



# St Philip Westbrook C of E Primary School

"Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly"

## Collective Worship Policy

<b>Date of Review</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>Updated with new worship timetable</b>
<b>September 2017</b>	<b>Policy reviewed</b>
<b>December 2018</b>	<b>Updated with class worship guidance and Golden Book of worship evaluations</b>
<b>March 2021</b>	<b>Evaluations updated, impact of pandemic upon timetable</b>

# *St Philip Westbrook C of E Aided Primary School*

'Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly'.

## **Collective Worship Policy**

*All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.' Psalm 86:9*

At St Philip Westbrook C of E Primary School collective worship contributes to our mission statement, the aims and ethos of the school and therefore to the Christian Education we provide. It also contributes to the celebration and exploration of the core values of our school.

### **Our Vision Statement:**

**'Together we aim high, and with God's love we can fly.'**

We aim to create a loving community, enfolded by Christian values. Here children can develop their God given potential in a secure, nurturing and happy environment that embraces excellence and enables children to live life in all its fullness.

### **Aims of our school:**

- Together we will foster a love of learning in a happy and safe Christian environment to develop the mind, body and spirit.
- As a Christian community, we celebrate, embrace and value all cultures and recognise each individual's needs, talents and aspirations in line with British values.
- Through the highest standards of teaching and learning we endeavour to spark the imaginations of all children with active support of our parents and carers.
- We provide an enriched and engaging curriculum which enables children to become high achieving, creative, reflective and enquiring learners.
- We will aim high in all we do, celebrating each other's achievements, always persevering. We strive to build on our success and take on new challenges, valuing the opinions and views of our school family.
- We have high behavioural expectations which are under-pinned by our Christian values. We aim to show respect for one another and be active, caring members of school and society.

### **Christian Values**

At St Philip Westbrook Church of England Primary School we all work together to achieve our vision of 'Together we aim high and with God's love we can fly.' Christian values are at the heart of our teaching and learning and we encourage all of our children to put these values into practice in every aspect of school life. Our values are:

- Respect
- Hope
- Trust
- Fairness
- Compassion
- Wisdom
- Fellowship
- Perseverance

## **Introduction**

*“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God and to devote the will to the purpose of God”.*  
*William Temple (1881-1894)*

Collective worship is central to the life of our school. It reflects our mission statement and shapes our approach to others and to what we do in school. We believe that worship can be said to be ‘*an expression of a relationship with God and a desire to serve God and others.*’

Collective worship strengthens and supports the distinctive Christian character of our school, reaffirms our school’s Christian values and celebrates the contribution that each child makes to our community.

Worship reflects the variety of traditions found in the Church of England as well as other Christian traditions, and recognises and follows the Church’s liturgical year. The daily Christian act of worship is central to our ethos and is supported by all staff and governors. During collective worship our school community will be given the opportunity to explore a relationship with God, encounter a faith which is alive and experience the joy of celebrating God’s love.

## **Aims of Collective Worship at our school**

Collective worship at St Philip Westbrook C of E Aided Primary School is in line with the school’s Trust Deed and supports our school’s mission statement by providing opportunities for pupils, staff and visitors to:

- explore a relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- develop personal spirituality especially through prayer, reflection and contemplation.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of ‘faith’ and encourage those of ‘no faith’ so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- be engaged in an exploration of the relevance and application of the Christian faith and reaffirm, strengthen, reflect upon and practise our explicit Christian values.
- seek to deepen and widen the experience of those of ‘faith’ and encourage those of ‘no faith’ so that they begin to feel for themselves something of what it means to worship.
- develop an enquiring mind and express and explore their own views openly and honestly.
- establish a sense of belonging to the family of St Philip’s and its values and visions.
- develop links with St Philip’s church and experience the worship heritage of the Church of England.
- nurture spiritual growth; consider moral issues in a Christian context and enhance social and cultural understanding.
- to foster an awareness of the world around them and a sense of their place within it.

## The Anglican Christian Tradition

The following may be described as shared Christian elements of collective worship:

- using the Bible as a source of knowledge and inspiration for themes and stories.
- observing the cycle of the Church's Year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Saints' Days.
- learning and saying Christian prayers from a number of sources, for example, the Lord's Prayer and the Grace.
- using simple Anglican liturgy at levels appropriate to pupils' age.
- singing a wide variety of Christian hymns and songs.
- experiencing Christian symbolism in worship and reflecting on their meaning e.g. cross, bread and wine and candles.
- using prayer, silence and reflection.
- celebrating Holy Communion appropriate to pupils' age.

## Implementation

Collective worship is a legal requirement.

In line with the statutory requirement, a Christian act of collective worship is provided for all pupils every day. All teachers and TAs attend acts of collective worship. Time allocated to collective worship is not part of curriculum time.

## Responsibilities

It is the ultimate responsibility of the headteacher and governing body of a school to ensure a daily act of collective worship takes place. At St Philip's, the responsibility to co-ordinate the acts of worship are delegated to the collective worship co-ordinator who is the headteacher. They jointly plan themes with our Church Warden, who is also a foundation governor.

## Planning Collective Worship

The timing, groupings, and regular worship leaders are detailed in the table below:

Day	Time	Leader	Group
Monday	9am	Headteacher	KS1 & KS2
Tuesday	9am	JK /KH/JC	Separate Key Stage or KS1 & 2 together depending upon need.
Wednesday	9am	Clergy / Deputy	KS1 & KS2 including Open the Book
Thursday	9am	Teachers' Rota	Infants small hall & Juniors main hall
Friday	Flexible	Class teacher	Class

When classes need to remain in bubbles due to the pandemic, this timetable will be amended as required and daily worship will take place virtually in individual classrooms.

The headteacher and the Local Missional Leader (LML) plan in advance an effective pattern of themes for collective worship, on a half termly basis. This plan is made available to all staff and worship leaders. Worship is also planned in advance with the vicar for special services and School in Church Sundays.

Planning of worship ensures that pupils and adults are invited to take part in varying types of worship experiences (e.g. prayer, music, silence, Bible reading, story, dance, film clips etc.)

Resources are reviewed and purchased on a regular basis to enhance collective worship and Continuous Professional Development is provided by the headteacher, diocesan adviser and other specialists.

Pupil leadership in collective worship occurs in a variety of ways eg Class worship teams, Worship Warriors, Ethos Group, School Council, Global Awareness Group, Fundraising Group, regularly plan and lead worship sessions.

Our worship plan includes our Christian values and British Values. See Appendix 3.

Our class worship is planned using Blackburn Diocese 'God's Big Story' to introduce children to God's 'big salvation story' and Christian concepts. For further details click on this link: [God's Big Story](#)

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Monitoring and evaluation are part of a whole school cycle of self-review and this is achieved over time by consulting with all stakeholders asking them to reflect upon school worship.

### **Monitoring**

Monitoring of collective worship will be carried out jointly by the headteacher, who is the worship co-ordinator and foundation governors.

Strategies for collecting the evidence will include:

- written observations; checking that practice matches planning
- observing children's attentiveness and level of interest
- conducting occasional formal observations of collective worship and providing feedback
- seeking feedback from children, staff, parents, governors, incumbent and visitors
- observing the extent of the collective worship's influence on children's attitudes and behaviour throughout the school
- holding regular discussions with colleagues and pupils
- gathering written comments from colleagues on the worship planning sheet

Feedback will be brought to staff meetings and governor meetings.

### **Evaluation**

The information gathered via one or more of the strategies listed above will be analysed carefully in order to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the collective worship. The worship co-ordinator who is the headteacher, and foundation governor(s) including the incumbent, will be the main evaluators. Formal evaluation of collective worship will take place at least annually. Formal and informal evaluations also take place via discussions with clergy and other worship leaders.

### **Review**

The headteacher, governors and staff will review this policy every two years. A worship planning and record sheet is kept weekly to ensure that acts of worship are generally compatible with the requirements of the policy and to inform our learning and planning for further developments. These will regularly include any formal and informal evaluations of acts of collective worship which will assist monitoring, future planning and delivery.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

A daily act of collective worship is held for all children regardless of their background of culture or religion. Every effort is made by the school to involve all children unless withdrawn by their parents in accordance with the law.

### **Parental Withdrawal**

Our policy sets out clearly our aspiration that collective worship will be a valuable and valued experience for all members of our school community whatever their backgrounds and beliefs. It is invitational, inclusive and reflective in nature and never coercive or indoctrinatory.

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or any acts of worship. In the first instance we ask parents who may wish to exercise this right to visit school to speak with the headteacher.

If there are any children whose parents exercise their right to withdraw them from worship alternative activities will be provided in consultation with the children's parents. This does not mean that the children will in any way be exempt from the Christian ethos of the school which underpins the whole of school life. Parents are made fully aware of this when they enrol their children.

### **Conclusion**

At St Philip's, collective worship is highly valued and every effort is made to ensure that all children and staff take an active part in a high quality daily act of collective worship. Worship may contain many elements and we seek to specifically ensure that the act of collective worship is a learning experience as well as a spiritual encounter.

# Appendix 1

## Visitors leading worship in school

When briefing visitors for school worship, make sure you tell them:

- who exactly will attend, whether it will be the whole school or a section of it, and if so, which section
- what the school's aims, ethos and policies are
- how long the worship is expected to be
- the current worship theme and context for the speaker
- how pupils and staff are normally involved in collective worship
- what resources are available to them
- exactly how much their contribution will be - is it just the talk or will they be asked to choose the hymn and lead the prayers

and remember to:

- give them plenty of notice - don't assume that a visitor who wears an RE or religious "hat" can produce an assembly at a few moments notice!
- invite them to attend an act of collective worship beforehand so that they may see how the school conducts them, or, if this is not practical, lend them a copy of the collective worship policy document
- some visitors may also need to be told that collective worship is not an appropriate vehicle for hard sell evangelism, and that inclusive language ("we all believe....") should be avoided

Visitors who are regularly involved in collective worship should appreciate sensitive feedback on the appropriateness of their contribution to the school worship programme.

Visitors are NEVER left to take an act of collective worship alone as there are staff in attendance for all acts of worship.

## Appendix 2

### WORSHIP OBSERVATION

<p>_____ <i>Church of England Primary</i></p> <p><b>Date:</b> _____ <b>Leader:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Observer:</b> _____</p>
<p><b>The context for the worship:</b> <i>(environment, theme, who is worshipping, visual aids, use of music, how the children enter &amp; exit etc.)</i></p>
<p>Is there a feeling of <b>GATHERING?</b> (how are worshippers welcomed?)</p>
<p>Is the worship <b>ENGAGING?</b> (what do the worshippers do?)</p>
<p>Is there space for <b>RESPONDING?</b> (is there a challenge or a promise to focus on?)</p>
<p>Is there a sense of <b>SENDING?</b> (something to reflect on during the day?)</p>
<p><b>Overall has this been a distinctive and inclusive Christian act of worship and how far has it had an impact on pupils' and adults' spiritual development?</b></p>



## Evaluations of Our Worship

- *What did you most enjoy about the worship?*
- *Which part was the most 'special' and why?*
- *How did the worship make you feel?*
- *What did it make you think about?*
- *Did it change your thoughts about anything?*
- *How can the message from today's worship help us to live our lives?*
- *Even better if...is there anything about the worship that you think could have been even better?*

# Appendix 4



## ST PHILIP WESTBROOK C of E AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL Worship

Respect	Perseverance	Wisdom	Trust	Hope	Fellowship	Compassion	Fairness	Christian Celebrations
Environment	Patience	Rule of the Law BV	Believe in other people	Miracle of Creation	Family of St Philip	Empathy	Rule of the Law BV	Epiphany
Manners BV	Faithfulness	Individual Liberty BV	Believe in yourself	Vision	Togetherness BV	Sympathy	Christian Values as a whole	Ash Wednesday & Lent
Mutual respect Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs BV	Resilience	E Safety BV	Tell the truth	Rule of the Law BV	Forgiveness	Compassion for others	Justice BV	Easter
Responsible Citizens BV	Confidence to ask for help	Resilience (Prevent)	Faithfulness	Faith in God	Anti-Bullying	Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs BV	Sharing	St George's Day
Rule of the Law BV	Determination	Self confidence (Prevent)	Relying on each other	New Life	Listen and Support	Forgiveness	Equal Opportunities BV	Pentecost
Thankfulness	Self confidence (Prevent)	Good Choices	Responsibility	Harmony	Different and Unique BV	Love	Sharing responsibility	Harvest
Respectful BV	Overcoming Hardship	Resisting pressure from others (Prevent)	Commitment	Living at peace with the world BV	Celebrate / admire each other's achievements	Protect	Democracy BV	All Saints
Respect and Value Ourselves	Courage	Safe choices	Dependable	Encouragement	Encouragement and Strength	Gentleness	Impartial	Remembrance Sunday
World Environment	Bravery	Democracy BV	Sincerity	Prince of Peace	Courage and bravery in friendship / anti bullying	Sharing what we have	Standing up for Others	Advent
Kind and Considerate	Strength of Character BV	Modest and Humble	Rule of Law BV	Aspirations	Harmony – respect and tolerance BV	Honour and respect older members of family	Making a difference	Christmas

**Appendix 5** Questions used by Ethos Group

Things I thought about after  
our worship time

I noticed ...

Date:

I want to ask ...

What I liked ...

Theme: .....

It has changed my thoughts about ...

It made me think about ...

I'm not sure about

## **Appendix 6**

### **Class Worship Format**

- 1 The worship team get out the box and the items needed – cross, candle, starting point card (you will need to quietly tell them which one they need beforehand), ribbon, frieze and Bible. They should all have a job to do and they will swap each week. They will set up the cross, candle and ribbon.
2. The teacher will then start the worship session with the whole class using a greeting and response.
3. The candle will be switched on by the child who has that job and all will say ‘As we light this candle we remember that Jesus is the light of the world.’
4. The child who has the starting point card will hold it up and will say we are going to start with a question/picture/object and the teacher will use the starting point to ask the children what they think they might be thinking about today.
5. The child who has the frieze will be helped to hold it up while God’s Big Story frieze is discussed. It will be important that the correct words are used eg incarnation, and that each time children will be asked to explain what that means. You will briefly need to go through the whole frieze in the first instance and each week the worship team can point out where the story from the Bible that is going to be read fits into God’s Big Story.
6. The child who has the Bible will give that to the teacher who will then read the story.
7. Reflect upon the story and the message that it is giving.
8. Reflect upon the Christian value and announce Star of the Week for who has shown that value. NB sometimes the values in the Bible story won’t match the week’s value. It is important that children are aware that there are more than 8 Christian values.
9. Prayer
10. Song
11. Words to end with response
12. Switch off the candle with usual words and the worship team can carefully put everything away. The Worship Box must be treated with respect and stored appropriately and ALL ITEMS MUST ALWAYS STAY IN THE BOX.

At the end of each half term the worship team will plan to do all this themselves, selecting the starting point, prayers, responses etc. Certificates will be awarded to the worship teams each half term.