



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY** **Let your light shine!**

**JANUARY 2023**

**St. John's C.E Infant School** is a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School and as such has a Christian tradition and ethos. Our collective worship reflects and reinforces the schools, vision aims and ethos  
"Let your light shine!"

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12*

These words of Jesus are at the heart of our school's vision.  
They inspire and motivate our whole school community.

Jesus also reminded us in Matthew's gospel that we are lights for the world.







As we seek to follow him, we can share his light with others and change the world!

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

*St John's is a place where we can grow as life-long learners, understand the value of **trusting friendships**, show **thankfulness** and compassion to others and can make mistakes, knowing that we will be **forgiven**. We can both find **peace** and become peacemakers in the knowledge that we are all treasured and **loved** as precious children of God.*

These values form the foundation of all we do and are prominently displayed and referenced by all members of the community in our everyday conversations with each other. We use the 'Rainbow Rules' to help us choose behaviours that match our Christian ethos and show how the values can be used in our day-to-day lives

Our collective worship both implicitly, and explicitly, demonstrates our Christian values shown below:

					
<b>Thankfulness</b>	<b>Peace</b>	<b>Love and Compassion</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>Friendship</b>
1 Thessalonians 5:18 <b>'Give thanks in all circumstances'</b>	Psalms 34:14 <b>'Do good; seek peace and pursue it.'</b>	1 Peter 3:8 <b>'Live in harmony with one another'</b>	Ephesians 4:32 <b>'Be compassionate and kind to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'</b>	Proverbs 3:5 <b>'Trust in God with all your heart.'</b>	Ecclesiastes 4:10 <b>'If one falls down, a friend can lift him up'.</b>
<b>Autumn 1</b> Start of school year Welcome to new families and staff Harvest World Mental Health Week/Young minds	<b>Autumn 2</b> Remembrance Christmas/Christingle NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Anti-Bullying Week Children in need	<b>Spring 1</b> New Year- New start Valentine's Day	<b>Spring 2</b> Mothering Sunday Easter Comic/Sports Relief	<b>Summer 1</b> Surrey CC 'Feeling Good' good	<b>Summer 2</b> Transition (Junior school)



At **St. John's C.E Infant School** we consider collective worship to be an important part of the school day. An opportunity to reflect and develop the school's distinctive Christian character but also an opportunity to contribute to the academic achievement, personal development and well-being of pupils and staff.

### **Aims of our acts of collective worship.**

We aim for our collective worship to

- a) Be a daily expression of our school's Christian vision.
- b) Be inclusive, invitational and inspiring for all pupils, staff and parents and visitors
- c) Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection
- d) Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals.
- e) Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world, to encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and to develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God and its language.
- f) Enable pupils as well as adults to engage in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice. Leaders of worship, including clergy, have access to regular training.
- g) Encourage local church community partnerships to support the school effectively in developing its provision for collective worship.

Collective worship also includes the educational opportunities for exploration of fundamental British Values, PSHE and SMSC curriculum areas.

- a) the whole community to celebrate;
- b) sharing and experiencing differences;
- c) developing a culture of learning;
- d) building a sense of group identity;
- e) encouraging a sense of personal and social responsibility;
- f) a break from the busyness of life (for stillness and quiet);
- g) learning how to behave in a large social group;
- h) exploring feelings and emotions;
- i) learning how to perform in front of an audience;
- j) learning how to respond to a performance;
- k) making visible the school's leadership;
- l) developing inner awareness.

### **Guildford Diocesan Board of Education April 2018 63 Legal Requirements**

The law requires the Headteacher and Governing Body to provide a daily act of collective worship which is in line with the school's Trust Deed and Foundation. The school meets with requirement. This requirement is explained to all involved in the planning and delivery of acts of worship.



## **Right of Withdrawal**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from acts of worship and this is stated in the school prospectus and handbook. As an aided school, staff are expected to attend the act of collective worship. In the case of parents, they should contact the Headteacher. Guidance for new parents on non-participation in acts of Collective Worship is given in the school prospectus.

## **Planning of Collective Worship**

See **Appendix 1** for the organisation of collective worship for the current academic year. The Headteachers (with the minister when possible) plan the themes for the year / term and then create a detailed half termly plan taking account of school activities, festivals and import events. The person leading the collective worship is expected to plan their worship as carefully as they would a lesson. Planning sheets are available for assemblies in the collective worship folder and responses to those assemblies are also expected to be added when appropriate through added notes/post-its/photo or any other relevant evidence.

Pupils are involved in planning and leading Collective Worship through their involvement as worship leaders. They will extinguish the candle, arrange resources, lead our opening and closing response, lead prayers and hymns and may be actively involved in the worship. Our year 2 leaders take on this valued responsibility.

**Class worship** is planned through our school values using 'thoughtful questions' as prompts for reflection. Children in classes take turns to lead in prayer on these occasions

## **Themes**

We take the themes of our Collective Worship from **St. John's C.E Infant School values**. In addition, each term the festivals and events of the Christian calendar are included. Local events such as the mark of remembrance at the village memorial, that St. John's C.E Infant School are included. We will also allow for reflection of any significant national or global events or incidents in order to help our pupils understand how to relate and understand them.

## **Visitors**

We welcome visitors to our collective worship. Some visitors are invited to share their experiences, linked to the theme of the collective worship, other visitors present a whole collective worship on a theme requested by the Headteacher. We welcome ministers from the local churches and members of the 'Weyside Assembly team to the **St. John's C.E Infant School Team** at least **once** a half- term.

Visitors should understand that in schools E is for Education not Evangelism and avoid proselytising. Attempts to persuade pupils to adopt a particular religious or non-religious belief are not appropriate. Visitors should not speak about raising money for any particular cause without the prior permission of the headteacher.



## **Governors**

We welcome Governors' attendance at our assemblies at any time.

## **Monitoring, Review and Inspection**

It is the role of the Governors to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The content and brief self-evaluation if appropriate by the person leading the worship is recorded in a folder, which is kept in the hall/Head's Office.

We will seek feedback from the children through pupil interviews and school councillors and staff about collective worship annually.

The School will also be inspected through Section 48 SIAMS inspection

**Class assemblies** Each class presents 2 class assemblies each academic year. We invite parents to watch their child participate in a class assembly, this is followed by a stay and share opportunity in classrooms.

## **Festival and celebrations in the church**

In St. John's C.E Infant school we celebrate Harvest, Christmas/Christingle, and Easter with services in the church which are attended by parents. Our annual leavers service is also held in the church each July.

## **Prayer Space**

We have created a quiet and peaceful prayer space in the library of our school that children can use to reflect on questions and activities related to our school value. This is developed and planned on a term by term basis following feedback from pupils in our worship times.

Reviewed by SIAMS team governors - Date January 2023

Ratified by Full Governing Body – Date February 2023

To be reviewed – Date January 2024

## Appendix 1 Organisation of Collective Worship for the academic year 2022 – 2023





We hold a daily act of worship in our school, taking various forms: The exact day that the style of worship takes place may vary depending on the activities in the school, and availability of visitors however this is the intended pattern for collective worship;

Day	Type	Leader
Monday	<b>Whole school worship – values based focus each term see long term plan</b>	Marion Stevens
Tuesday	<b>Whole School worship</b> – Singing assembly Hymns/songs related to values or themes or events in worship planning	Miss Charlotte Trussler (Year 2)
Wednesday	<b>Whole School worship</b> - Biblical Stories – learning tool related	Teacher rota or visitor
	<b>Visitors/ minister</b>	Rev. Derek Holbird Rev. Richard Bodle WEYSIDE Assembly team
Thursday	<b>Class worships – Thoughtful questions</b>	Year 2 (Badgers) Year 1 (Foxes) EYFS (Rabbits)
Friday	<b>Whole School worship – celebration</b> Golden Book Birthdays Star learner	Headteacher or staff member



### St John's C of E Infant School Collective Worship Overview



Value	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
	Thankfulness	Peace	Love and compassion	Forgiveness	Trust	Friendship
<b>Big questions</b> 	What are you truly thankful for each day? Who are you truly thankful for?	How can you be a peacemaker? What does peace feel like?	How do you know you are loved? Who should you show compassion to?	Should you always forgive? Is it easy to forgive?	Who do you trust and why? How do you know you can trust someone?	Is friendship easy? How do you be a good friend?
<b>British Values</b> 	Individual liberty Democracy Rule of law	Rule of law Democracy	Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs Mutual respect	Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs Rule of law	Mutual respect Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs	Mutual respect Individual liberty Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
<b>Hymns</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank you Lord for this new day</li> <li>This little light of mine.</li> <li>If I were a butterfly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas Hymns</li> <li>Now Light one Thousand Christmas lights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shine Jesus Shine</li> <li>God made me</li> <li>Jesus loves me</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give me oil in my lamp</li> <li>This little light of mine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He's got the whole world in his hands</li> <li>I will trust in you <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TU3tq8110g">youtube.com/watch?v=7TU3tq8110g</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One more step</li> <li>Shalom my friend</li> </ul>
<b>Active worship</b>		<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6888888888888888">youtube.com/watch?v=6888888888888888</a>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6888888888888888">youtube.com/watch?v=6888888888888888</a>		<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6888888888888888">youtube.com/watch?v=6888888888888888</a>	
<b>Prayers</b> 	School prayer Day by day	School prayer Day by day	School prayer Day by day	Song of blessing Lord's prayer	Song of blessing Lord's prayer	Friendship prayer.