



St. Paul's CE Academy

Let your light shine



Collective Worship Policy

Person responsible for the policy	Maria Kiniari/Tom Glenn/Chloe Laskey
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Date to be next reviewed	October 2025

School Vision

"To create a Christian school which **ignites a thirst for knowledge** in every individual, **where curiosity and talent are cultivated**, and children are **empowered** to channel their **love of learning** to achieve their God-given potential."

Our Mission

In a Christian environment, we aim to provide a **beacon of light** to guide children on their journey through life, **equipping them with the values** which will allow them to flourish and lay the **foundations for their future development**.

Every adult is committed to being **inspirational**; sharing their **knowledge, interest and passions**; creating **life-long learners** who are **confident exploring, navigating** and **developing their understanding** of the world around them.

At St Paul's, our values permeate all areas of school life and are reflected by the **Academy's Christian Values**:

To **persevere** with everything, we do.

To show **respect** for each other and the world around us.

To **forgive** others when they hurt us.

To always be **honest** and tell the truth.

To **serve** others.

Give **thanks** to God for all he does for us.

Introduction

St Paul's Academy is a Church of England Controlled Academy and through our Collective Worship and R.E. is committed to celebrating all faiths and customs and to develop and educate our children in a Christian environment.

Our mission statement highlights our vision to be a beacon of light to guide children on their journey through life, equipping them with the values which will allow them to flourish and lay the foundations for their future development.

Collective Worship is taught in accordance with the aims of the Church of England guidance which states:

'In Church of England schools, collective worship is seen as more than a daily 'awe and wonder' moment. It is the unique heartbeat of the school and is offered as part of a wider opportunity for pupils and adults to encounter faith by engaging in conversations about God, both as individuals and together. We want pupils to leave school with a rich experience and understanding of Christianity, and we are committed to offering them an encounter with Jesus Christ and with Christian faith and practice in a way that enhances

their lives...Collective worship in schools, including prayer, reading and reflecting on the Bible, liturgy, sacrament and experience of the musical and other imaginative riches of Christianity, provide a vital opportunity for this.'

Collective Worship in a Church of England school will do the following:

- Explore the school's vision and how that underpins shared values and virtues. In doing so, it will reflect on moral values such as compassion, gratitude, justice, humility, forgiveness and reconciliation; and develop virtues such as resilience, determination and creativity that develop character and contribute to academic progress.
- Help pupils and adults to appreciate the relevance of faith in today's world by encountering the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and developing understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God.
Offer the opportunity, without compulsion, to all pupils and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection.
- Enable all pupils and adults to appreciate that Christians worship in different ways, for example using music, silence, story, prayer, reflection, as well as through the varied liturgical and other traditions of Anglican worship, festivals and, where appropriate, the Eucharist.
- Enable pupils to develop skills through engaging in the planning, leading and evaluation of collective worship in ways that lead to improving practice.

Inclusive, Invitational, and Inspiring

Inclusive:

Worship at St Pauls, allows all people (children and adults) to meet, explore, question and respond. For some, they will encounter God; however, the aim of worship is to ensure that all, regardless of faith background or spiritual journey, will be able to participate and consider their own faiths.

Through the worship council, children are able to offer suggestions and plan and deliver worship sessions that are meaningful to them. The Worship council also oversees the prayer and reflection garden, checks the classroom reflection areas and acts as a voice for the wider school.

Each year, we take part in the NATRE Spirited arts competition. This centres around six themes and allows all children to respond in a creative way. Children of all faiths and beliefs can take part in this and is suitable for any year group.

Invitational:

Our worship consistently offers the opportunity for all to actively engage. It allows those of different faiths and those who have no faith to reflect on big questions and to practise our key values, without forcing them to take part in religious activity. Respect is at the heart of worship and we teach all children to have respect for all religions and cultural backgrounds.

Our St Paul's values further highlight this. Our goal is that all children and staff practice these values (which are underpinned by scripture) and allow them to be respectful, model citizens in British society.

Inspiring:

Our aim is for worship to be inspiring. We want all stake-holders to be courageous advocates and work towards the greater good. These messages are spread through acts of worship. The school community actively supports different charities and promotes causes that are close to our community. We celebrate children and adults that are working for the greater good in the hope that this further inspires others.

Content of Collective Worship

The content of our Worship is organised to include all the major Christian festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. It is rooted in Bible teaching, with the children being able to learn from key bible stories and figures. We use the Lord's prayer or other prayers written by pupils, including the academy prayer. All of our worship sessions are presented using a variety of styles including: music, story, drama, singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.

Organisation of Worship

We believe that collective worship, and the acts of gathering together, allows pupils and staff to engage in fellowship, as well as to break away from the fast-paced pressures of school life, providing students the time to reflect and join together. Worship is organised as such:

- **Monday:** Collective worship led by the CoHeadteachers or member of the Church.
- **Tuesday:** A celebration through song
- **Wednesday:** whole school collective worship led by the Worship Lead
- **Thursday:** Key-stage worship
- **Friday:** Key-stage Worship Celebration (Golden Galleon)

Christian Distinctiveness

It is important that we reflect our Christian distinctiveness in all that we do. Christian distinctiveness is shown by and through:

- Collective and classroom worship
- Worship council
- 'How are we a Church school' book
- Through charity giving
- Links with the Church
- Christian clubs (GLOW Club)

- Through the wellbeing of staff- celebrating through times of triumph, comforting through difficulties.
- Classroom environment - reflections area and celebration of work
- School values
- Policies built on forgiveness and reconciliation

Environment

It is our intention that the environment of our school reflects our mission statement and that we are providing a caring, well ordered and stimulating environment that reflects our Christian beliefs. Work is displayed in a variety of ways throughout the school. Each classroom has an R.E. area with a display board and prayer area, where the children's mission statement is displayed. There is a Religious Education display board near the front entrance to the school, which represent topics covered in the Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two during the year. Bibles, candles, artefacts and pictures are all used to enhance and present our Christian faith. We are fortunate enough to possess a RE library and prayer room. Within this room, children are able to select books and resources linked to different religions and take time to pray and reflect. A prayer and reflection garden have been developed for children to engage with.

Worship Council

As a Church of England school, we are fortunate to have a worship council that help with the day-to-day running of collective worship throughout the academy. The Worship council are elected by their classmates and consist of 9 children from Year 4 through to Year 6.

The worship council have a variety of jobs that include:

- Helping to set up and lead worship such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter services.
- There are lots of different jobs that form a part of this role including running welcome , the dismissal and leading the prayer.
- Meeting with the RE and Worship leads to deliver an evaluation on collective worship.
- Suggesting and planning future collective worship events.
- Making the new "How you can tell we are a Church school" book.
- Updating the school RE and Worship display
- Run the prayer garden at break and lunchtimes
- Fortnightly meetings with Miss Laskey and Miss Kiniari

Management

A member of the SLT is responsible for the leading and provision of Worship, working closely in partnership with the local church. The Christian distinctiveness governor, the local Reverend, ensures that the worship requirements are being met in line with SIAMS.

The worship lead attends regular training and professional development, and organises INSET and training for other members of staff when necessary. Furthermore, a worship evaluation book is used to gain feedback from the children and staff.

Withdrawal from Collective Worship

At times, some people may feel it is inappropriate for their child to take part in acts of collective worship. In this instance, the parent or carer must put in writing their wishes. They will then have to meet with the Chair of Governors and Headteachers to further discuss the reasons why they wish to withdraw. It is our mission to work with parents and reach an agreement which all are comfortable with.