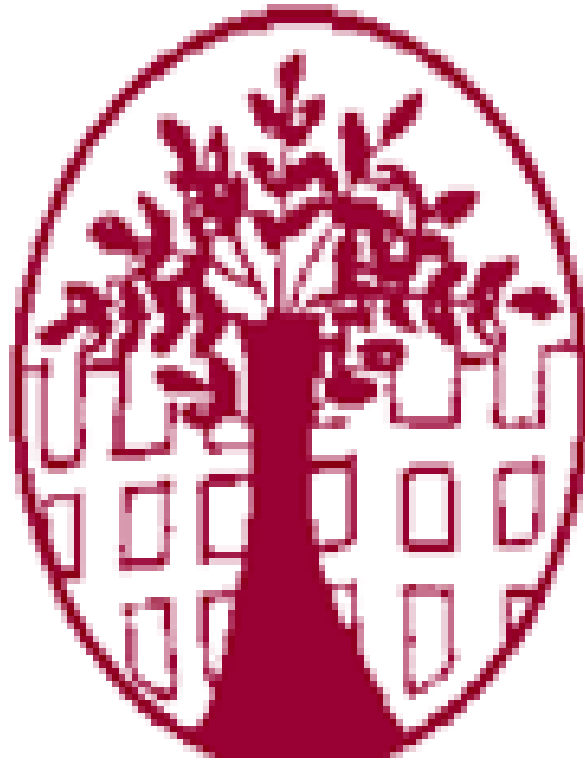


St James CE Primary School



Collective Worship Policy

Policy drawn up by: SIAMS team

Consultation Procedures: Audit by staff, School Council views, SIAMS team working party, Governing Body

Final Draft agreed: November 2014

Date for Review: November 2015

Policy Statement

At St. James CE Primary School School, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this, and in the general ethos of the school, we seek to promote our mission statement :

'A happy and safe Christian setting where everyone is valued and works in partnership to develop their full potential.'

Collective worship is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting the Christian values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church and other visitors are valued highly.

Collective worship contributes significantly to the ethos of the school and it is our aim that it is a time when the school can:

- Share common aims and values
- Celebrate achievements and special times
- Explore together the world in which we live
- Develop a community spirit

For the Pupils:

Collective worship contributes to the development of the student as a 'whole' person by providing opportunities to:

- Worship that which is considered worthy
- Consider spiritual and moral issues
- Explore their own beliefs
- Develop their own spirituality
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Participate and respond
- Reflect on what it means to be human

Termly planning overviews list themes, but will be flexible, to allow inclusion of current and topical issues. Together with weekly planning and recording sheets these will ensure that there is continuity and progression as well as enabling the monitoring and evaluation of acts of worship to take place which will include visits to places of worship.

Christian values

We identify the Christian values of:

- Friendship
- Endurance
- Peace
- Honesty
- Respect
- Love

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an

understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 (1) and 9 (3), which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Headteacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Monday – whole school worship lead by Head teacher or Deputy Head.

Tuesday – Whole school assembly lead by Parish worker or Class Assembly themed around topic discussion from school council.

Wednesday - whole school hymn practice with prayer lead by 2 members of staff on a rota basis.

Thursday – Key Stage assemblies which are teacher lead based around theme of half term on a rota basis or learning log assembly lead by teachers on a rota.

Friday – Whole school awards assembly lead by Head teacher or Deputy Head (joined by Reception after Autumn Term)

Visitors

Visitors to the school are welcomed to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St James Church is our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services. We encourage parents and carers to attend as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way families and school work together to support the achievements of our children.

Record keeping, evaluation and monitoring

A daily file is kept recording details of each act of worship by year 5 pupils reflecting on the theme and hymns are sung daily where possible linked around the theme.

Equal opportunities are taken into consideration during each assembly and children with special needs are supported where possible with visual aids and other ideas to support their learning.

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of RE. At each Key Stage, the teacher will draw from other religions as appropriate to acknowledge and celebrate the religious beliefs of children within the class.