



ST JAMES' C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

Collective Worship Policy 2024-25

'With exploring minds, and faith; we grow and learn together'
'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path' ~ Psalm 119: v105

Our vision is to ensure children enjoy learning and, with exploring minds, are actively engaged in their studies. At St James' our curriculum will provide them with skills, knowledge and personal characteristics that enable them to make the most of their lives and take the opportunities they encounter. This approach is mirrored by the staff who reflect and adapt in order to develop their practice as the dedicated professionals that they are. In this way we grow and learn together as we follow the St James Way: Be Kind, Be Respectful and to always Give Your All.

From the foundation offered by our infant counterparts, where they: 'teach the children to choose the right path', Proverbs 22:6. Our vision is to follow on that journey. We teach that the Lord's word is a lamp to their feet, a light to such path.~ Psalm 119: v105. This Christian vision is underpinned by our teaching of the Christian faith and our school values of: Peace, Compassion, Friendship, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Endurance.

Date of policy: February 2025

Approved by Reverend Alison Dobell of St James' Church- Foundation/Ex Officio School Governor

Review date: February 2029 (or when significant changes are made if prior to review date)

RATIONALE

Collective worship at St James' Church of England Junior School takes place daily in accordance with the provisions of the Schools Standards and Framework Act, 1998. This means that we provide a daily act of worship which is 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'.

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 Instrument of Governance of this Church of England School). Our approach to Collective Worship is influenced by '*Collective Worship Guidance for Schools, Clergy and Governors*' published by Carlisle Diocese.

This policy was agreed by the Governors and will be reviewed within four years. Visitors to the school who are regularly involved in acts of worship are provided with a copy of this policy.

DEFINITION OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is central to the life of a church school. It is part of the outworking of the school's Christian vision and is a time for the whole school community to gather, pause and reflect on their own spirituality, values and place in the world.

OPPORTUNITIES IN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship gives opportunities to:

- Engage in an act of community
- Express praise and thanksgiving to God
- Reflect on the character of God and on the teachings of Christ through Biblical texts
- Affirm Christian values and attitudes
- Celebrate special times in the Christian calendar
- Experience and respond to Anglican traditions and practices
- Explore the big questions of life and respond to national events
- Foster respect and deepen spiritual awareness
- Be still and reflect
- Share each other's joys and challenges

ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

Collective worship takes place each day morning for 20 -25 minutes. The school adopts a GERS (Gather, Engaging, Responding, Sending) model as advocated by Carlisle Diocese.

Gather - Children are gathered with music upon entry into the school hall. The worship begins with a greeting of 'Good Morning St James' with children responding with Good Morning Mr Beattie, Good morning everyone'. Images are displayed to be considered. Each class have 3 allocated children who introduce the worship with 3 statements based on the holy trinity:

- We take out the bible and open it as we think about God the father.
- We look at the cross as we think about God's son Jesus.
- We light the candle as we think about God, the holy spirit.

Engaging – This is carefully considered with frequent opportunities for children to engage with bible stories, active role-play drama, powerpoint visuals and videos and use of props. All themes are regularly reinforced with verses/extracts from the bible.

Responding – Time is offered for children to think and reflect. At times, techniques used in class are used in Collective Worship: Think-pair-share, etc but consideration need to be made for the large number of students engaging in the worship in the hall. Children may also read out prayers and ask questions.

Sending – The theme is summarised with children sent out with a thought for the day and final prayer. Children then leave the hall to music/singing.

Visitors play an important part in the life of our school and regularly contribute to acts of worship. We invite members of charitable organisations who offer their expertise to the school (For example NSPCC,

Hospice at Home, Foodbank or local PCSOs) to lead us in worship. Class teachers and our Collective Worship Committee also lead whole school worship.

Alongside the daily acts of worship, there are opportunities for spiritual development and worship through Class Worship, Outdoor worship in our purpose-built Prayer Space and regular events and services held at St James' Church. We have even held worship at the top of Latrigg fell.

At Harvest Festival time, Christmas, Easter, Mothering Sunday, Leaver's Service at last week of term; the whole school, and our family and community, visits the church for an act of worship led by the children supported by Rev Alison Dorbell and other members of the clergy.

Special reflection workshops have been organised annually by members of St James' Church with recent events focussing on: Prayer Space, Experience Easter, Lords Prayer, Easter Gardens and Experience Christmas.

CONTENT AND APPROACH

Our plan for Collective Worship incorporates our 6 Christian Values with one covered per half term. At the start of each year we also focus on the meaning of our Christian Vision alongside our St James' Way to reflect on how they guide our shapes the atmosphere in school and how it guides our lives in general.

Monday	Whole School Collective Worship – Singing/Visitors	Andrew Beattie/Guest Speakers
Tuesday	Whole School Collective Worship – alternates between school and church on weekly basis	Andrew Beattie / Rev Alison Dorbell
Wednesday	Whole School Collective Worship	Andrew Beattie
Thursday	Class worship	Class Teachers
Friday	Whole School Celebration	Andrew Beattie

Our Collective Worship Committee and Class Ambassadors also lead on a half-termly Collective Worship.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Our Collective Worship Committee evaluate worship regularly and speak to students in planned events to evaluate learning of sending message. They also work alongside senior leaders to shape how worship is delivered.

The Governing Body are responsible for the oversight of collective worship and the implementation of this policy. This includes:

- Evaluation of worship and discussions with pupils as part of pupil interview monitoring.
- Meetings with the senior leaders and class teacher about the effectiveness of collective worship
- Parental questionnaires
- Evaluation of home engagement with the Christian values

WITHDRAWAL

Our collective worships are invitational, inclusive and our values, delivered through a Christian perspective also promote character development in all. Parents however, have the legal right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Staff have these rights also. Parents who have any concerns about the provision and practice of collective worship are encouraged to contact the head teacher to discuss this.

The headteacher 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.