



Paulerspury C.E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Date written:	<i>November 2018</i>
To be reviewed:	<i>Every Two Years</i>
Agreed by Governors	<i>January 2021</i>
Next review:	<i>January 2025</i>

Our policies are written with our School Values in mind. These are:

Care,
Courage,
Creativity,
Forgiveness,

Honesty,
Hope,
Perseverance
Respect,

Responsibility,
Thankfulness
Trust.

Historic

Parent choice

Staff/Governor choice

Pupil choice

STATEMENT OF THE LAW

The 1988 Education Act states that collective worship "shall be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character" (7:1):

- all pupils must take part in a collective act of worship every day
- this may be as a whole school or in different age groups
- the act of worship may happen at any time of the day
- the act of worship has to take place on school premises. VC schools may hold acts of collective worship off the school premises provided that these are in addition to the statutory acts of worship on the school premises.
- in VC schools it is the responsibility of the governing body to ensure that an act of collective worship happens everyday
- in VC schools the character and content of worship is determined by governing bodies in accordance with their trust deeds
- the right to withdraw from school worship does extend to teachers in VC schools
- all parents have the right to withdraw their children from school worship in any school

ETHOS STATEMENT

At Paulerspury C.E.V.C Primary School, *we promote the key values of Care, Courage, Creativity, Forgiveness, Honesty, Hope, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility, Thankfulness and Trust.* Using these values we believe that learning should be fun, purposeful and challenging within the context of Christian belief and practice. As a Church of England school, we encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of all faiths whilst promoting Christian values.

We provide a safe and stimulating learning environment while encouraging an awareness of the world we live in. We achieve this through our curriculum and links with local, national and global communities.

Through our effective curriculum we aim to equip each child with the skills they need for lifelong learning. We aim to develop confident, independent learners who take ownership of their learning and are proud of their achievements.

Through positive attitudes and partnerships we endeavour to develop all members of the school community, meeting individual needs in a safe and secure environment where differences are celebrated. This will ensure high standards, successful learning and progress ensuring that we become the Outstanding school that we aim to be.

The School aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

The school, recognising its historic foundation with the Church of England, encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. The school, recognising its historic foundation with the Church of England, encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith in God, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Collective Worship & God has a central position in the life of Paulerspury Church of England Primary School, providing all members of the school community with opportunities for personal reflection and the development of spiritual awareness.

There is a daily act of collective worship for all pupils, unless their parents exercise their right to withdraw them from this activity. Collective worship will sometimes be organized for the whole school, but may be planned for separate groups of pupils, at varying times during the school day.

Collective worship at Paulerspury CE Primary School is of a Christian character reflecting the ethos of a church controlled school. Worship therefore contains predominantly Christian material although stories, poems and music from other cultures and religions are also included.

Collective worship at Paulerspury CE Primary School reflects The Peterborough Diocesan Expectations.

AIMS FOR WORSHIP

Our school acts of worship aim to:

- give an opportunity to worship God in a fun and meaningful way
- help children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world around them
- offer children a spiritual dimension to the world around them
- provide regular time and opportunity for reflection and to enable children to move from what is of immediate but passing concern, to the broader and more lasting concerns of life
- provide time and opportunity for thanksgiving and to enjoy the unity which derives from sharing friendship, acceptance, joys, hopes and fears.
- develop an awareness of and concern for the needs of others as well as personal needs
- provide time to share with others the things they have been doing, their thoughts and ideas
- help children to develop shared values
- give children experience of being active members of a caring community
- respond in a compassionate and civilised way to experiences of injustice, cruelty, exploitation, greed etc.

CREATING AN APPROPRIATE SETTING FOR WORSHIP

Worship normally takes place in the school hall or the church. In order to create an appropriate atmosphere for worship the school creates a focal point through:

- Displays on the theme/values
- A table with a cloth in the relevant liturgical seasonal colour
- A cross
- A lighted candle
- Other artefacts to enhance a message
- Music
- Silence for reflection

A WORSHIPFUL RESPONSE

The children will be given an opportunity to respond to these assemblies through:

- Silent reflection
- Thoughtful spoken response
- Spoken Prayer
- The singing of songs and hymns
- Liturgical responses ('The Lord be with you' – 'And also with you', etc)

PLANNING

The Headteacher meets with Foundation Governors to evaluate Collective Worship and suggest themes for the next academic year. These themes reflect the Christian Ethos and Values of the school and also take account of work in other areas of the curriculum. They also follow the Liturgical calendar. Planning for Collective worship includes a range of activities with opportunities for appropriate responses from adults and children and time for reflection. It is essential that worship of God is accessible to all, taking account of the different ages, understanding and family backgrounds of the pupils.

FORMAT

	Type	Led by	Location
Monday	Whole School Assembly	Headteacher leads Christian worship, with all children and staff attending.	Hall
Tuesday	Whole School Hymn Practice, Praise and Prayer	Mrs Faulkner	Hall
Wednesday	Key Stage Assemblies	Teachers according to rota	KS2 – Hall KS1 – classroom
Thursday	Class Assembly	Teachers [KS2 pupils where appropriate]	In classrooms
Friday	Celebration Assembly	Headteacher leads with all children and staff attending.	Hall
Friday	CSALT Assemblies [once a month]	Mr McEwan	Hall

The school Collective Acts of Worship follows a thematic pattern and from the Values for Life resource. The pattern of themes broadly reflects the church year.

Services are held in St James the Great, the parish church, throughout the year, as follows:

September – welcome service for new Reception children

October – Harvest

December – Christingle

Easter – Easter service

July – end of year celebration

In addition, an act of remembrance is held on the Friday closest to 11 November at the war memorial adjacent to the church.

All parents have a right to withdraw their children from the act of collective worship. Parents should make a request for withdrawal direct to the Headteacher.

Teachers may also wish to withdraw from a Collective Act of Worship. Teachers should make a request for withdrawal direct to the Headteacher.

A Eucharist Service may be held at school which children are invited to, yet again attendance is optional.

RESOURCES

A range of resources, including books, CDs and artefacts suitable for collective worship are available in school. Appropriate symbols, such as a lighted candle and a cross, are included to provide a focus for reflection. The Parish Church of St. James provides the school with a very important resource for worship, with at least one visit made by the whole school every term.

RECORD KEEPING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

A Collective Worship rota is kept in the hall and staff room, as well as circulated to staff for them to keep in a useful place. This rota records planning, resources used, hymns, prayers and details of visiting speakers. The member of staff leading any collective worship session is responsible for asking a Year 5 or 6 pupil to record the content and impact of the assembly on an 'Evaluating Worship' form. Entries are monitored by the Headteacher and staff at staff meetings as well as the Foundation Governors at various points throughout the year.

Foundation governors will undertake regular monitoring of collective worship, with planned visits agreed at the annual planning meeting. The evaluation and review of collective worship will be an agenda item for a full governor's meeting of each year.