



St Issey C of E School ***Policy for Collective Worship***

School Vision:

The vision of our school is 'Be Strong and Courageous' which was taken from Joshua 1:9.



9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Through our vision and values; Hope, Dignity, Community & Wisdom we will be strong and courageous for our school and community. Encouraging; staff, parents, and the community to work collaboratively to support our children in pursuit of high standards within a happy, loving, and supportive environment, in the spirit of the school's Christian foundation.

Collective worship forms that part of the 'living curriculum' designed to promote the spiritual and moral development of the children in a shared experience of celebration, praise, reflection, and thanksgiving to God per the Education Reform Act (1988), the Trust Deed of the School and the recommendations of the Truro Diocesan Board of Education. Within our Collective worship, we encourage children to share their gifts and talents, and with God's help, we hope to see amazing things happen because of this.

General policy statement:

All staff, governors, volunteer helpers, students, and visitors need to give due regard to all of the policies and practices adopted by the school. Whilst it is acknowledged that people other than staff cannot be expected to read every policy before a visit to the school, it may be that further guidelines are necessary in addition to any visitor information that is given upon arrival. All staff carry responsibility for the welfare and success of the children in our school. Staff will advise anyone who is working alongside us of the necessary protocols, procedures, and policies we follow.

Living out our vision during collective worship

Collective Worship in our school is a highly valued time which is a specially set apart time in the school day. The school community gathers in a time that is honouring and worthy of God. The planning of our Collective Worship ensures that the school community has the opportunity to arrive for worship prepared with the right attitude, engage with their own spirituality learn from Biblical teachings, and leave feeling refreshed and inspired.

Our school vision 'Be Strong and Courageous' is lived out through our collective worship. Children are encouraged to share ways that they demonstrate strength and courage whilst tackling the challenges and wonders that they face daily. They celebrate their shared strengths and feel comfortable to reflect upon their personal experiences. The Collective Crew (Christians Ready Enabled to Worship) is a group of children who applied for this leadership role. They lead prayer, welcome and invite people to worship, and take responsibility for actively planning and delivering parts of our collective worship.

As a school, we focus on 4 Christian values, these are: Hope, Dignity, Wisdom, and Community. These values are a focal point for our collective worship throughout the year, but we also plan collective worship based on the church year.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To give children the opportunities to look at issues within our world and give them time and space to be able to reflect on what they have heard and think about how it makes them feel
- To encourage children's natural sense of wonder of God and his creation and to develop their qualities of curiosity, celebration, gratitude, and awe, which form the foundation of worship.
- To offer children an opportunity to develop their spirituality and relationship with God and express their concern for others and the world through prayer and worship. ● To enable the overall personality and ethos of the school to come across to everyone.
- To create an opportunity to share and reinforce the values the school seeks to live by.
- To foster a spirit of community in the school.
- To express praise and thanksgiving to God together
- Share each other's joys and challenges through valuing all God's children and encouraging one another to 'Be Strong and Courageous' in their personal journeys.

Guidelines

An Act of Worship will take place each day. Sometimes this will involve the whole school, but on some days separate acts of Worship will be held in classes.

The worship will be 'Inclusive, invitational and inspiring' as stated in the Church of England's Collective worship guidance.

The worship will be planned to be relevant, meaningful, and inclusive of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. It will allow for a variety of responses, from awareness and appreciation through respect and commitment to devotion and adoration.

Acts of Worship will reflect the ethos of the school and help children to understand its

spiritual, moral, and cultural values.

The acts of Worship will be led by Staff, Clergy, the collective worship team, or by carefully chosen visitors. Worship will be shared, when appropriate e.g. Christmas, with the wider Church Family, especially with those who worship at St.Issey.

Worship will also take account of the major festivals of the Church year and with the curriculum plan of the school year.

The act of Worship will follow a recognisable format.

- The worship should last approximately 15 mins
- The collective worship team will have set up the reflective space
- The act of worship will be started by lighting a candle and the person saying “The Lord is with you’ and the children responding ‘and also with you.’
- There will be songs in appropriate places, which will, whenever possible, relate to the theme of the worship.
- There will be a quiet time for reflection, sitting, or prayer. Prayers may be taken from a variety of resources including teachers' resources or children's work. Regular use of the Lord's Prayer whether said or sung.
- The worship will have a clear focus and will often involve pupil participation. ● Elements used in the worship may include music, listening to stories, bible readings, and other relevant passages, drama, artefacts, and other materials may be used. ● Opportunities for stillness, silence, and reflective prayer should be offered to think about the key thoughts and the Bible's message.
- All worship should end with a thought or a question for children to ponder, to encourage them to act following the worship session.
- Our school prayer will form a daily part of our worship (read by the Collective Crew).
- The act of Worship will be closed by the candle being blown out, and the person leading worship will say “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” And the pupils respond “In the name of Christ, Amen.”
- Collective Worship will be monitored by the RE Lead, Head of School, Collective Worship Governor, and Collective worship team

The Education Reform Act 1988 makes provision for pupils and teachers to withdraw from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to express their wish in writing to the Head of School.

Conclusion

The daily collective worship needs to be meaningful and valuable; it should create a sense of belonging. If it is carefully planned and encompasses the guidelines defined it will form a spiritual experience for pupils and staff which is central to the ethos and fundamental aims of the school. It will offer the experience of worship and offer time for spiritual reflection. It will be where teachers and pupils may express joy and thankfulness, share concerns and experiences, and affirm the beliefs and values of the school community and the Christian Church of which they are a part.

How our collective worship is Invitational, inclusive, and inspiring:

Invitational	Inclusive	Inspiring
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<p>All children are invited to worship through the call and response.</p>	<p>The whole school community gathers together for collective worship or pauses to reflect upon the same themes.</p>	<p>At the end of each collective worship, children are challenged to 'make a difference' or 'make a change' based on what they have heard.</p>
<p>During prayers, children are invited to end the prayer by saying Amen, to make the prayer their own.</p>	<p>The content of collective worship is considered carefully to ensure all children receive their right to engage in worship that is appropriate to them.</p>	<p>Inspirational stories of Christians who have made a difference in the real world are included in the planning of Collective worship.</p>
<p>During reflection time and moments of stillness, children are invited to close their eyes and be calm to think.</p>	<p>A range of styles is planned into the timetable to ensure all can access and engage in the worship. Styles such as artwork stimuli, music, multimedia, drama, prayer and stillness, story, song, and reflection time.</p>	<p>During each collective worship, we have reflection questions, these are designed to engage the children, to make them think, and to be inspired by the teachings of Jesus.</p>
		<p>Worship follows four clear parts: To gather, to engage, to respond, and to send out. This is to inspire and set the purpose for each element of worship</p>
<p>Children are invited to participate in sung worship through appropriate song and prayer choices.</p>	<p>During class collective worship, children are encouraged to share their reflections, using the reflection area and by sharing them in the collective worship reflections book.</p>	<p>The Collective Crew delivers collective worship once a half term. To become part of the worship team, children need to apply, but demonstrate they are good role models who display our Christian values.</p>

<p>Children are often invited to share their input and reflections when 'Big questions' are asked as part of the collective worship.</p>	<p>The length of worship considers the age of the children, sensory needs, and need for prompts to ensure understanding and ability to engage in the worship.</p>	<p>Children's interests are taken into account when collective worship is planned, to ensure that it will be inspiring. Video clips are often used to inspire pupils. i.e. Derek Redmond – perseverance</p>
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