



Saint Paulinus CE Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Young

Head of School: Miss Katie Salisbury

Religious Education Leader: Mrs Jackie Hill

This policy was adopted on : January 2021

Our mission statement at St Paulinus C E Primary School is:

“We will seek to secure the best educational opportunities for all pupils of all abilities and backgrounds in an environment which will provide stimulation, challenge and enjoyment.

The values informing the life and relationships of the school community will be those of the Christian Faith with Religious Education and Worship playing a significant role in nurturing the children’s spiritual growth.

We shall endeavor to develop a mutually helpful school, embracing Pupils, Staff, Parents and Governors, fostering supportive links between school, home, church and the wider community.”

This policy helps to meet our school mission statement and support staff and other adults in delivering high quality and inspiring collective worship.

Our school has a strong distinct Christian character which focuses on a set of core values and all of which impact on the daily lives and behaviours of all members of the school community. This policy strengthens and supports our values and contributes to the culture of our school. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors.

The policy is closely linked to our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development at St Paulinus. Collective Worship provides opportunities for children to develop their spirituality and think about moral values. Children are encouraged to listen to others but also to reflect and develop understanding of themselves and of others.

Aims for a daily act of worship

- To provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God and root each day in prayer
- To educate pupils in the Christian doctrine, and acquaint them with the liturgical practices and language of the Christian faith, as expressed within the Church of England.
- To develop the pupils spiritually, consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs.
- To develop community spirit, promote a common Christian ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.
- To encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered.
- To allow children to explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy spirit
- To reflect on the school Christian values of Respect, Thankfulness, Forgiveness, Friendship, Hope and Peace at school, home and in everyday life

Organisation of Collective Worship

Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community. Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognises and follows the Church's liturgical year.

At St Paulinus we follow the Diocese of Rochester yearly plan for Collective Worship. These resources are used to guide worship through key weekly themes. We also access a range of other materials to aid in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship.

The scheme follows the school year linked with the year of the Church with a firm foundation in Scripture. It offers different and creative ways for children to explore their relationship with God. Each day follows a similar format which allows the children to become familiar with them and begin to join in and take a lead themselves during some parts of the worship.

- Most worship takes place in the school hall. Where this isn't possible children have worship in classrooms
- The worship begins with the **gather** where candles are lit and a greeting of 'The Lord be with you' and response, 'And also with you' is shared.
- The **engage** section of worship focusses on key messages linked to biblical context. Sharing of the Bible is led through a reading, video, story or picture and the story is linked to real life today in order for children to link it to events in the community or world and help children to reflect on their actions.
- This is followed with opportunities for children to **respond** which may be through prayer, silence, stillness or reflection. Often during the response 'I wonder' questions are asked. Prayer is included which can be in the form of teacher or child led, call and response, spontaneous or planned. This is followed by the **Lord's Prayer**.
- Collective worship closes with the **send**. The message is that we are sent out to serve one another and make a difference in the world.
- The worship ends with and **The Grace**.
- Singing is a key part of daily worship and a range of music genres are used to celebrate and reflect.

Weekly collective worship follows the following routine:

Monday	Whole school Worship – introduction of weekly theme.	Member of SLT (HT/HoS)
Tuesday	Whole school Worship– continuation of weekly theme.	Member of SLT (Assistant HT)
Wednesday	Whole school Worship – continuation of weekly theme led by member of St Paulinus Church.	Father Paul Reverend Amanda Other members of St Paulinus clergy
Thursday	Key Stage Worship – children worship in smaller groups. Sometimes a visitor from the local Baptist Church leads worship on this day.	Key Stage staff (rota)
Friday	Whole School Achievement Assembly – all children sitting in house colours. Celebration of achievements and house points. Reflecting on weekly theme.	Member of SLT (Assistant HT)

The following also takes place during the school year:

Each class leads their own assembly sharing learning.	Once a year To the rest of the school and parents Governors invited
Every Wednesday a class attends the mass service at St Paulinus Church.	9am Classes attend on a rota system therefore visit every 7 weeks.
<p>During these services, children may contribute by acting as stewards at the door, carrying the gifts to the Altar, reading prayers or Bible readings or singing to, or with, the congregation. These contributions must be arranged with the Clergy a week before the Service. The children may be given set readings for the Service the day before, if so arranged between the Clergy and the Class Teacher.</p> <p>The intention is that the children will learn to participate in Eucharist Services, becoming knowledgeable about the form of the Service and the words used, and that it will deepen their understanding of one of the fundamental liturgical practices in the Church of England, and the importance of the Sacrament of the Eucharist for Christians.</p>	
A number of services take place in school or in Church during the year led by different classes (or the Leading Lights team).	Themes are decided annually and linked to the cycle of the Christian year
Reception Class, their parents and the teacher are invited to an 'Education Sunday' service in Church to welcome the class to the Church community officially. This is led by the Priest but Reception class perform a song and a brief celebration of school.	Once a year – on a Sunday in February One or two governors are invited to present children with Prayer Books.
Year 6, their parents and teacher are invited to a 'Leaver's Service' in Church to thank them for their time in the school. This is led by the Priest and children/parents are invited for cake/drinks in the Church hall following the service.	Once a year – on a Sunday in June One or two governors are invited to present children with Bibles.

Collective Worship Leader's responsibilities

The leader for Collective Worship is the Executive Head Teacher/Head of School

- Coordinating the Acts of Worship by agreeing themes with the Clergy and Staff, relating to the Rochester Diocesan Curriculum, Festivals, Seasons and the Church's year.
- Publishing the programme of Worship to Staff and Clergy, monitoring delivery and reporting on it to the Governing Body.
- Coordinating resources for the Act of Worship

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Collective Worship planning is available to staff and governors
- Executive Head Teacher/ Head of School, the leader for Religious Education and the Priest meet regularly to review Collective Worship and adapt plans where necessary
- Governors are informed of plans for Collective Worship and contribute to planning and evaluation of worship in meetings

Collective Worship Self-evaluation and Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

School Self-evaluation is completed on the SIAMS Self-evaluation forms provided by the Diocese. Worship is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act (SIAMS).

Equal Opportunities

Every child will have the opportunity of equal access to Collective Worship, unless parents exercise their right of withdrawal.

Parental Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their child/children from acts of Collective Worship. However, as Collective Worship is central to our ethos, our Head Teacher would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this decision with parents.

Covid-19 Amendments

During the pandemic and due to local and National lockdowns and Church closures there have been many adaptations to this policy. The policy will continue to be adapted as guidelines change.

Some of the adaptations are:

- Singing does not take place – children are encouraged to listen to music.
- Worship takes place in much smaller groups allowing social distancing. Most worship takes place in classrooms or in the hall with smaller groups of pupils.
- Visitors to school are limited.
- Children are not visiting Church in whole class or school groups. Children can visit the Church grounds in class groups organised by their class teacher.
- Some whole school worship is lead through Zoom conferences.
- The Rochester Diocese have provided guidance and support and these resources are being used and all staff have received training on new ways of ensuring children worship safely.