

**ST. ANN'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
AND NURSERY CENTRE**

St Ann's C.E. Primary School



**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
POLICY**

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**For I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you
hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11**

God's word to the Israelites was given by the prophet Jeremiah when they were in a time of desperation as captives. This was not a promise of immediate rescue from their plight but God's hope of a future to see them through. The Israelites were encouraged to settle down, build houses, marry and even pray for the peace and prosperity of the city in which they now found themselves. This verse is not an assurance to immediately rescue us from hardship or suffering, but rather a promise that God has a plan for our lives and, regardless of our current situation, He can work through it to prosper us and give us a hope and a future.

Mission Statement

St. Ann's Church of England Primary School is one of the family of church schools within the Liverpool Diocese. Our welcoming school is at the heart of the community and is distinguished by its nurturing ethos which is underpinned by Christian values.

Excellent teaching makes learning exciting and accessible for all and we challenge our children to develop a love of learning and to reach their full potential. Throughout their school journey we encourage children to grow as resilient individuals who aspire to search out and grasp all of life's opportunities, making wise choices in order to build a positive future for themselves and others. Our vision is that our children leave the school as compassionate citizens who respect the rights, beliefs and individuality of others.

We believe that equality at our school should permeate all aspects of school life and is the responsibility of every member of the school and wider community. Every member of the school community should feel safe, secure, valued and of equal worth. At St. Ann's CE Primary School, equality is a key principle for treating all people the same as we believe that every human being without exception has innate dignity being made in the image of God.

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Warrington St. Ann's is committed to offering high quality collective worship. We recognise and value collective worship as central to a sense of community and to expressing the school's Christian vision. We strongly believe that worship is central to achieving our vision for a hope and a future for our children.

Here, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and the event that begins the day. It is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.

The Church of England Education Office, Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian the Common Good. (The Church of England Education Office 2016) This form of encounter through worship should be truly welcoming, inclusive and exemplifying the principles of Christian hospitality. This is an approach that seeks to meet the needs of all, wherever they may be on their journey of faith and belief.

The law requires that there be a daily act of worship which should be 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character' [Ed. Ref. Act 1988] and in accordance with the school's deed. Our collective worship policy strengthens and supports the Christian identity of our school, reaffirms our vision and associated values and celebrates the central role that each child has to play in their community. Our worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England, and will recognise and follow the Christian liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. It makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community.

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INCLUSIVE, INVITATIONAL, AND INSPIRING

In a busy, lively primary school it is important to set aside time for the children to come together in a feeling of belonging and community to reflect on ideas surrounding their lives. It is central to developing our ethos as a Christian community and an opportunity to celebrate our school's Church Values. **Inclusive** worship involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. In the Church school pupils, their families and other adults can expect to encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all.

Many pupils and staff in our school may come from homes of different faith backgrounds as well as of no faith background. Moreover, many pupils will naturally be at different stages of their spiritual journey during their time in school. Pupils should be given the opportunity to think and ask questions. There should be space to consent, and dissent: to participate and to stand back; and to consider. It is an expectation that care will be taken to ensure that the language used by those facilitating worship avoids assuming faith in all those participating, joining and watching. It is recognised that pupils will bring their own experience to worship.

Parents, pupils and adults can expect to encounter worship that is consistently **invitational**. There should be no compulsion to 'do anything'. Rather, worship should provide the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom of those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. Pupils and adults should always only be invited to pray if they wish to do so and should be invited to pray in their own way. Prayer should always be accompanied by the option to reflect. Music and liturgies used in worship should reflect the best of traditional and modern Anglican worship, it should connect with the theme and explore the sacred to educate and engage. Music used should reflect the diverse worship experience of the wider Christian community.

Pupils and adults can expect the worship they encounter in a Church school to be **inspirational**. Worship should be formational and transformational: it should enable pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. It should motivate pupils and adults into action, into thinking differently, and into reflecting on their and the wider community's behaviour and actions. As a result of inspirational collective worship, they should be inspired to become courageous advocates of causes. It should encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

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The aims of Collective Worship at St Ann 's

- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour
- To help children discover their place in the world.
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate major, and some minor, Christian festivals.
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these. To support the search for meaning.
- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect the integrity of all individuals as a child of God
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community: respect, perseverance, hope, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation, trust and honesty, friendship,
- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To provide an opportunity to bring before God in prayer personal needs and those of others.
- To reflect on and learn from courageous advocates who have embodied the schools' values in their lives and then become courageous advocates themselves. (Agents for change).

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Collective Worship at St Ann's

When does Collective Worship take Place?

Collective Worship takes place each day and is an integral part of school life at St Ann's:-

Monday in the hall (Values) 9.05 - 09.25 am

Mrs Keen (Headteacher) leads this Collective Worship and the Value for the half term is introduced /built upon through relevant stories and other texts. Time for reflection is provided.

Tuesday in the hall (Praise worship) 9.05 - 09.25 am

Collective worship lead and music lead. Children learn the context of different praise songs and sing them with accompaniment led by the children.

Wednesday in the hall (Church clergy) 9.05 - 09.25 am

Worship is led by church clergy (Rev Shirley Cowan) The children look at a particular theme and reflect upon how this applies to their life.

Thursday in the hall (Picture News/visitor) 9.05 - 09.25 am

(Assistant head) will deliver picture news where the children are shown recent news items and then reflect on how the Bible speaks into this situation. They are then encouraged to act upon what they have heard.

Friday in the hall (whole school) Celebration Assembly 9:05-9:30 am

Mrs Keen leads the Celebration Assembly each Friday.

Personal certificates are given out for:

- *Special achievement in the classroom for the week*
- *Showing the school Values*

We also give out special awards to a class in KS1 and KS2 for:

- *Attendance jackpot*
- *Cleaners cup*
- *Reading jackpot*
- *Lastly, children who have celebrated their birthday come to the front and the whole school wishes them a happy birthday.*

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Daily (in class)

Classes say collective prayers before lunch and at the end of each day. There are also opportunities for children to give thanks and to make suggestions for intercessions, for example for a relative, for members of the church, nation or across the world. These can be made during the day or children can write them in class prayer books.

Who is responsible for planning Collective Worship?

- The Collective Worship lead is responsible for planning Collective Worship with support from School worship warriors.

How is Collective Worship planned?

- The Values that are covered during Collective Worship are:
Generosity, Peace, Respect, Humility, Justice, Perseverance, Friendship, Trust & Honesty, Compassion, Thankfulness, Courage, Hope, Creativity, Forgiveness & Reconciliation, Wisdom and Responsibility. We also cover the British values.
- Collective Worship is planned each half term following the 3-year cycle plan.
- The Collective Worship lead use 'Values for Life' resource as a guide to support planning.
- A statement is placed at the front of each classroom and also throughout school, giving an explanation of what the theme is and what it means. Key words are also placed at the front of each classroom, to remind children and teachers of the theme.
- Visiting worship leaders are fully briefed on the theme for the forthcoming term and are then able to plan their own Collective Worship.

What Collective Worship Experiences do the Children have?

- Varied Collective Worship experiences are offered to the children, through the different visitors that regularly take Collective Worship and their varying styles and backgrounds. Also staff take care to ensure that they vary their approaches to ensure that variety does occur.
- At the start of every Collective Worship Time a candle is lit and a greeting said. The candle is blown out at the end.
- The following are regularly used in Collective Worship:
 - o Modern hymns / songs (some of which are also sung during Sunday Church services)
 - o Traditional hymns (some of which are also sung during Sunday Church services)
 - o Bible stories- told by the adult, or watched as a film clip
 - o Readings from the Bible
 - o Drama
 - o Poetry
 - o Responses
 - o Prayers and intercessions
 - o Opportunities for silence and reflection

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How are pupils involved in Collective Worship?

- All children take part in daily Collective Worship
- Responses are used as part of Collective Worship
- The Lord's Prayer, Grace and other prayers are incorporated into Collective Worship
- Children act out Bible stories
- Children are given the opportunity to write their own prayers and pray for situations
- Children are given the opportunity to reflect
- Children are involved in the preparation / set up of Collective Worship
- Classes/Cohorts lead special Collective Worship throughout the year (Harvest, Leavers' Service, Christingle Service, Christmas plays and Easter)

How is Collective Worship evaluated?

- Collective Worship evaluation books are in place. Children are invited to reflect on what they have learned about in the Collective Worship, if there is anything that they wonder and / or what they would like to find out about.
- The Collective Worship co-ordinator completes evaluation forms with a selection of children from across the school. The children reflect on what they enjoy about Collective Worship, specifically the hymns sung, the opportunities to pray, who they enjoy leading worship (and why) plus any ways that they would make it even better.
- CPD is provided for staff who lead collective worship
- Evaluation books are also provided for:
 - o Staff who attend Collective Worship
 - o Governors
 - o Visitors

Legal Requirements

The law requires that there be a daily act of worship which should be 'wholly or mainly of a broad Christian character' [Ed. Ref. Act 1988] and in accordance with the school's deed. At St. Ann's, collective worship takes place daily, which is a legal entitlement of all children in the school. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from worship on religious grounds.

All requests to withdraw a child from Religious Education must be made directly to the Headteacher who will make the school Governors aware of any such requests. The children will be supervised appropriately to ensure their safety.

Policy updated by: Mr Stephen Cartledge
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