

**St. James'
Church of England Primary School**



Collective Worship Policy

Reviewed Date: Autumn 1 2023

Next Review due: Autumn 1 2024

Reviewed by: Ms Lalsing

Through him we learn to live abundant lives, especially treasuring the values of:

friendship, trust, thankfulness, respect, forgiveness, hope and courage.

Vision Statement

*We are walking hand in hand with Jesus
fulfilling the potential God has given us.*

'For with God nothing is impossible'

Luke 1:37

Mission Aim

At St James' Church of England Primary School, the Christian (and indeed inclusive human) values "friendship, trust, respect, forgiveness, hope and courage" inform our whole life together.

They were chosen in dialogue with the local community which identified them as exceptionally meaningful and valuable.

Therefore, as a school community, we are committed to living these out and modelling them every day in each and every activity.

The purpose of Collective Worship is...

- an opportunity to take time out of our busy schedule to come together as the school community to think about God, others and ourselves and to develop a better understanding of our school Christian values.
- a time to be quiet, to reflect, to be respectful and to respond to our thoughts and feelings and faith. It is a short time with God whatever your religion.
- an important part of school life as it is a legal requirement of all schools.
- to enable everyone in our school family to come together to spend some time with God and with each other.

Our Community

It must be recognized that pupils in our church school come from variety of backgrounds, reflecting the plural and secular nature of our society. The spectrum may include:

- those who have, or who come from families with, Christian commitment and belief
- parents who have chosen a church school (or who support its ethos) because they wish their children to experience something of the Christian faith
- members of other faith communities
- those who may not share in any particular religious belief.

Our school community is a collection of people from different backgrounds and if school worship is to be meaningful, it must be sensitive to this.

Worship in our church school should always:

- offer opportunities for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- offer space for reflection, prayer, meditation and silence
- offer opportunities to worship God
- underpin the Christian values and ethos of the school
- reflect the aims of the school

- be inclusive and aim to respect each individual's integrity
- be clearly planned and appropriate to the ages, aptitudes and backgrounds of pupils
- encourage full participation of the pupils

Worship in our church school should, at various times in the school year, give opportunity to:

- reflect some of the practices and traditions of the local church including an understanding of The Trinity
- celebrate the Christian values and worth of the school community
- enable pupils to reflect on human existence
- enable children to explore and evaluate their own beliefs
- give time to consider the beliefs and values of others, especially those within the school community
- be shared by *all* staff including support staff, sometimes parents, carers, governors and members of the local community
- celebrate special occasions and seasons in the church's year and the life of the community
- show appreciation for the God-given gifts and talents of the school community.

Planning

At St. James' C of E there is a plan in place based upon the Christian values which are displayed around school. A value is taken each half term as the theme for all our worship times.

A lead teacher takes the responsibility for organising and planning the worship. The school has a team of Worship Warriors (2 pupils per class) that work with the adults to deliver worship several times each term. Other staff with responsibility for leading worship within their classrooms will take these plans and personalise them. (App2)

Format of Collective Worship

Over the week there are worship times for the class and whole school. The Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher leads Celebration worship once a week, The school's Reverend and/or members of the local church community are welcomed into school for delivering weekly worship, the school's lead teacher for worship delivers twice weekly, and once a week, worship is delivered in classrooms collectively. The Assistant Head and lead teacher will deliver worship in any absence.

In order to involve parents more in school life, each week parents are invited into school for Celebration assemblies.

Our Worship time at St. James' includes:

- Reflective music on entry/exit to set the right ethos
- A worship table with a cross and candle or three candles to represent the Trinity.
- A spiritual board to help us focus on our value, what this means to us, who/what we are praying for
- Welcome call and response
- A message shared by the leader and readings or poems by pupils
- A song- linked to our message for the week where possible
- A prayer usually led by the children
- The presentation may be through: drama by pupils/story/powerpoint/use of artefacts/video clips/questioning/use of puppets/a picture/lyrics
- Pupils leading class worship which is often well-prepared and thoughtful.
- A welcome at the beginning and at the end a phrase to 'Send'
- We also use the 'Picture News' resource as supplementary to encourage the children and adults to consider current and global issues.
- We give children opportunities to worship and praise at 'Lighthouse' with their families.

Prayers/reflection (app 4)

We do ask the children to pray about global issues and our school value. The children prepare very reflective and moving prayers for Collective Worship and we keep copies of these in a school prayer book and in reflective areas in the classroom.

It is important to also allow time for quiet reflection, so that children can make a personal response to what they have encountered. We might say:

"I am going to pray about If you would like to join in then you can say 'amen' at the end, or you could just think quietly to yourself."

Currently our pupils respond to our prayers by saying the Grace of our Lord:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God our Father,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us, now and evermore.
Amen.

We also will share the 'peace of our Lord'.

Visitors

The school welcomes visitors to lead our Collective Worship. We have had the pleasure of welcoming church members and visitors from different faiths e.g Muslim

We welcome links with St. James' Church and hold our Harvest, Christingle and Easter Collective Worship celebrations there. Rev. Mark supports school on a regular basis and is well received by the children. He works in collaboration with us focussing on our current value and the Liturgical calendar.

Close liaison is maintained between St. James' with St Thomas' Church and the school. The children, staff and parents/carers attend services at the church at key points in the Church and/or school year. Where this is not possible, a service may be held in school, involving, when possible, the incumbent.

We provide opportunities to praise in school, in church and the cathedral; the Y6 children and members of staff take part in the annual leaver's service at the Liverpool Cathedral.

The themes for collective worship are organised yearly and are linked to our Christian values, as well as the church year. International, moral and

social events or issues are also included as appropriate into the worship programme.

The school makes charitable donations during the year, including Wigan and Leigh hospice, the NSPCC and other charities chosen from the local area e.g. The Brick/Food bank. Regional, national and international charities are also supported. These donations are always celebrated at worship times. The school also sponsors a child from Ghana which is an opportunity for them to appreciate and reflect upon their own lives whilst showing the compassion of Jesus for others.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Reports on the development and impact of Collective Worship are shared with governors.

Each class discusses and shares the understanding of the school's values every half term.

The worship lead, along with the Worship Warriors aim to evaluate the impact of worship in school and how it can be developed. (App3)

The Law

The Education Reform Act of 1988 sets out the law regarding collective worship and Circular 1/94 provides further guidance.

The law states that collective worship in schools should aim to:

- provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God
- consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs
- encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of the worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered
- develop a community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.

Collective worship is intended to be appropriate for, and to include, all pupils attending a school, regardless of their own personal faith. Collective worship in schools differs from the corporate worship of believers of a particular faith.

Right to Withdraw

The 1998 Education Act confirmed parents' legal right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship. However, as our Collective Worship is an

important part of our school day when we come together as a family to reflect, to share and to celebrate together it is hoped that all our pupils will participate.

School should equally ensure that pupils are not withdrawn from Collective Worship, for whatever reason, as unless we provide those pupils with an opportunity to worship at another stage in the day we would be breaking the law.

Complaints

If parents make a formal complaint about school worship and fail to be satisfied by normal procedures, they have a right to appeal to the co-chairs of governors: Mr Joel Thornton and Mrs Lynne Ryder.

App2 Short term plan example

St James Whole School Worship plan - Courage – Summer 2

Spiritual/Moral aims:

To understand the value of courage, how you can demonstrate courage in your lives and to others. How Jesus demonstrate courage? To encourage the school community to follow in the footsteps of Jesus-consider what would Jesus do and how he demonstrated acts of courage to all. Find out how other people (those who are well-known, characters from the Bible and from other faiths) demonstrated courage. To demonstrate courage by supporting charities and understand the role of different charities. To demonstrate courage by supporting and caring for the local community and the environment.

Music for entry/exit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhrB_KTUwal&list=RDMhrB_KTUwal&index=1 How great is our God
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ipl90tNonTk> Thank you Hillsong, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgsqfiRslzA> I surrender Hillsong,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYelYHgEcOc> Here I am to worship Hillsong, Welcome Everybody- Fischy music ,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9yddyu-ZDs> Faith Hillsong

Friday: Celebration Worship. Proud- Friday worship
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sT_4zPc1II

Stars to be given out with **You are a Star to be sung, reflection and prayer to end**

Wk	Monday Reverend to deliver 9-9:30am	Tuesday Worship in the hall for all children 9-9:30am ML/RA	Wednesday: singing practise in the hall with ML/RA 9-9:30am	Thursday: Class worship in own class with teacher to lead. 9-9:30am	Entry/exiting music
1 5.6.23 Mon- Rev Tues- ML/RA	Prayers from Year 6 Theme for the week: If you have the courage to begin, you have the courage to succeed	Entry music- Welcome Everybody Having the courage to face an impossible situation	Fischy music: Bring it all to me Welcome everybody	Roots and Fruits- pages 53-55 Explore how we can clothe ourselves with courage just like Moses did in the story. Song- Bring it all to me	Welcome Everybody Fischy Music Bring it all to me

Wed- ML/RA Thurs- CT FRI Celebra ti- AJ/CR		Read the story of David and Goliath. Discuss how David showed courage- why? What would you have done? What does God teach us through this story?			
2 12.6.23 Mon MM Thurs ML FRI Celebra tion	Prayers from Year 5 Theme for the week- Courage is not the absence of fear. It is acting in spite of it. 	Discuss the story of Esther in the Old Testament. Children to understand that Esther had to make a stand despite being very scared and that her courage was what saved her people. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPD Rmkh7J9c Song- Bring it all to me	Stronger- fischy music May you find peace- fischy music	Song- Stronger-fischy music Discuss with the children the story of Ruth in the bible. How did Ruth show courage? (By deciding to stay with her mother- in -law not knowing of what her future would hold) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irThVpdeSXk Link to the theme of the week and the children at St James. How can you show courage despite being fearful? Song- May you find peace	Here I am to worship- Hillsong Proud- Friday worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sT_4zPc1II

3 19.6.23 Mon Rev Tues- ML/RA Wed- ML/RA Thurs- CT Fri- AJ/CR	Prayers from Year 4 Theme for the week: Sometimes courage is little voice at the end of the day that says' I'll try again tomorrow' 	Song- may you find peace Bible story: Read the story of Job https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-T2PUIGXXw Discuss how Job showed courage. What would you have done if you were afflicted with so much bad luck? What do we learn about courage through this story? 	God knows everything- fischy music May you find peace- fischy music	Discuss the story of Jochebed (Moses mother) Jochebed had the courage to place her son Moses in the basket. She trusted in God and that is what gave her courage. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Hy3J_i88_c How can you develop courage? Bible story- Exodus ch2 1-9  Song- God knows everything	Faith - Hillsong Proud- Friday worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sT_4zPc1II or relaxation music
4 26.6.23 Mon - Rev	Prayers from Year 3 Theme- courage is needed to	Bible story- Luke 15:11-32 Discuss the New Testament parable	We're on this road- fischy music	Bible story- The story of Hezekiah 2Kings 20 Discuss how the King shows courage	How Great is our God- Hillsong 10000 reasons

Tues-
ML/RA
Wed-
ML/RA
Thurs-
CT
Fri-
AJ/CR

start on something new



of the Prodigal Son.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfDfMZ6MTJs>

Explain how the son made mistakes but had the courage to go back and ask his father for forgiveness.

Was there ever a time when you have needed the courage to either start something new or own up to something?

What do we learn from this Bible story?

Song- Stronger

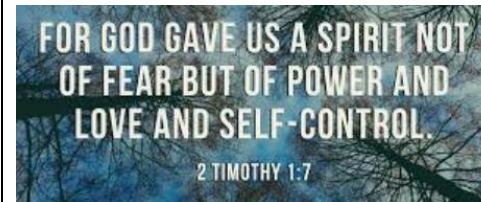
God knows everything-
fischy music

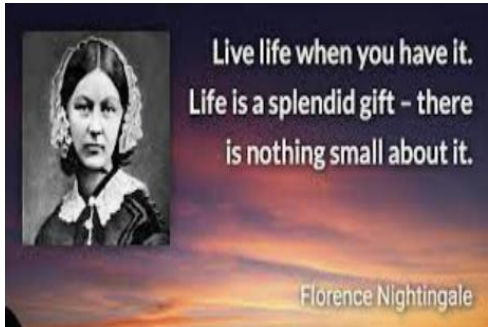
in the story. What do we learn from this Bible story?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfSx0gOkjXg>

Have you ever overcome your fears and achieved something that you're proud of?

Song- We're on this road- fischy music



5 3.7.23 Mon- Rev Tues- ML/RA Wed- ML/RA Thurs- CT Fri- AJ/CR	Prayers from Year 2 Theme- Having courage sometimes is about standing up to injustice 	Bible story- the man with leprosy Mathew 8:1-8 Explore the Bible story of the man with leprosy who had the courage to approach Jesus to ask for healing, even though leprosy was seen as unclean. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYwimzwpSgs	God knows everything- fischy music Written on the palm of God's hand- fischy music	Assembly about having courage Explore the story of Florence Nightingale https://www.assemblies.org.uk/pri/3045/having-courage  Song- God knows everything	My Lighthouse I surrender- Hillsong
6 10.7.23 Mon- Rev	Prayers from Year 1 Theme: Having courage sometimes is about standing	Explore the story of Martin Luther King https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kwZ	Written on the palm of God's hands- fischy music	Explore how NHS workers relentlessly have to show courage in their everyday lives. What helps them to do this?	Welcome Everybody 10000 reasons

Tues- ML/RA Wed- ML/RA Thurs- CT Fri- AJ/CR	up to injustice 	xJEUOvS0 How did he show courage? (he fought against injustice in the USA) MLK was a Pastor and found his courage in God. Who do you know today that show courage? Doctors/Nurses/Fire fighters/people that live with disabilities in the Wigan community Song- written on the palm of God's hand	God beside- fischy music	Explore the Bible story- the calming of the sea How did the disciples respond? What does Jesus say that they should have done- why? Link this bible story in with NHS workers and others that show courage in our local communities.  Song- God beside	This Little Light of Mine
Wk 7 17.7.23 Mon- Rev Tues- ML/RA Wed- ML/RA Thurs- CT Fri- AJ/CR	Wood- Hall Prayers from Year 6 Theme: Courage is having the inner strength to be the best that you can be	Explore the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when he lost his courage for a while. How did he overcome this? Who did he call upon for help. Link this in with the year 6 children who	God beside me- fischy music As we go now- fischy music	Spiritual experience worship: Discuss what have you learnt about courage this year? Which Bible story was the most special to you and why? What does God teach us about courage in the Bible? Song- As we go now	Friday- This is me https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J29YsEfYlo The Blessing- Hillsong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZ55mDL7dA0



are going to need
courage and bravery
to start a new
beginning.

God Beside- song

- Evaluation:

App 3

Collective Worship Evaluation (half termly)

Date and Time

Observer

Present: Whole school / Key Stage / Class Worship Leader:

Theme of act of Worship:

Was the act of worship one of a series, or did it stand alone?

Setting the Atmosphere for Worship:

How did pupils enter and leave the worship space – was there a sense of order, respect and expectation?

Was there anything to mark the worship space and time as special e.g. a visual focus, (e.g. candle, worship table, display, music)? Was there a clear distinction between collective worship and assembly (i.e. notices, presentations etc)?

General Development:

Was the purpose of the act of worship clear to all present, and the theme developed effectively?

Were the different elements to the act of worship, e.g. visual aids, storytelling, questioning, all carried through effectively?

Was the pace and timing appropriate?

Worship Elements: Was there a balance of music, speech and silence? Were there opportunities for prayer and reflection? If songs or hymns were used, were they appropriate for the pupils and the theme? Did the act of worship have a clear Christian theme?

Distinctively Christian but inclusive of all:

Was the act of worship clearly linked to the Christian Gospel?

Was there any reference to other faith communities or philosophical thought linking into community cohesion?

Pupil Involvement:

Was the act of worship appropriate for the age, ability and background of the pupils? Were the pupils engaged?

What contribution did they make to the worship – were they in any sense worship leaders? How did / could the worship have impacted upon those present? Could it support their spiritual and moral development?

Did the pupils explore, encounter, experience?

Planning:

What resource is being used?

Is it linked to the collective worship planning for the term/year?

Any other relevant commentary? E.g. feedback from pupils

(App 4)

Trust Prayer



We thank you, God of Love, for the gift of children,
bless the work of our Trust, that in all we do
young people may grow in wisdom and stature,
and so come
to know you,
to love you
and to serve you,
as Jesus did.

We make our prayer in his name who is God
with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen