

St Paul's CE (VC) First School
Coven



Policy Statement
Collective Worship
Updated February 2016

Collective Worship

Collective Worship at St Paul's plays an important part in the life of our school. Collective Worship is a time when children and staff meet together for a variety of reasons in keeping with the ethos of the school. Our daily Act of Collective Worship is in accordance with the Trust Deed of the school. This requires worship to be consistent with the principles and practices of the Church of England. We also take into account DfES legislation that Worship will be "appropriate to the age, aptitude and family background of pupils" and "provided in a variety of settings, groupings and timings, with a variety of leaders".

Collective Worship in school is appropriate to its status as a church school, reflecting a caring Christian environment and upholding and maintaining Christian values within the school. The school works closely with the local Christian community and holds services at St Paul's Church both in and after school time. The worship in the school is appropriate for all children and non-denominational. As a church school, worship is considered to be a central part of the school but parents do have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. Parents considering withdrawing their child from Collective Worship are asked to discuss this first with the Headteacher who will require written notification of a request for withdrawal. As this is a church school it is expected that all children will take part in Collective Worship.

The main purpose of Collective Worship is to allow pupils the opportunity to reflect on spiritual issues. This will include cross-curricular themes and opportunities to celebrate the life of the school and pupil achievements, opportunities for reflection, meditation, prayer, silence and quiet storytelling, the creative and expressive arts, the sharing of knowledge and information and the exploration of sacred text and symbol. Worship may also include opportunities to foster a reverential attitude to God, to affirm the Christian faith and the Christian status of Jesus as Son of God and to learn about and

reflect upon Christian teaching, Biblical material and Christian festivals in a way that relates to the pupils' experience and to living together in a community. Pupils will be able to explore and enjoy praise, prayer and rituals of Christianity as part of Collective Worship.

The Foundation Governors have responsibility to make sure that the Trust Deed of the School is honoured.

The Collective Worship Co-ordinator is the Headteacher. The Worship Co-ordinator has responsibility for managing this area of the curriculum on a day to day basis, ensuring all legal requirements are complied with. This involves the production of a coherent programme for Collective Worship, which has continuity of Christian teaching and experience and breadth and balance as is appropriate to the school community. A record of daily Collective Worship throughout the school is kept which may include photographic and other evidence. The Worship Co-ordinator is responsible for auditing and keeping records of resources which are held in school. The Worship Co-ordinator also keeps in touch with developments in the subject and acts in an advisory capacity to colleagues, ensuring that Worship is prioritised on the School Improvement Plan to allow for INSET and resource development. Monitoring the quality of Collective Worship is an ongoing process and is designed to ensure that effective review can take place which will include the sharing of good practice and ideas for development of current practice in Collective Worship.