



St John's C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

September 2025

Our Vision:



Nurture

Inspire

Flourish

Nurture

Luke 13: vs 6-9 - "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

In this parable, Jesus teaches about getting to the root of things, applying appropriate interventions, and allowing time. This is our vision of nurturing. As a Church of England school, we are here for the whole community. With a radical inclusivity, we aim to be a school where each pupil is understood deeply, wisely selected interventions are expertly applied at the root of each child's educational and spiritual need, and throughout their time here at St. John's School they will flourish.

Inspire

Habakkuk 2:2-3 - And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth for the vision is yet for an appointed time.

The Hebrew Prophet, Habbakuk, encourages his reader to make the vision of the future plain so that the one who reads it may run. At St. John's, we aim to set a hope-filled vision of the future clearly in front of our pupils so that they may be inspired to persevere and run their race through primary school. Led by our Harmony Curriculum, this inspiring vision begins with fantastic educational progress and achievement and further includes a thriving harmony of people and place that is imagined and pursued.

Flourish

John 10:10-11 - "I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness. I am the Good Shepherd"

Fullness of life is Jesus' goal for all people, and it is our goal for our students. It is our vision to see each student flourish and thrive according to who and what God has uniquely created them to be and redeemed them to become. This is the goal of our nurture and inspiration.

At St John's, the daily act of collective worship is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our Core values and mission statement:

It is a time where we come together to share our love of God and celebrate our achievements (and sometimes failures) together. The worship of the school is based on promoting Christian and fundamental British values which permeate the ethos of the school. As such, the contributions of staff, pupils, church clergy and other visitors are valued highly.

Christian Values

At St John's we nurture, inspire and flourish through our values of Trust, Love, Cooperation, Courage, Resilience and Respect. These are the foundations of our expectations for all our St John's family.

Galatians 5:22 – the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

Trust - Proverbs 3:5 *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart.'*

Love - John 4:7 *'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.'*

Cooperation - Ecclesiastes 4:9 - 12 *'Two are better than one. If either of them falls the other will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.'*

Courage - Joshua 1:9 *'Be strong and show courage, be not afraid or dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'*

Resilience - Philippians 4:13 *'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.'*

Respect - Luke 6:31 *'Do to others as you would have them do to you.'*

We also actively seek to encourage the attitudes of awe, wonder and reflection.

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and the Fundamental British Values to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self-esteem and well-being is

sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence, leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Legal Requirements

We acknowledge the legal requirement stated in the 1988 Education Reform Act 6 and 9, which states the need for each child to attend a daily act of worship either as a whole school, class or group. Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from the act of worship either partially or wholly. Any parents wishing to do so should contact the Head teacher. Teachers also have the right to withdraw from leading and taking part in worship.

Organisation

We aim to provide a variety of worship experiences for the children. Our current schedule is as follows:

Day	
Monday	Whole school Collective Worship, using Diocesan material, making links to our values.
Tuesday	Whole school Collective Worship - singing
Wednesday	Whole school Church team led – Open the Book
Thursday	Teacher led – in the news, using Picture News, outside speakers, No Outsiders – Diversity and Inclusion focus
Friday	SLT led Celebration Collective Worship

In addition to this, visiting groups and individuals are welcomed into the school regularly to lead worship. Collective Worship should last approximately 20 minutes.

Planning, Content and Detail

The themes for Monday's collective worship reflect our Values focus for that half term, the Church calendar, through Diocesan materials, our school ethos and current events.

Each session, begins with the candles on the altar table being lit by our Worship Ambassadors. This is followed by our school call and response to signal that our time for reflection has begun. The children are regularly involved in the worship, which finishes with a class prayer and our school prayer. The children then lead out as the music is played.

Worship led by our Church team uses Open The Book ensuring pupil interaction and involvement through whole school and individual class participation. The sessions follow the school Collective Worship routines.

Singing Collective Worship aims to develop the children's understanding of new hymns and songs as well as learning them. The sessions follow the same school routines as previously stated.

Celebration Collective Worship, on Friday, celebrates the children's achievements both in and outside school. Normally, teachers choose members of their class to receive a special mention and certificate. Same school routines are followed.

Prayer and Reflection

Collective worship always includes a time of prayer and/or reflection. A range of prayers are used including, the Lord's Prayer, prayers written by the children and others. They are introduced in an appropriate manner with a short time of quiet and reflection.

At the beginning of the whole school worship, a time of reflection and quiet is encouraged by the lighting of candles. A cross is also displayed above or on the altar table.

Each class has a lunchtime prayer which they say before starting lunch break. On days when Collective Worship is not at the end of the day, classes say our school prayer before leaving.

Each class has their own reflection/prayer space focused on the current Christian core value with opportunities to explore, interact and reflect.

Other Faiths

Although our worship reflects our Christian beliefs and values, we are committed to respecting each other's faith stance and culture, showing tolerance and understanding regardless of pupils' beliefs. Our school values underpin this on a day to day basis.

Record Keeping, Evaluation and Monitoring

The subject leader and SLT monitor collective worship, through observations and discussions with children and staff. Collective worship is inspected under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools framework (SIAMS), in accordance with the Education Act 2005

Visits and Visitors

As part of the curriculum, St John's ensures that appropriate visits are made available for the children in order for them to have first-hand experiences and gain a greater understanding of various places of worship. Visitors to the school are welcomed and enabled to share their experiences and knowledge – their role is to educate, not to evangelise. St John's (our local parish church), Harvest Community Church and New Life Church in Chart Downs are our most valuable and frequently used resource, with the whole school attending and contributing towards annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services.

Parents/Governors/Diocesan Liaison and Local Community Issues

Children may be withdrawn from R.E. lessons at the wish of their parents. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable provision is made for such pupils.

In line with the Surrey Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education's three-year development plan, the role of link governor for R.E. has been created on the Local Committee. The R.E. subject leader and link governor liaise to discuss various aspects of R.E. and this ensures an effective line of communication between the subject leader and the Local Committee.

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

All pupils, regardless of academic ability, age, gender and ethnic origin will have access to a wide range of appropriate activities to support their understanding of R.E. Opportunities to acknowledge, celebrate, understand and reflection upon other religions, beliefs and cultures are provided through both the curriculum and enrichment opportunities