



St. Peter's C.E. Junior School

Stilwell Close, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6XH.

<i>Policy Number: C/9/Sep09</i>	<i>Date Agreed: 17th September 2009</i>
<i>Policy Title:</i>	<i>Authorised By:</i>
COLLECTIVE WORSHIP	J H Divall
<i>Area: Curriculum</i>	<i>Due for Review: September 2010</i>
<i>The Governing Body believes that fairness and consistency of judgement is essential to the operation of the school. All members of the school have equality of opportunity to achieve their full potential and will not be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, race, or religion. The Governing Body believes that the school always has to be aware of the potential for unconscious discrimination, to avoid assumptions about individual members of the school based on stereotypes and to use the teaching and learning arrangements actively to encourage everyone to achieve their full potential.</i>	
<i>All our policies are consistent with our duty of care to protect our pupils and to provide a learning environment which is safe and healthy.</i>	
<i>In all our dealings, we respect the strict code of confidentiality that underpins our school ethos.</i>	

Mission Statement

St Peter's CE Junior School is a school where every child matters and everybody is valued. We aim for our collective worship to reflect the distinctive nature of our CE Aided Status and to reflect the Christian principles on which the school was established.

Worship is a central part of our school life. Each day there are opportunities to gather together for a time of reflection and worship. These times are planned to allow time for that intimacy which the school ethos engenders.

Our aim is to allow the school family to gather together to focus on the glory of God and His creation and to develop our own spiritual and moral journey.

The Nature of Collective Worship

We believe that Christian worship in a Church of England school is concerned with giving glory, honour, praise and thanks to God and taking time to develop our own sense of awe and wonder about the world and the people in it.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement that there must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. (This can take place at any time during the school day and can be either a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in school groups.) We understand that simply holding an assembly that includes a prayer, said either by the teacher or everyone present, does not fulfil this requirement. We also acknowledge that collective worship and assembly are distinct activities. They may sometimes form part of the same gathering, but the difference between the two will always be made clear.

The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and will not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum, including religious education.

In this school, as with any Voluntary Aided School, responsibility for ensuring that appropriate Collective Worship takes place rests with the Governing Body after consultation with the Headteacher.

The Place of Collective Worship in the Life of our School

We endorse the belief that Collective Worship takes into account the religious and educational needs of all who share in it:

- Those who form part of the worshipping community in church
- Those for whom school may be their first and only experience of church
- Those from other Christian traditions – or none
- Those from other faith backgrounds.

It will be an educational activity or experience to which all can contribute and from which all can gain.

Worship in this school is more than just a legal requirement. It is an integral part of school life and central to our Christian and Anglican tradition.

Withdrawal Rights

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons or from the Act of Collective Worship. Teachers may withdraw from Acts of Worship or from teaching RE.

The Aims of Collective Worship

We believe that Collective Worship in our school aims to provide opportunity for all pupils and staff:

- To contemplate something of the mystery of God
- To reflect on spiritual and moral issues
- To explore their own beliefs
- To respond to and celebrate life
- To experience a sense of belonging and develop community spirit
- To develop a common ethos and shared values
- To enrich religious experience
- To grow in liturgical understanding and development
- To reinforce positive attitudes
- To participate fully
- To take time out 'to wonder at', 'to come to terms with' and 'to give worth to.'

Principles

All Acts of Worship in this school will:

- Give glory and honour to God
- Be a quality activity, fundamental to the life of the school and its Church of England character
- Reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local Church.

In order to do this, celebrations will be:

- Kept small wherever possible or appropriate to help to personalise the experience
- Short and appropriately paced (children's attention span lasts in any one activity for an average of one minute per year of life i.e. 7-10 mins. For Key Stage 2)
- Simple, including a range of experiences offered in a variety of groupings and in a variety of settings.

Organisation of Collective Worship At St Peter's

There is a time of collective worship each day:

- On Monday this commences at 9.00am and ends at 9.25am and is taken by the Headteacher.
- Thereafter, collective worship begins at 10.20am, ending at 10.35am.
- On Tuesday the Deputy Headteacher will lead the time together.
- On Wednesday another member of staff will lead, or a visiting speaker will come in.
- On Thursday there will be times for Classes or Houses to meet to worship in ways appropriate to their own characteristics. A timetabled Class Act of worship will be held occasionally where parents are invited to attend. This will start at 9.00 am.
- On Friday our time of worship will include celebrating achievements through exercising the talents God has given us.

The Planning, Content and Delivery of Collective Worship

Collective Worship is planned:

- following a structure with reference to the Church's seasons, significant dates and the curriculum. Scripture is often the focus in acts of worship
- involving consultation with appropriate parties and reference to school aims and policies
- with flexibility to respond to changing situations within the school and the wider community
- to develop in pupils skills that enable them to prepare, organise and lead worship rather than always participating or contributing in a token way.

Recording

Collective Worship is recorded in a Collective Worship folder on Teachers Pool. This lists the themes covered during each term.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At least once a year, the school's provision of worship will be evaluated by Senior Management to consider whether it meets the needs of all pupils and whether pupils are making progress in acquiring skills and abilities in organising and leading worship. Children's ideas will be expressed on the Assembly Board in the hall.

Special Festivals

Occasionally, on special occasions in the church calendar, celebrations will be held in school to enable children to develop in their own personal spiritual journey. These include the service of the words of the Eucharist, and Christingle.

We believe that children are best introduced to prayer, the sacraments and particularly the Eucharist in a step by step approach. These may include:

- short, simple liturgies with ritual and variety
- occasional liturgies reflecting a Eucharistic Prayer; and/or the Communion Rite

The Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

The Head teacher is the Collective Worship Coordinator, but others are involved in leading.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Collective Worship Co-ordinator and is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every year. In particular, the Foundation Governors will play an important role in this review.

ANNEX 1: The Role of the Governing Body Regarding Collective Worship

Governors should be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to Collective Worship taking account of the requirements of the Education Reform Act 1988, Education Act 1996 and the School Standard Framework Act 1998.

The Legal Framework

* There must be a daily act of worship for all pupils. This can take place at any time during the school day and can either be a single act of worship for all pupils, or separate acts of worship in different school groups (i.e. a group or combination of groups in which pupils are taught or take part in school activities)

* Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and this must be made clear in the Collective Worship policy statement and in the school prospectus.

* The governing body makes arrangements for Collective Worship in an Aided School after consultation with the Headteacher. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring requirements are met.

* In a CE Aided School, governors must also take account of the fact that acts of worship shall be consistent with the rites and practices of the Christian Church, and reflect the fact the school is distinctively and recognisably a Christian institution. Foundation governors have particular responsibility for seeing, so far as is practicable, that this is so. Governors should also be familiar with any guidelines issued by the diocese.

* Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005, Inspectors will make judgements and give evaluative comments relating to the school's distinctive Christian character using the SEF as a basis for inspection.

* The act of worship is not designated curriculum time under regulations and should not be subsumed under any part of the curriculum. It must be distinctive and be able to be identified as such if it is to meet legal requirements.

* As a rule, acts of worship will take place on the school premises. However, the governing body has the discretion to allow acts of worship to be held elsewhere e.g. a church, "on a special occasion".

Other Responsibilities

- Governors should be familiar with all documentation regarding Collective Worship issued on their behalf and may be actively involved in the process of Collective Worship development in the school.
- Governors should ensure that there is a development plan for Collective Worship, which is appropriately reviewed as part of the whole school development plan.

Monitoring and evaluation

In Voluntary Aided Schools it is the overall responsibility of the governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, to ensure that legal requirements are met and that opportunities for quality Collective Worship are being offered. This may be delegated to the Headteacher or the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship. Those responsible will ensure that the acts of worship are in accordance with the School's Trust Deed and consistent with the rites and practices of the Catholic Church.

In order to ensure that effective monitoring of Collective Worship takes place the following questions need to be addressed:

- Is the monitoring of Collective Worship part of the school development plan?
- Is the monitoring/improvement of Collective Worship of importance to the governing body and therefore an item on the agenda?
- How will the monitoring process be used to further develop Collective Worship?

What is to be monitored?

The school may have a document on curriculum monitoring which could be appropriately adapted for Collective Worship. In the absence of such a document the following may be considered:

- Is sufficient time set aside to ensure that monitoring can take place? This may include observations of collective acts of worship, discussions with those who lead worship, discussions with those who experience worship (e.g. pupils, staff, parents, governors and other members of the school community).
- Is the observed practice of Collective Worship consistent with policy?
- Is Collective Worship adequately resourced in terms of leaders, materials, visual aids etc.?
- Is there a record of, or requirement for, staff development and in-service training?
- Are the various environments and groupings for Collective Worship maximising opportunities for worship?

A school audit for Collective Worship is also provided. This may assist governors as well as the Collective Worship co-ordinator to monitor Collective Worship in the school.

Evaluation

Once the monitoring of Collective Worship, as described above and/or in the school audit, has been completed, it will naturally lead to an evaluation of the current position and plans for the development of Collective Worship within the school.

ANNEX 2: The Role of the Co-ordinator for Collective Worship

- Formulating a written policy for Collective Worship
- Ensuring that there is a development plan for Collective Worship which may at times form part of the school development plan
- Ensuring that Collective Worship is appropriate to the age, aptitudes and family backgrounds of pupils
- Ensuring that Collective Worship takes account of the religious and educational needs of all who share in it .
- Organising themes for Worship
- Assisting the governors and headteacher to carry out their legal responsibilities with regard to Collective Worship

Planning, Recording, Monitoring And Evaluating.

- Maintaining and developing effective procedures and documentation
- Observing, on occasions, an Act of Collective Worship
- Informing the headteacher of standards and developments in Collective Worship

Communication

- Communicating to members of the school community the significance and content of Acts of Collective Worship
- Reporting to and consulting with the governors and headteacher regarding matters of concern and development
- Acting as consultant to colleagues
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards Collective Worship
- Informing newly appointed colleagues of school policy regarding Collective Worship
- Communicating with parents, governors and the parish community
- Liaison with the school chaplain/parish vicar
- Liaison with the Diocesan RE Centre

Professional Development/Ongoing Formation

- Leading and organising inservice training and ongoing formation for Collective Worship
- Attending appropriate in-service courses and reporting back
- Keeping up to date by personal reading

Resources

- Evaluating existing resources
- Developing the resources available for Collective Worship including visual aids, artefacts, drapes, music, visitors, leaders, new and relevant books, posters etc.
- Budgeting efficiently.