"Choose the Right Path"

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

Collective Worship Policy

Subject Lead	**Mrs Joanne Cocksedge**
Policy Approved by	
Name:	**Alex Moore**
Position:	**Headteacher**
Signed:	*AMoore*
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At St James' Church of England Infant and Nursery School, we strive to be a happy, welcoming school family where everyone feels safe and is encouraged to develop their full potential within a Christian atmosphere.

We endeavour to support our children by:

- *Using Christian teachings to give guidance in our daily lives.*
- *Developing a good understanding of how to live a healthy lifestyle.*
- *Ensuring they feel safe and secure.*
- *Providing an enriched learning environment where children can achieve, enjoy and succeed.*
- *Ensuring each child has a good understanding of their rights and responsibilities within school and the wider community.*
- *Providing children with the necessary skills and qualities to achieve future well-being and fulfillment in all aspects of life.*

'Teach children to choose the right path, and when they are older they will remain upon it'.
Proverbs 22:6

Rationale

At St James' CofE Infant and Nursery School we aim to provide a caring environment where everyone can flourish, socially, emotionally and academically. We promote the Christian values of love, kindness, friendship, respect, courage and forgiveness as part of a respectful and compassionate school community where every individual is included and valued.

Collective worship at St James' CofE Infant and Nursery School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998.
The content of all our acts of collective worship is in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church (as required by the Trust Deed and the instrument of governance of this Church of England School).
Visitors to the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.

Aims of Collective Worship

Collective worship is an opportunity to celebrate all aspects of school life, to support our curriculum and to provide an opportunity for stillness and reflection in which is often a very busy, active day for our pupils.
We endeavour to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children by:

- Providing the opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- Encouraging expression of emotions and feelings
- Developing an understanding of Christian Values
- Supporting expressions of reverence, awe, wonder, gratitude, joy, serenity, contrition, expectation, assurance, respect etc. about the world around us.
- Nurturing an appreciation of beauty, truth and love
- Delighting at being alive in the modern world and all that it means and offers
- Developing a sense of fellowship between people
- Promoting attitudes, behaviour and responsibilities towards others which reflect the school ethos of tolerance and understanding

- Developing empathy and sympathy for deprived and unfortunate people. The school participates in various appeals during the year – Bishop's Harvest Appeal, Children in Need, Operation Christmas Child etc.
- Admiration for the human virtues of decency, honesty, humility etc
- Heightening pupils' awareness of questions relating to the ultimate mysteries of life and to explore the responses that have been made to these by people of faith
- Affirm the value and special gifts and status that Christians believe each person has in the sight of God

Practicalities

The whole school including members of staff, meet together in the hall each morning. Worship lasts for 15 minutes. Friday's *Learner of the Week* worship includes a celebration of children's efforts and achievements, and includes a celebration of attendance.

The head takes collective worship on Mondays and Fridays. The Lay Reader of St James' Church takes Collective Worship each Tuesday and teachers assist the head by taking turns to lead collective worship on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Members of the church and local community are also invited into school to take collective worship including the vicar or curate, and members of charitable organisations. The Lay Reader from St James church will also take collective worship monthly in church. Parents and grandparents are invited to this service to share the act of worship and many regularly attend.

We endeavour whenever possible, to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter with a joint service in church with the staff, children and parents of St James' CofE Junior School.

In school, children will set a worship table with a wooden cross, bible and candle representing the holy spirit. This is also used as a focus for the children to recognise that it is a time for quiet reflection. The children enter and leave the hall to a piece of music for the half term through our Composer of the half term. At the end of worship a child is often chosen to *share a prayer* based on the collective worship theme.

Content and Approach

The headteacher plans and co-ordinates the collective worship themes and provides a termly plan, which also takes account of Christian festivals and special days. These plans cover the whole year. Miss Powell also plans a half termly composer to focus on and this will be discussed in collective worship regularly. At the end of each half term, year groups lead their own Collective Worship based on the Christian value for that half term. Children plan their worship with their teachers and lead the rest of the school during it.

We include:

- Celebration of Christian festivals
- Presentation of Bible stories
- Opportuntities for children's participation
- Links to the school curriculum
- Opportunities to revisit different themes progressively and developmentally
- Invited visitors and speakers such as groups of people or individuals who conduct collective worship which fits with our own Christian beliefs e.g. Puppet assemblies from NISCU. Members of staff are always present for the duration of these acts of worship.
- Celebration and appreciation of the talents of ourselves and others

All worship leaders are required to:

- Respect the life choices of children and other participants particularly being sensitive to those of the Christian faith, or of other faiths or with no faith.
- Use the collective worship plan unless there are special circumstances which make this inappropriate
- Ensure that their worship is inclusive and addresses the needs, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children and uses a variety of aesthetic materials and other stimuli and active learning styles
- Provide opportunities for participation by the children, including regular opportunities for them to lead parts of worship children to lead in worship
- Include opportunities for appropriate prayer and reflection
- A school Reflective Diary is used when appropriate to record comments made by children or adults

Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Should any parent make such a request, appropriate arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children following consultation. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher to discuss this. The head teacher will report to the governors the numbers (but not the names) of any children who are withdrawn and the arrangements that have been made for their supervision. The school is not required to arrange alternative religious or academic activities in lieu of collective worship.

Staff are also able to withdraw from collective worship if they are unwilling or unable to participate because of their own personal beliefs.

Resources

The school budget includes an allocated sum each year to be used to buy resources for collective worship. These include:- books, focus artefacts, posters and music.

Evaluation and review

The head and staff will review this policy every two years. The collective worship planning is reviewed annually.