



# St Jude's Church of England Primary School

## Collective Worship Policy

Our children  
Our St Jude's family  
Happy – Inspired – Loved  
The sky is not the limit  
Ready for today - prepared for tomorrow

### **Introduction**

St Jude's is a family-based Church of England Primary School, where children and their families come together from different cultures and walks of life to celebrate our unity. Collective worship at St Jude's is a chance for the school to come together and learn about Christian Values and British Values such as tolerance, respect, community, harmony, love, and forgiveness. It is also a chance for the children to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural characteristics. As a Church of England Primary School, we focus on the Christian message and learn about, reflect on and discuss the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. We also promote and affirm Christian values and reflect on the attributes of God. As we are a diverse school, we also discuss and learn about other faiths and beliefs.

### **Worship in our school**

Collective Worship is an integral part of our day at St Jude's and as a result we hold a daily act of collective worship. These acts of collective worship are planned in advance and reflect the liturgical year. Each term a theme will be decided on (e.g. British Values, Fruits of the Spirit, the Miracles of Jesus). Each week of (that) term, we will have a value within this theme to focus on. The acts of collective worship will vary depending on the day to help support and stimulate the children's spiritual growth. They include;

Monday, *Launch Collective Worship* for the week – A member of the SLT will lead this assembly and introduce the value that we will be focusing on that week.

Tuesday, *Teacher led Collective Worship* – A member of staff will continue teaching on the value for that week.

Wednesday, *Praise and Worship* – Our music teacher leads the children in learning a song that reflects the weekly value.

Thursday, *Visitor/guest Collective Worship* – Leaders from local churches lead the school in collective worship, on the weekly theme.

Friday, *Celebration Assembly* - This is a time to share and celebrate school and individual achievements e.g. Worker and Saint of the Week, Class teacher awards, sporting achievements etc.

*Class Assemblies* – These occur twice a year for each class and they are a chance for classes to share their learning with their parents. These include an act of worship and link with RE teaching for the term.

*Themed Day Assemblies* – throughout the year we will also recognise and celebrate key days for example St Georges Day and Remembrance Day. There will also be special subject assemblies for example Anti-bullying, Road Safety Week, Online Safety Week.

We also celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year. These include Advent, Christmas, Lent (which itself includes Ash Wednesday, Holy Week/ Easter), and Harvest. For Christmas and Easter we have special celebratory services at our local churches (St Matthews Brixton and Herne Hill Baptist Church) where parents/carers are invited to join us.

*Faith Group Collective Worship* – On a half-termly basis, the school's faith group plans and delivers a collective worship based on the value for that week. This is solely planned and delivered by the children.

Multi-Faith Week – This happens for one week every year. This is a time where we learn about a specific topic through other faiths for example the creation story or major festivals. By inviting people of other faiths to come and share their beliefs the children learn to respect, reflect and consider other faiths.

Finally, the children perform daily prayers before lunch and at the end of the day. These prayers have been written by the children who then read them out during these times.

### **Themes of Worship**

Throughout the school year our themes of worship are divided into two main strands:

1. The current cycle in the liturgical year of the Church; and
2. Reflecting the children's knowledge and understanding of life and what the Bible says about different issues.

In this way the children develop an awareness of Church traditions and are able to journey through the life of Christ from birth to resurrection. In addition to this, the children gain experience of the seasons in the liturgical calendar and as a result Advent and Lent are given their rightful significance.

The second strand of our themes of worship looks at a range of spiritual and moral issues which the children encounter, at differing levels. Through interactive acts of worship, issues such as bullying, right and wrong, making the right choices and respect are explored and discussed through the teachings from the Bible. We also invite outside speakers to address the children on a variety of issues.

### **Conducting an Act of Worship**

Wherever possible, children, school staff, parents, governors and the clergy take part in leading an act of worship together.

During the act of collective worship the children are expected to come into the school hall in silence, whilst appropriate music is played. The act of worship is seen as providing a period of calm and reflection within the day, for the whole school (and its wider community when appropriate). A message is delivered, with a story or passage from the Bible shared with the children. The children are

encouraged to participate in these acts of worship by acting out the Bible story or passage, used in a demonstration or game.

A prayer is shared at the end. This can have been written by a child, or a child might be asked to read it. All the children are invited to join in either by saying “Amen” at the end, or by reflecting on the mood of the assembly through being “still on the inside and still on the outside”. The children leave assembly in silence, again accompanied by music.

### **Reflections and Prayers beside our Prayer Tree**

Parents and children are invited to share prayers after our Collective Worship on a Monday with Miss New and Miss Green. Children share their reflections and place prayers in the prayer box in our reception area. These prayers may be shared with the class, in the weekly newsletter or in future collective worships.

### **Resources**

Resources for acts of worship are kept in the resources cupboard and any interactive media is saved on the school’s system. The resources are specifically chosen to deliver the relevant themes from the acts of worship overview. Class teachers may access these at any time to plan and prepare to lead their act of worship.

### **Planning for Worship**

The worship plan informs members of staff of the themes for each week and is agreed between the Head teacher and RE/Worship leader and Reverend Steven Sichel.

### **Year 6 Leaver’s service**

Each year, a special service for Year 6 leavers takes place at school and the children join in with the Southwark Diocese Year 6 leavers’ service at Southwark Cathedral. At our school leavers’ assembly, the leavers are invited to “tell their story” and are also presented with a Bible. They are also reminded that the Church (as well as the school) will continue to be there for them in the years that lie ahead.

***This policy was written by Edward Sharp in January 2018.***