



Silverdale St John's CE Primary School Collective Worship Policy

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me – Philippians 4:13

We strive to provide the Christian foundations to enable our children to make good decisions. Our children will be inspired, guided and supported to achieve success, as they are all of infinite worth. Taught through a creative curriculum, our children will become global citizens and will care for all of God's creation.

Purpose

In this Church of England Voluntary Aided School, Collective Worship conforms to the ethos, statement and rites, practices and doctrines of the Church of England and the Diocesan policy. As such, the aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is at the heart of school life and is an essential part of the children's education. We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves all members of the school coming together and participating in an assembly, which may involve storytelling, drama, art, meditation, singing and celebrating. We expect everyone to take an active part in the assembly. We regularly encourage the children to plan and lead worship especially for important times in the Church year e.g. Lent, Easter, Advent, etc.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, we conduct our worship in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school and beyond. We make links to other faiths when and where they occur naturally.

In line with the Church of England Heritage and Blackburn Diocese policy, we introduce the children to the key beliefs and aspects of the Christian faith and explore them together. These include:

- The nature of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- The nature of human beings as children of God, part of his creation and, though sinful, sure and certain hope for eternal life;
- Jesus as the Son of God who, through his life, death and resurrection, broke the power of evil and restored humanity's relationship with God;
- The central values of forgiveness, selfless love, redemption, goodness, compassion and charity;
- The central place of the Bible as a source of knowledge about God and Jesus and as a source of inspiration and guidance;
- The importance of prayer;
- The central symbols of Christianity;
- The cycle of the Church year.

Our Worship council meet regularly to discuss Collective Worship and assess its effectiveness. They plan how to improve Collective Worship and contribute to planning the overview for each value. They occasionally lead worship and are working towards leading class worship.

On occasions, notices and other "assembly" type activities may take place while everyone is gathered together. These will happen at the end of the Collective Worship, after the prayer or reflective time and it will be made clear that these are not part of the worship session.

Organisation

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school this can be whole school or class worship and will take into account the levels of development of the children. We conduct worship in a dignified and respectful way. We tell children that collective worship time is a period of calm reflection. We regard it as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and participate fully in prayer and hymns. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using candles representing the Trinity, music and other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The Head teacher, Worship Team or staff member usually leads Collective Worship. The Priest in Charge of St John's Church usually leads the worship weekly. Sometimes invited guests conduct them, in line with the school's policy. Families are invited in on Fridays to our Celebration Assembly.

We take the themes of our worship from the themes being taught in RE. We also weave the traditions of the Christian faith into a year's planning of worship, providing opportunity to reflect on the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. We plan our worship as part of a series of themes well in advance of the day they take place, using a variety of resources, including from Blackburn diocese. During and after worship the worship is evaluated by someone (child, teacher, parent or governor), this is done in the Collective worship evaluation book and read and acted upon where necessary, by the Worship Council, Worship leader and Head teacher.

Worship is organised into a two year rolling programme which incorporates our Values and other aspects of Christian teaching and life.

The Values are:

- Peace
- Endurance
- Forgiveness
- Trust
- Reverence and Respect
- Koinonia
- Compassion
- Hope
- Service
- Humility
- Thankfulness
- Friendship

On Friday our worship reflects the achievements and learning of the children. We encourage the children to participate in worship by showing their work to the other children and celebrating rewards and achievements that they have earned or made. We also recognise individual children or groups who have shown that they can put a particular Christian Value into practise in school.

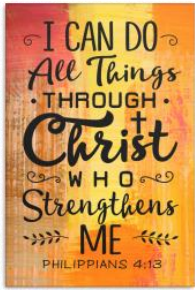
Worship offers an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued and all achievements are recognised. Silverdale St John's CE School is a successful school and we celebrate the successes of all the children in worship.

Parents are welcome to attend, as this promotes the community spirit of the school and is a practical demonstration of the way the home and the school work together to support the achievements of our children. We welcome governors' attendance at our worship at any time.

Prayers are said during the day in each class, with children encouraged to lead prayer times (e.g. before lunch and at the end of the day). Children are encouraged to join in with all prayers and all children are expected to sit reflectively and respectfully during prayer and reflective times.

Vision and Mission Statements

Our Christian vision and mission statements are shared with the children and are used as the basis for all our teaching and learning, including during Collective Worship times.



Vision

We strive to provide the Christian foundations to enable our children to make good decisions. Our children will be inspired, guided and supported to achieve success, as they are all of infinite worth. Taught through a creative curriculum, our children will become global citizens and will care for all of God's creation.

Mission Statement

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

Right of Withdrawal

We expect all children to attend worship. However, any parent can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The Head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

Complaints about the provision of Collective Worship

It is hoped that any complaint will be resolved informally by the Head Teacher, in consultation with the Governors, and possibly with advice from the Diocese or District. However, if the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, then formal procedures come into play and the matter will be adjudicated by a specially constituted sub-committee of the Diocesan Board of Education acting on behalf of the Bishop of the Diocese.

Monitoring

It is the role of the Head Teacher together with the Collective Worship leader and designated school governor to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship and ensure that it conforms to the Diocesan policy. The governor concerned liaises with the Head teacher before reporting to the governors on collective worship.

Date Reviewed: February 2020

Date of next review: September 2021

KWalsh



**Silverdale St John's CE Primary School
Collective Worship Long Term Planning**

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible/Rules Christmas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus Easter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Pentecost/Ascension
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest God Christmas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rituals Easter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Testament Jesus and other people of faith

