



St Jude's Church of England Primary School Collective Worship Policy

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

INTRODUCTION

St Jude's is proud to be a Christian school with a Church of England foundation.

Collective worship is central to our daily lives and is the heartbeat of the school, providing a space to celebrate our values, principles and ethos together. It upholds and fosters our religious character and Christian distinctiveness, and is an outward expression of our Christian vision.

Our St Jude's vision:

Our children
Our St Jude's family
Happy - Inspired - Loved
Learning in the footsteps of Jesus
The sky is not the limit
Ready for today - prepared for tomorrow

At St Jude's we have an act of worship every day, which is Christian and follows Anglican tradition. Collective worship is a unique time in which children and adults can develop spiritually and develop a sympathetic understanding of the Christian faith.

We believe that in Christ, all are happy, inspired and loved. As a school community, we refer to ourselves as a St Jude's family. This is based on the model of a Christian family, promoting Christian values and British values such as respect, tolerance, community, harmony, love and forgiveness. This is reflected in our school's core Christian values.

Our St Jude's values:

- ❖ We Celebrate One Another's Successes
- ❖ We Work Well Together
- ❖ We are There for Each Other
- ❖ We are Prepared and Helpful
- ❖ We are Resilient

AIMS FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship at St Jude's aims to:

- Be a special place and time in the school day for children and adults to grow spiritually, and participate in prayer and the worship of God if they choose to.
- Be a special time and place in the school day to foster unity and respect as a school community, sharing each other's joys and challenges, and develop a sense of responsibility for themselves, their families and friends, their community and the world.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision and core values are unpacked and explored so that the whole school community can reflect on the attributes of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Provide an experience of worship that will offer opportunities for those present to listen and learn from The Holy Bible.
- Provide a meaningful, relevant space to consider and reflect upon moral values and issues.

- Support pupils in the development of their understanding of the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief and liturgical traditions.
- Help children to become familiar with Christian language, symbolism and the cycle of the Church year.
- Offer opportunities to all children and staff to develop their skills in planning, leading and evaluating the impact of school worship with the support and shared engagement of the local church community.
- Support pupils to understand the work of Christians and the church locally, nationally and globally and how this reflects the teachings of the Bible and the example of Jesus.
- To be **inclusive, invitational and inspirational** to all members of the St Jude's family and community.

INCLUSIVE, INVITATIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL

Inclusive

Our understanding of Christianity is that it is an inclusive faith, which mirrors the attitude of Christ in the Gospels. Thus, we welcome children and staff of all faiths to our worship. Through their Christian character our acts of collective worship will:

- recognise and celebrate the diversity of cultures, life styles and faiths (as well as no faith background) which exist in our school and local community;
- have an atmosphere in which everyone feels valued and safe;
- be appropriate for every child and adult to attend;
- focus on issues and experiences which are relevant to the children and adults;
- give opportunities to think and ask questions;
- foster active roles of pupils, parents and members of the local community – in preparation, participation and leadership.

Invitational

Acts of collective worship will:

- nurture reflection, stillness, meditation and prayer;
- be appealing and welcoming for every child and adult attending;
- provide children with (age appropriate) opportunities to explore their spirituality through music, images and words;
- provide a sense of occasion that is separate from the rest of the school day;
- provide opportunities for involvement, participation, contribution and engagement;
- develop clear partnerships between worship in the school and the wider community.

Inspirational

Our acts of collective worship will:

- promote wide ownership of our Christian vision;
- be a living message of our school's core Christian values;
- assist learners to have increased awareness and to reflect upon fundamental issues about life;
- enhance, complement and extend curricular work;
- develop learners' understanding of the Christian faith and Church (Anglican) practice through appropriate Biblical and liturgical content;

- identify opportunities for Christian celebration which can be associated with other school events;
- include appropriate references to other faiths and secular worldviews;
- nurture and maintain the image of God in everyone through working for social justice and encouraging pupils to consider the needs of others through charitable service and courageous advocacy;
- include opportunities to celebrate the academic, social, personal and wider achievements of pupils.

TYPES OF WORSHIP

At St Jude's we hold a daily act of collective worship; this allows us to offer the St Jude's family (children and adults) a range of experiences and exploration of a diverse range of themes. Collective worship has an atmosphere of spiritual reflection and response, encouraging children to develop the skills of being still and listening.

Collective Worship at St Jude's aims to be of the highest quality, enabling spiritual growth for all (whatever their faith, or none). As the school community leaves collective worship each day, we wish for it to affect the following thinking and day-to-day actions. Collective worship therefore has impact upon school life and the daily lives of the school community, both inside and outside of the school building.

A varied approach is used to plan collective worship across the year. Within collective worship we may include singing, music, prayer, storytelling, quiet reflection, drama, dance, role-play and the use of props and artefacts.

Daily Collective Worship

Collective worship is planned in advance and reflects the liturgical year. Each half term a theme is explored, with different Christian values being highlighted each week. Each week, collective worship is planned as follows:

Monday, ***Beyond Belief – Values into Action***: a member of the senior leadership team or class teacher will introduce the Christian value.

Tuesday, ***Praise and Worship*** – we sing and give praise and thanksgiving to God through music and song.

Wednesday, ***It's Jesus! Teacher led Collective Worship or Class Collective Worship***: a member of staff will continue worship linking to how Jesus (or other relevant, key people) live out our core Christian values **or** collective worship is led by a class and parents/carers are invited to join.

Thursday, ***Visitor/guest Collective Worship*** - leaders from local churches lead the school in collective worship on the weekly value.

Friday, ***Celebrate and Worship*** - this is a time to share how we have flourished as a school and celebrate achievements e.g. Worker and Saint of the Week, Friday Star awards, and sporting achievements. A time is included for quiet reflection and prayer.

Other Collective Worship – throughout the year we will also recognise and celebrate key days and events. For example, Black History Month and Remembrance Day. There will also be special assemblies. For example Anti-bullying Week, Online Safety, Mental Health Awareness Week, Neurodiversity Week – we believe that these assemblies are pivotal for supporting the school community's spiritual, moral, social, cultural and educational development. However, at St Jude's we recognise that collective worship is not the same as an assembly, though can take place in the same gathering. A school may hold any number of assemblies each week, but must have a daily act of collective worship. Therefore any assembly we have will always include dedicated time to reflect

on the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

Special Acts of Collective Worship

At St Jude's we celebrate the major Christian festivals throughout the year. These include Advent, Christmas, Lent (which includes Ash Wednesday, Holy Week/ Easter), and Harvest.

For Christmas and Easter we have special celebratory services at our local churches (St Matthew's Church, Brixton, and Herne Hill Baptist Church) led by the clergy. Parents/carers are always invited to join us at these services. These services are highly anticipated in the calendar year and are a wonderful opportunity for the whole school community to be united.

Leadership Groups

Our various leadership groups (including our Faith Group) are given opportunities throughout the year to plan, lead and deliver collective worship for the school.

CONDUCTING AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Worship is led by the Head of School, Senior Leaders, Class Teachers, Clergy, a Youth and Family Worker and other visitors to the school.

During an 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, and 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.

PRAYER

All classes say daily prayers before lunch and at the end of the day together. At the end of each collective worship, children are invited to join in prayer and reflection. Prayers are welcomed in each class's Prayer and Reflection area.

Prayers are also shared on our Prayer and Reflection tree in the front entrance to the school. These can be written by the children, school staff and the wider school community. Prayers are included in our weekly newsletters at special times of the year or when appropriate and relevant.

We have our own school prayer, which is said regularly in collective worship (see below). This prayer embodies and expresses our school vision and core Christian values. The school community will also regularly join together to say the Lord's Prayer (traditional version).

Our School Prayer

Dear God,

This is our school.

We are inspired by each other. Please help us to celebrate one another's successes.

We work well together. Thank you for the chance to succeed on our own and as a team.

When our work is challenging, or times are tricky, help us to be resilient and not give up.

Guide us to be there for each other, to have empathy and be kind.

Help us to be ready for today, and prepared for tomorrow.

In your name we pray,

Amen

INCLUSION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THE PARENTAL RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL

It is expected that by working in a church school, the staff share the vision and distinctive Christian ethos of the school and readily participate in collective worship. Although legally parents have the option of withdrawing their children from collective worship, it is hoped that by applying to a church school, parents understand the school's distinctive Christian character and recognise that collective worship is central to the life of the school. Therefore they do not feel it necessary to withdraw their child. For these reasons it is vital that the aims of collective worship are properly understood by the whole school community and that although our collective worship is clearly of a Christian nature, it is inclusive, affirming and seen as relevant for all pupils in our diocesan church schools.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship as identified in the Education Act 1944 and in subsequent legislation. St Jude's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School where Christian values and principles underpin the whole curriculum. In order to preserve the distinctiveness of this church school community, we encourage everyone to be involved in religious education and collective worship. Parents who have concerns about this should discuss them with the Headteacher or Head of School before their children are admitted to the school.

MONITORING

Our collective worship policy and practice is regularly monitored by senior leaders and the Governing Body. A Link Governor is designated to support the Head of School and ensure that collective worship continues to be excellent. Their activities will include:

- Reviewing the Collective Worship Policy
- Observing and reviewing the impact of collective worship
- Knowing and understanding the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Framework and evaluating the school's current practice against it
- Meeting with pupils regularly, particularly the leadership groups, to assess and evaluate the impact of collective worship
- Meeting with the clergy to assess and evaluate the impact of collective worship

POLICY HISTORY

Date Reviewed by governors	October 2024
Next Review	October 2027

This policy has been agreed by the governing body of St Jude's School and supersedes all previous policies relating to this area.

Chair of Governors: Rory Dunnett

Signed:

Date:

Signed copy in school.