
- be truly worship
- involve the children regularly
- be monitored by the Collective Worship Leader and the SLT
- be enjoyable
- be suitable for all abilities
- be age appropriate
- be appropriate to the background of the children
- involve the community but still be controlled by the school
- allow time for reflection
- provide a learning opportunity which impacts on the children's lives

The content of collective worship

- In KS1 Collective Worship takes place every day and EYFS hold their own worship joining KS1 on occasions.
- Children will not be passive but encouraged to be active by participating in appropriate ways.
- Themes for assembly will be chosen reflecting our value, the church calendar and religious festivals.
- When appropriate, Collective Worship will engage with any event, local, national or world, of which the children may be aware, and offer appropriate worship in response.
- Whilst most acts of Collective Worship will be held in the school building, an Act of Worship will be held at the end of term at Christ Church and at the beginning of every term at St John's Church.
- The Vicar of Christ Church and other members of the Team lead Collective Worship on a regular basis. The Vicar also assists at our termly services at St John's and Christ Church.
- Parents, Governors and/or friends are invited to attend special occasions such as Harvest and are welcomed to the end of term services at Christ Church.

Collective Worship is non-curriculum time and should connect with, and reinforce, the curriculum and our school values but not be constrained by it.

The style of collective worship

- Collective worship is an opportunity for children to explore the spiritual dimension of their world.
- Collective worship will include stillness as well as words, stories, pictures and symbols, prayers and hymns, songs and music. There will be room for questions and answers - and sometimes the admission that there are no answers.
- Time may be included for talking partner activities and discussion of the current topic.
- There will be expressions of thankfulness, praise and joy. Feelings of sadness and loss will be included when appropriate.
- Collective Worship should allow ethical and moral questions to be explored.
- Every act of Collective Worship should have a clear beginning, shape and ending.

Collective worship format

Worship monitors from Year 2 will help to prepare the hall for worship, putting out chairs for adults and overseeing the music.

Collective Worship begins with pupils entering the hall and sitting down quietly while appropriate music is played. Usually at the front, there will be a picture on the IWB or another focus and a table draped in a cloth in the church's seasonal colour with a candle on it. Worship begins with a prayer as the candle is lit. The content and presentation will vary depending on the leader and the occasion, but there will usually be a hymn or song, a story or reading and at least one prayer. Worship ends with a prayer as the candle is snuffed and pupils are encouraged to leave the hall quietly.

Staff are expected to attend collective worship regularly and respect this time by not walking through the hall during worship.

During our singing assembly on a Thursday traditional and more modern hymns and songs are introduced and learned during worship. They are chosen to be relevant to the church calendar and the current value or theme.

Equal Opportunities

Educational inclusion is about equal opportunities for all pupils, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, background and attainment, including special needs or disability. We believe that every child is entitled to receive a high quality collective worship. We expect every child to be able to learn and reflect effectively in a safe, secure and respectful environment.

Collective Worship will be inclusive of all children. It is important in collective worship to ensure the themes being covered are appropriate to pupils who come from any religious background or whose families do not have a particular religious faith. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship.

Management and Coordination

The RE leader manages this area of the curriculum in line with the job description for subject leaders.

There is a regular focus on Collective Worship, led by the RE subject leader; where areas for development are discussed. This policy is reviewed at that time to ensure it still represents the values and practice of the school.

There is an annual link visit from the governor responsible for RE where collective worship is discussed and developed.