

St Paul's and All Hallows' Collective Worship Policy

Our School Vision

We are a Christian community, united in love, where every individual grows in wisdom, builds deep friendships and practises true forgiveness. We Challenge ourselves in all that we do so that we each can flourish and become the person God is calling us to be.

Our School Text

Let all that you do be done in love.
(1 Corinthians 16 v 13)

Our Values

Compassion, Perseverance, Friendship, Courage, Wisdom, Forgiveness

At St. Paul's and All Hallows', Collective worship is a central part of each school day. Acts of worship are wholly Christian, with opportunity for reflection on a variety of aspects of life for all children.

The School Aims for Collective Worship

We aim to develop collective worship that is inclusive, invitational, and inspiring and which:

- Offers opportunities, without compulsion, for all children and adults to grow spiritually through experience of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enables all children and adults to appreciate the breadth of Christian worship and the varied liturgical traditions of Anglican worship.
- Helps children 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 nature of God and its language.

The Weekly Pattern of Collective Worship

- Monday worship is focused around 'The Big Think' and is led by Heads of School or Class Teachers at 9.00am
- Tuesday worship is led by our Head of Schools at 9.00am
- Wednesday worship is led by one of our class teachers. Once every term, each class leads an act of worship which celebrates their learning. Parents and carers are welcome to this act of worship at 9am.
- Thursday worship at 9am is led by a member of the ministry team from St Paul's Church.
- Friday worship takes place at 1.45pm. This is where we celebrate achievement in the school from the past week. Each class awards a Star of the Week for great learning. Each teacher also awards a Values award for a child who has demonstrated our current focus value. This enables the children to see the Christian values articulated each week.

We also celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year. Parents/ carers are invited to join us, either at school, or at St Paul's Church. These include Harvest, Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. We also have a celebration in church at the end of the school year. On days when we attend worship in our Parish Church this worship is deemed to fulfil our collective worship requirement for the day.

The Key Elements of an Act of Worship

Gathering: Music is played as the children enter the hall to set this aside as a sacred time. A table is placed prominently with an appropriate coloured cloths to reflect the season of the church's year. A cross and candles are used. Children are greeted liturgically and the candles are lit. A song may be used from a wide repertoire to gather the community together.

Engagement and encouragement: Children are engaged through a Christian story, a visitor, or use of high-quality visual images. These reflect the current worship theme. Children are encouraged to offer their ideas and reflections.

Response: A range of responses are used including reflection and prayer. The children learn the Lord's Prayer.

Conclusion: Worship ends with a liturgical ending with a response which the children know and respond to clearly. When the clergy lead the worship there is a Trinitarian blessing. On rare occasions where the hall is not available for collective worship, acts of worship in classes should follow a similar pattern.

Rationale for Themes of Worship

Our acts of worship cover the following themes:

Autumn Term

For the start of the year we focus on compassion. In the year 2020-2021 we chose to start our year with this focus, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this allowed us to respond to the needs of our community and reflect on our experiences. Following this, we move onto Perseverance linking it to self-control, before moving into the season of Advent.

Spring Term

At the beginning of the Spring term, we focus on the value of Wisdom, allowing our children to understand their own guiding principles. Important feasts in the life of Jesus are remembered including Candlemas and the Baptism of the Lord. During Lent we focus on forgiveness and the later part of Jesus' ministry leading up to the passion and crucifixion of Jesus.

Summer Term

In the first half of the Summer term we concentrate on the value of courage, linking into the academic expectations of children, and how they can shine. We also look at the resurrection appearances of Jesus, culminating in Ascension and Pentecost. The second half of the term has a dual focus. We look closely at friendship and the many things we should be thankful for in our school community, closely looking at transitions. We also focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the saints and the church.

Prayer

At St. Paul's and All Hallows' School, we believe that prayer should come from the heart, but we also know that it has to be taught by example. It should be communal or individual and at its heart it is communication between a worshipper and God. Prayers that are said in class, in acts of collective worship both in school and in services are often written by the children either with support from the teachers or by themselves either in school or at home. Grace before meals is said by all children. The children are also encouraged to say the Lord's Prayer and the School Prayer throughout the week, and one of these prayers is said at the end of the Celebration Assembly.

Inclusion

Provision is made for those pupils with SEN/disabilities to participate in the Collective Worship of the school by:

- providing adapted or modified seating arrangements
- providing support from adults when needed

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

While St Paul's and All Hallows' is a Christian school, we are committed to respecting individual beliefs. Upon entrance to the school, parents/ carers are made aware of the Christian basis of our teaching and the invitational nature of our worship. It is therefore unlikely that parents/ carers would wish to exercise

their legal right of withdrawal. However, should such a case arise, the parents/ carers concerned should consult the Executive Headteacher and withdraw their child in