

**St John's C of E VC Infants' School  
& Jumping Johns Nursery**  
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## Policy for Collective Worship

Version	Date created /amended	Created By	Approved By	Date for review
V3	January 2020	Senior Management Team	E&W Committee	January 2022

### Our school vision...

'Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever'. (Daniel 12v3)

#### 'A School where every child can shine'

As a school community we believe that the ethos of the school should be built on a foundation of values. At St. John's we seek to promote our School Christian Values, of **Love, Perseverance and Respect**.

As a community of learners at St. John's C of E Infants' we value the joy of learning, recognise and cherish the uniqueness of each individual and endeavour to realise everyone's full potential.

Our Christian Ethos nurtures personal beliefs and attitudes, which **enables all to seek meaning through life's journey**

This statement should be read in conjunction with the School's Assessment Policy and Procedures and used as part of St John's Church of England VC Infants School and Jumping Johns Nursery's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our vision, instrument of government aims and values as a church of England School.



## St. John's C of E VC Infants' School Collective Worship Policy



**Love – Perseverance - Respect**

*"As a community of learners at St. John's C of E Infants' School we value the joy of learning, recognise and cherish the uniqueness of each individual and endeavour to realise everyone's full potential. Our Christian ethos nurtures personal beliefs and attitudes, which enables all to seek meaning through life's journey"*

St. John's C of E Infants' School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. Worship is therefore an important part of the school day as it gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect on our school Christian Ethos Values; Love, Perseverance and Respect and current events that are important in our lives.

### **Collective Worship, the Law and the School's Trust deed.**

As a Church of England school, it is our legal requirement to ensure that every child has the opportunity to daily worship. This can be done together as a school or class groups. We must provide the opportunity to worship as stated in the school's trust deed. During this time, we also have the chance to reflect on the Anglican status of the school. We often celebrate special occasions, such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter in the Parish Church of St. John's.

### **The Collective Worship Policy at St. John's C of E Infants' School follows the guidance of:**

- Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship
  - Diocese of Bath & Wells guidelines on Collective Worship
- 'In the light of the Christian traditions of Great Britain, collective worship is to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. (ERA 1988, Education Act 1993)*
- ERA (1988) and the Education Act (1993) state that acts of worship may contain certain elements drawn from a number of different faiths, but that within each term, the majority of acts of worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character

## Rationale

- The policy statement has been formally adopted by the governing body, in consultation with the Head teacher
- It is consistent with the overall aims of the school as expressed in the Prospectus and mission statement
- It is consistent with the Christian Foundation of the school as expressed in the Trust Deed

## Aims

"Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes. "  
*Religious Education & Collective Worship. Circular 1/94*



## Aims of our Collective Worship

It is our aim at St. John's C of E Infants' School that worship should: -

- reflect the Christian Ethos Values of the school- Love, Perseverance and Respect
- be clearly planned
- be appropriate to suit the age and understanding of all our pupils
- be inclusive and an occasion where each individual's integrity is respected
- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church
- be regularly monitored and evaluated
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- celebrate the values and worth of the school community
- be an opportunity for pupils to reflect on other people in the world around them
- To foster and enable a concern for the needs of others
- To enable children to experience stillness and quiet
- help children explore and develop their own spirituality
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- offer opportunities to share worship with parents, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions in the Church's Year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God given gifts and talents of the school community.

### **Responsibility for Collective Worship**

The responsibility of planning, organising and leading collective worship is shared between the Head teacher, the Staff and the Governors. This is regularly monitored to ensure it is up to date, relevant and of a high standard.

### **The Timing of Collective Worship**

Collective worship usually takes place in a class room or in the school hall at 9.00am or 2.30pm. We also have the opportunity to hold collective worship in the Parish Church on special occasions.



### **The Planning of Collective Worship**

Collective Worship will be treated like any other part of the curriculum when it comes to matters of planning, delivery, resourcing and evaluation.

Each half term there is a theme for Collective worship based on a Christian Value. These are shared on a regular basis via the school newsletter and our weekly 'Celebration Assembly', when parents are invited to join us. Those leading worship are encouraged to relate their worship to this theme. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading worship to approach the theme from their own perspective. This will mean that by the end of the half term the pupils will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. Class teachers have the opportunity to develop their worship from the value being explored and events that occur in the curriculum, or in school life during the week. This pattern is flexible and on occasions it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

We seek to encourage pupils to voice their views on collective worship and to be a part of the evaluation process.

Collective Worship will be regularly shared with the wider Church family at the Parish Church of St. John. The services will often be led by children from the school. The services in the church include:

- A Harvest Thanksgiving Service;
- The Cutting of the Holy Thorn Ceremony in the churchyard, followed by a service in the church;
- At the end of the Autumn term, the children lead a carol service or Christingle;
- At Easter there will be the customary Easter bonnet parade to St. John's Church followed by a service;

- At the end of the summer term, the Year 2 children lead the leaver's service in St. John's Church;

Through the year Collective Worship will be planned to take account of the major festivals of the Christian Church together with those of other faiths.

### **Evaluation of Collective Worship**



Following the planning of worship; the evaluation needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils.

### **Monitoring of Collective Worship**

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. The Foundation Governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

### **Rights of Withdrawal**

At St. John's C of E Infants' School, we seek to be an inclusive community, however, we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the head teacher, followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.

The school has a system of suitable supervision for students withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

All teachers in VC Schools, including the head teacher, have the right of withdrawal from the Act of Collective Worship, but the head teacher, should he or she wish to exercise this right, maintains statutory accountability for Acts of Collective Worship in St. John's C of E Infants' School.

### **Resources**

Resources for worship are kept in the classrooms, stock cupboard and Head Teacher's Office and available for use by all staff members. Class teachers have the use of the school premises to hold worship in fine weather if they choose.