



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

October 2018

1. **FUNDAMENTALS**

(a) **Christian emphasis**

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship is in conformity with the rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England in accordance with The School Standards and Framework Act, 1998, Section 69 (4) and Schedule 20, section 5, the Collective Worship provided in the school, in the absence of a Trust Deed, is in accordance with the designation of the religious character of the school by the Secretary of State.

- (b) **Collective Worship contributes** to our Mission Statement and the aims and ethos of the school and therefore to the Christian Education we provide.

It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the values of our school.

- (c) **Collective Worship is at the heart** of our school life and pervades all that we do. Both staff and Governors see it as an essential part of all pupils' education. As such we are concerned to resource it properly and ensure that it is of the highest standard. The worship and prayer life of the school is not limited to the legally required daily acts of worship. Opportunities will be taken to use prayer in the curriculum generally and at the end of morning and afternoon sessions as well as graces before lunch.

- (d) **The Church of England Heritage**

Forms of worship within our denomination differ and these differences enable us to provide a varied range of approaches to worship. As well as drawing on our denominational heritage, we also occasionally expect to draw on the rich tapestry of practice in the world-wide Christian Church.

Whatever the approaches, we expect that pupils will be introduced to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and helped to explore them. These would include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus

- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of His creation and, though sinful, with faith in Him, destined for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through His life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as the source of knowledge about God and Jesus as the source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

(e) **Definition**

Christian worship is defined as “gatherings of adoration, praise and thanksgiving to God through Jesus ... the purpose of all worship is the same: to offer praise to God for His grace and glory.”¹

(f) **The links with local Churches**

We have very close links with St. Peter's Parish Church. As well as the whole school community attending worship at St. Peter's every Tuesday afternoon led by our Vicar Revd. Calvin Howard, Calvin also comes into school weekly on a Thursday morning to lead worship. The whole school family goes to church for Sunday morning services to celebrate all major Christian Festivals and also at the end of each term. We also enjoy a good relationship with Inskip Baptist Church, Revd. David Earnshaw Pastor of the church leads worship fortnightly on a Monday morning in school.

(g) **Collective Worship and assembly**

The school meets together for Collective Worship but there will be times when we assemble together for other purposes, e.g. important notices and announcements. Such “assembly” times are legally distinct from Collective Worship and parents' rights to withdraw their children do not apply.

- (h) Worship in the school, whilst reflecting our denomination, will take into account the levels of development of pupils.

1. A New Dictionary of Christian Theology Edited by Richardson & Bowden SCM Press.¹



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus

- (i) The provision of collective worship conforms to the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education policy.
- (j) Elements of the Religious Education syllabus may be delivered via school Worship but Worship in no way replaces Religious Education.

2. **RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS POLICY AND FURTHER REVISIONS**

- (a) The policy has been revised upon the appointment of a new Headteacher, Miss Kate Leyland in September 2015. Consultation took place with both of our local clergy, Revd. Calvin Howard and Revd. David Earnshaw, with all teaching staff and the governors' Standards and Effectiveness committee.
- (b) The Headteacher Miss Kate Leyland is responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of worship.
- (c) This policy was revisited and approved by the Standards and Effectiveness Committee in September 2015 and by the full Governing Body in November 2015.

3. **STATEMENT OF BROAD AIMS**

- To contribute to the Mission Statement of the school.
- To create an environment in which children and adults have the opportunity to worship.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith.
- To develop links with St Peter's Church and introduce pupils to the worship heritage of the Church of England.
- To worship God through Jesus.
- To contribute to the spiritual and moral development of pupils.

4. **ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY**

- (a) Collective worship is held each day at 1pm, on Mondays Reverend Jeff Finch who is representing St. Peter's Church during their interregnum alternates with Reverend David Earnshaw pastor at Inskip Baptist Church in leading us.

Miss Leyland or staff lead all other Worships with Mrs Hurley leading our Worship songs on a Thursday.

During the year opportunities will be given to each class to prepare and lead Worship.



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus

- (b) Worship is led by local clergy, our Headteacher, staff, pupils and other visitors.

Members of the staff team attend worship to further our ethos and Mission Statement and so that the children realise that Worship is given priority and importance. This also means that the content/theme can be explored further where and when relevant within each classroom during the day to ensure that our aims for worship are fully realised.

- (c) Worship normally lasts for approximately fifteen to twenty minutes although this may vary from day to day. Though worship is not designated as curriculum time under current DfE regulations, it is a major aspect of the whole curriculum provided by the school. Worship is a vehicle for exploring aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education and frequently involves teaching and learning activities such as discussion and question and answer. Pupils may be read to or instructed or they may be asked to listen to readings or to think about and respond to a stimulus such as music or art work. With the new technological equipment we will be able to access more audio/visual stimuli to enhance the worship experience for the whole school family.

Worship is also concerned with the celebration of the curriculum, with pupils displaying or recounting details of what they have learnt. Pupils are also involved in leading worship and/or performing through drama, music or music.

When any such activities occur, they may be counted as teaching time even though they take place within worship. It is appropriate that, in a Church school, worship and learning is seen as a seamless whole even though, for the purposes of recording teaching time, we distinguish between the two.

- (d) The calm and respectful atmosphere for worship is created by pupils and staff entering and leaving the hall quietly to atmospheric music.

Singing plays an important part in the act of worship with the expectation that all pupils and staff will join in to the full.

Christian symbols used include, the permanent cross of our window, a small stand often covered with a coloured cloth, green, purple, red or white depending on the Church's season or day. 3 candles which represent the Trinity are lit as everybody says the Grace, a Bible, an illuminated church and other varying artefacts are used throughout the year to provide a visual focus point as an aid to worship.

- (e) Any notices or other non-worship activities are included either at the start or at the end of the act of worship and the difference is made clear by a suitable pause, change of emphasis and the lighting/extinguishing of the candle.



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus

- (f) Parents, families and Governors are given opportunities to attend various acts of Worship throughout the year.
- (g) The whole school community (pupils, staff, parents, governors, friends) attends Sunday morning Worships to celebrate festivals throughout the year.
- (h) Alongside the vicar we will investigate incorporating the Eucharist into the Worshipping life of our school.
- (i) Because of the importance placed on the worshipping life of the school, withdrawing of children for extra tuition will be avoided if it ever does become unavoidable parental permission will be sought.

5. CONTENTS AND APPROACHES

- (i) Worship can be based on almost any theme or subject. In a school year opportunities will occur for many of the following:
 - Sharing and taking note of common experiences.
 - Expressing concern for others.
 - Looking at the world.
 - Exploring common values, standards and rules.
 - Topical events.
 - Celebrating the curriculum.
 - Sharing and celebrating pupil achievement.
 - Stories which illustrate faith themes.
 - Music.

All of the above will happen in most schools. But in this Church School, all these things will be done clearly and explicitly in the presence of God, in a way which points to God and which brings our concerns and joys before God.

- (ii) The content is organised according to the observance of the Church Year, the celebration of curriculum work, half termly themes and acts of worship which stand alone. The class worship corners/areas may use elements of the theme as a basis for display and pupil prayers. A central worship display in the hall reflects the current theme.
- (ii) Approaches used are various and include adult and pupil led, storytelling, music, drama, visual aids and role play.



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus

6. RESOURCES

- (a) Resources are financed out of the annual school budget and included in the School Development Plan.
- (b) Worship resources are kept in the Staffroom these range from story books to audio-visual aids.

7. CONSULTATION, MANAGEMENT, RECORDING and REVIEW

- (a) Current best practice means that the worship co-ordinator meets regularly with the clergy to plan worship themes. The rest of the staff team, especially those involved in leading worship are consulted and asked for their input so as to develop the theme in the best way. Each act of worship is recorded on a specific recording sheet. Acts of worship are evaluated by the Head Teacher regularly and are recorded on the same sheet. Each terms act of worship is evaluated by the Head Teacher with the Vicar.
- (b) Staff development is included in the School Development Plan and INSET provided when appropriate. Governors are able to attend training courses provided by the Diocese for collective worship as and when required.
- (c) The Governors receive reports termly and feedback from the school's SIP annually. Any review of this policy will be included in the SIP.
- (d) The role of the Collective Worship Co-ordinator is to:
 - co-ordinate the planning of worship;
 - keep a record of worship themes and hymns;
 - attend INSET on worship;
 - advise on class or group worship and prayer;
 - look for curriculum links and themes that will provide a hook to engage interest;
 - consult with adults and pupils when appropriate;
 - keep up to date with resources;
 - be responsible for outside visitors taking part in worship;
 - evaluate the quality of worship.

8. THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS for COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

(a) Legal Basis

Collective Worship in Church Schools is governed by both the 1944 and 1988 Education Acts as well as by the Trust Deed of the School. The Collective Worship provided by the school must be in accordance with the Trust Deed, or in accordance with the tradition before we became an aided school.



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus

(b) **Daily Worship**

Daily Collective Worship has to be provided for every pupil. This worship may take place in various groupings such as the whole school, separate Key Stage groups, year groups or house groups or in classes or tutor groups, but not in faith groups. Worship may take place at any point in the school day.

(c) **Worship in Church**

Worship will normally take place on the school premises, but will take place in Church on many occasions.

(d) **Parental rights of withdrawal**

Parents may withdraw their children from Collective Worship. This provision and its limitations are indicated in the school brochure which states –
“These arrangements are without prejudice to the parents’ statutory right to withdraw their child from these activities under current legislation. In practice however, because worship and faith pervade school life, it would be essential for any parent wishing to exercise this right to discuss the matter with the headteacher well in advance.”

The Worship and Religious Education provided by the school is in accordance with the Church of England Foundation. This Foundation is also reflected in the curriculum and the whole life of the school community. Since the conduct of the school as a whole reflects the Church of England ethos, removal of pupils from Worship and or Religious Education (as parents are legally entitled to do) cannot insulate pupils from the religious life of the school.

(e) **Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship**

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Headteacher, the incumbent, in consultation with the Governors, possibly with advice from the Diocese. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures will come into play (see policy). The only difference to our school’s Complaints Procedure with regards to worship will be that ultimately the matter could end up being adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This policy should be read in conjunction with Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education “Guidelines for Collective Worship” and acknowledges the use of material from that document.



INSKIP ST PETER'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
Learning, Loving and Living with Jesus